



West Side Window

Volume 29, Issue 45

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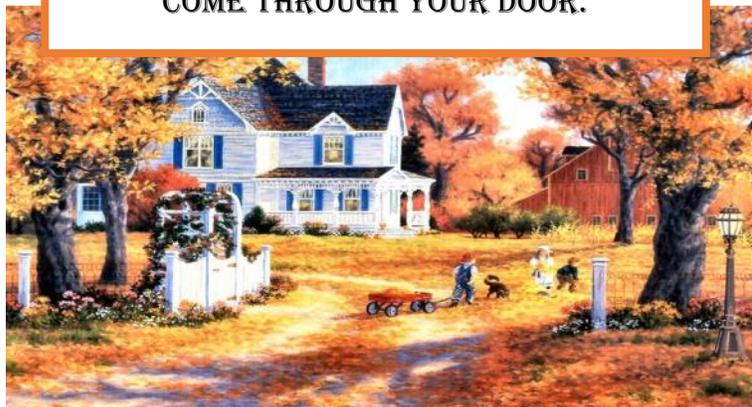
It is our wish to teach and live the gospel of Christ. Our aim is to follow the example of the New Testament church in word and deed, wanting to add nothing nor take anything away

from scripture. If you have any questions concerning anything you have seen or heard here today, the Elders will be glad to speak with you. If you wish to wear a mask while here, please feel free to do so. Communion packets, contribution baskets and masks are placed at both double doors. Visitor cards are available in each seating row.

You Are Welcome at Every Opportunity

Copies of December "Leaders of Worship" are on the table.

MAY YOUR TROUBLES BE LESS
AND YOUR BLESSINGS BE MORE,
AND NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS
COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR.



Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things

God's people have always been called upon to take action. As Joshua made his farewell speech he exhorted Israel, "*Choose you this day whom ye will serve*" (Joshua 24:15). Haggai exhorted Israel, "*Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house*" (Haggai 1:8). Jesus, our ultimate example of a servant, says, "*My meat is to do the will of Him Who sent Me*" (John 4:34). Many times we are hesitant to accept difficult challenges, consequently, opportunities to render great service to God are lost. God has not always looked to great people to serve in great ways. Be encouraged to accept great challenges as we notice how God has used ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Moses was asked by God to appear before Pharaoh and demand that he let the people of God leave Egypt. As Moses contemplated this extraordinary challenge he demonstrated his ordinary character as he made the following excuses: "*Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh? What shall I say unto them? But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice. I am not eloquent*" (Exodus 3:4). Moses was able to rise above some ordinary traits and successfully meet the extraordinary challenges of confronting Pharaoh, leading Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness for forty years.

God spoke to Joshua and said, "*Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them*" (Joshua 1:2). After wandering with the murmuring nation of Israel for forty years, Joshua is given the extraordinary challenge of leading Israel into the Jordan and across to the promised land.

(Cont. on page 2)

Services

Sunday Morning
Class, 9:30a

Worship: 10:30a

(Also
livestreamed)

**No Sunday
Evening Service**

Wednesday Bible
Study, 7p

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media



Love. Grow. Serve.

Leaders in Worship

November 28, 2021

Announcements: Lowell Huffman

Song Leader: Don Allison

Opening Prayer: Bill Smith

Scripture: Case Reynolds

Lord's Table: Volker Jaromin

Sermon: Mike Gors

Closing Prayer: Gary Reynolds

Sound Room: Jacob Clark

Bible Study, December 1st

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds

Devo: Don Allison

Prayer: Bill Winemiller



Remember
Our Shut-Ins with
Calls & Cards

**Kathy Harper at Signa-
ture Health & Rehab

*"Then a shoot will
spring from the stem of
Jesse, and a branch
from his roots will bear
fruit. The spirit of the
Lord will rest on Him,
the spirit of wisdom
and understanding,
the spirit of counsel
and strength, the spirit
of knowledge and the
fear of the Lord."*

Isaiah 11: 1-2

(Cont. from page 1)

Following Israel's defeat by Ai, Joshua demonstrated an ordinary lack of trust as he stated, "O Lord God, wherefore hast Thou brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?" (Joshua 7:7). God calmed the ordinary fear of Joshua by saying, "Fear not, neither be thou dismayed; take all the people of war with thee, and arise and go up to Ai; see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai" (Joshua 8:1).

David demonstrated an extraordinary faith as he went out to the battlefield and defeated the giant Goliath with a sling and small stones. (see I Samuel 17:17-51). He is paid the extraordinary compliment in Acts 13:22 where God says of David, "I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart." Yet, what painfully ordinary traits were exhibited as he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed in the heat of battle. Please take time to read II Samuel 11:1-17.

We could write further of 1) Esther, though afraid of death, appeared before the king to ask that Israel be spared (Esther 4:16). 2) Abraham, who left his homeland and later raised the knife to offer his son upon the altar, yet earlier lies about Sarah as he feared for his life (Hebrews 11:8, 17-19); Genesis 20:9-13). Or 3) Peter, who walked on water and was with the Lord at Gethsemane, yet later cursed and denied Christ (Matthew 14:27-31; 26:69-75). May we be encouraged to accept great challenges as ordinary people doing extraordinary things. —Jerry Curry

Jesus' Approach to Authority

Here was Jesus' approach to authority:

1. The Son can do nothing of Himself (positive authority must allow the action).
2. But what He sees the Father do (divine precedent or example). The Father *shows* Him all things that He Himself does (John 5:19-20). Thus, Jesus placed a lot of emphasis upon *example* and the authority of example. Jesus extended that mentality to His disciples. They, too, were to learn from the example of the Master (John 13:15). So, in commanding them to follow His example, there is authority in commands and examples.

