

## Family Information

### Thoughts to consider:

- 1) Have you ever reconciled with family members over serious issues?
- 2) What's it like to encounter racial barriers?
- 3) Has your social status ever presented a barrier with those around you?

### A Temple Not Built By Human Hands

Learn what our temple is, if you would know;  
 It is one that no artisan has built,  
 A structure not of riven fir or pine.  
 Nor reared with blocks of quarried marble fair.  
 Its massive weight no columns high support  
 Beneath the arches of a gilded vault.  
 By God's Word it was formed  
 By the everlasting Word, the Word made flesh.  
 This temple is eternal, without end.  
 - Prudentius (AD 348-413)

### A Sign & Wonder

Is not the gospel its own sign and wonder? Is not this a miracle of miracles, that 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish'? Surely that precious word, 'Whosoever will, let him come and take the water of life freely' and that solemn promise, 'Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out,' are better than signs and wonders. A truthful Saviour ought to be believed. He is truth itself.

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon  
 (1834-1892)

### Services

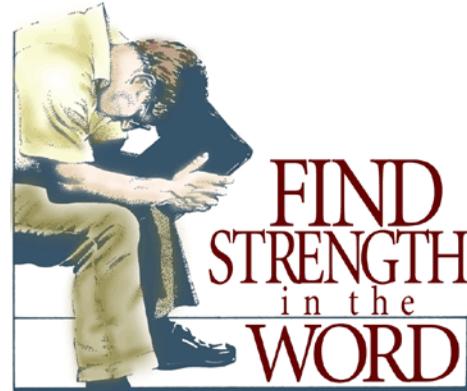
Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

**Minister:** Caleb Dillinger  
**Elders:** Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins  
**Deacons:** Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva  
**Spanish Ministry:** Elmer Renderos, Luis Valdez

## Calendar

### April

12 Easter Sunday



**For The Month of March**  
**Invitation/ Responses:** Mike Evans  
**Foyer Duty:** Lynn Champney  
**Greeters:** Mike and Leisha Evans  
**Announcements:** Glenn Culler

**Communion Servers**

James Allison	Perry Coate
Glenn Culler	David Estep
Tom Johnson	John Lindsay
Art Silva	Isaiah Silva

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$3270	\$4847
<b>Designated:</b>	\$125	\$133



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## Him Who Is....

### Him Who Is, Who Was, & Who Will Always Be

*John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come. - Revelation 1:4*

God lives today, he lives today in the fields and in the seas and in the cities and in the meadows and in the forests. God lived long before this world was formed; God is our I Am who has always been and who will always be. God transcends time and space, and he will live forever. In peaceful and joyful times, God lives; in uncertain and fearful times, our Heavenly Father lives.

The Son of God became flesh and blood and lived like one of us for a time, and he still lives today. Jesus descended to this troubled world, he laid down his life to redeem us, then he raised from the dead and ascended to heaven, and he lives within us today. The Lamb of God died for our sins, yet he lives forever, and he is a faithful witness to eternal things - . . . and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. - Revelation 1:5

Eternity is beyond our limited earthly minds to fully understand, yet God gives us many blessings, some obvious and some subtle, to reassure us of his faithful care, to remind us that he is with us and he has always been near us and that he will always be with those who walk by faith in Jesus.

Fictional detective Sherlock Holmes is remembered for his logic, and once Arthur Conan Doyle shows us a different side of it. During a tense case, Holmes notices a rose and says, "What a lovely thing a rose is . . . Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers . . . (other things) are necessary for our existence . . . But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life . . . It is only goodness which gives extras."

God does indeed give us many 'extras' out of his unfailing goodness, many blessings simply out of his everlasting kindness, and these many blessings remind us that God has done for us what we truly needed to meet the deepest needs of our souls, for his Son shed his blood so that his Father's grace may overflow to those who hold fast to him - To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood . . . to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. - Revelation 1:5-6

In God's love, he has freed us from sin and from the world's empty ways. Jesus overcame death; and both in this world and in the next, God will be with us forever. As Emily Dickinson wrote in one of her poems, "Forever is composed of Nows." God is with us now, God will be with us tomorrow, and he will be with us for ever and ever.

- Mark Garner