If we want to do the will of God, we learn from God's statements, commands, and examples. We can do nothing of ourselves, if we would follow Jesus' example. What does that mean? It means that we do not assume we have authority unless God forbids something, but that we don't have authority unless God permits something. If we see a command or example allowing it, then we are free to act by that authority. "Do all in the name of the Lord" in whatever you do (Colossians 3:17). That means that we are like Jesus in remembering *we can do nothing of ourselves*. We don't have inherent authority within us. We get our authority from God's commands, examples, and all that these necessarily apply.

Terry Benton

Colton York--Dec. 3

Scott Hummel--Dec. 6

John Schock--Dec 13

Shawna Schock--Dec 15

Nathan Bayer--Dec 18

Kathy Harper--Dec 18

Karen Jaromin--Dec 24

Sally Anderson--Dec 27

Adam Gors--Dec 30



**HAPPY
DAY!**

In Need of Prayer

April Stinson, Cancer. Friend of Genny

Cliff Nicks, Recuperating from heart surgery. Just finishing up rehab. Doing well

Cory Cross, Cousin of Kendal

Damon Summers

Daniel Montgomery, Recovering from a fall

David Sharp, Stage four cancer, Betty Kellow's brother.

Gordon and Brenda Huffman in Crossville, TN.

Kendall Clark, Blood clot in leg

Marty Gors, Steady-on but still contending with Covid

Renee York, Shoulder surgery

Shawna Schock, Undiagnosed Stomach difficulty

Tom Davis, Hospitalized at IUBMH after recent fall at home

Shine Just Where You Are

By John Hay

Don't waste your time in longing
For bright, impossible things;
Don't sit supinely yearning
For the swiftness of wings;
Don't spurn to be a rushlight
Because you are not a star.
But brighten some bit of darkness
By shining just where you are.

There is need of the tiniest candle
As well as the garish sun;
The humblest deed is ennobled
When it is worthily done;
You may never be called to brighten
The darkest regions afar;
So, fill for the day your mission
By shining just where you are.

"You cannot control the behavior of others but you can choose how you respond to it." Roy Bennett

Christians without Churches By Ethan R. Longhenry

Over the past few years a trend has increased among people, especially Americans: the idea that people can be good Christians without being part of a church. Many people will recognize that Jesus is the Messiah and Lord, but yet want nothing to do with any church. This attitude fits with the independent streak that marks most Americans. Many also feel that churches are just trying to get money out of people, and they do not see the value or relevance in being part of a church.

It is too often true that churches are not living up to the call of Jesus Christ. Some churches do not teach the Bible at all, and other churches favor their traditions over what the Bible teaches. Too many other churches teach the truths of the Bible and yet do not show the love and community that God desires. Do these difficulties, however, mean that we can or should be Christians without being part of a church?

We must first understand that there can be no such thing as a "churchless Christian." In Ephesians 4:4-5, we read that there is "one body", as assuredly as there is "one faith" and "one Lord." In Ephesians 5:29-30 (and Colossians 1:18), Paul identifies that "one body" as the church; this is the body for which He gave His life (Ephesians 5:25-27). Anyone who is not a part of this "universal church" is separated from Christ, and will not be saved! A Christian, then, that is entirely "churchless" is no Christian, and has no part in the resurrection of life!

Is it possible for a Christian to be part of the "universal" church without being identified with a local church? The Scriptures give us no reason to believe that such is possible except temporarily, such as being converted while traveling.

God desires for His people to act in certain ways, and many of these actions require a person to be part of a local church of fellow believers. God desires that His people die to self and live for others (Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:1-4). Christians are to think more highly of others and the needs of others than of themselves and their own needs. God intended for Christians to be first concerned with the needs of their fellow Christians (Galatians 6:10, Matthew 25:31-46). How can this be done if one is not part of a local church?

God also desires that His people work together, both to strengthen each other and to further His purposes (Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 6:2, Acts 2:42-47). Encouragement and accountability are important aspects of the Christian faith. Christians are commanded to consider how to provoke other Christians to love and do good works and to bear each other's burdens. They are to be open and honest with one another so that they can be the best servants of God they can be. This can only happen when Christians come together and get to know each other, and the local church has been designed for this purpose.

The witness of the Scriptures is clear: God expects Christians to work together in a local church. Love for one another, encouragement to continue in the faith, and accountability are all learned in the environment of the local church. We cannot grow to be the type of Christians that please God if we attempt to do so on our own!

Yes, it is unfortunately true that too often local churches are not representing God's intentions very well. Too many churches encourage too much passive behavior and do not challenge their members to represent the community that God expects the local church to be. Just because many churches fail to live up to God's desires, however, does not mean that we are "off the hook" of the local church. God established local churches in His wisdom for our benefit. If God desired to have "maverick Christians," He could easily have done so. He recognizes, however, that we are too weak to defeat Satan by ourselves. Christians need opportunities to assemble with one another, to show love to one another, building one another up, and encouraging and exhorting each other to continue to serve God according to His will.

If you believe in God and Jesus Christ, do not deprive yourself of the love and encouragement you need and that others need from you: join us!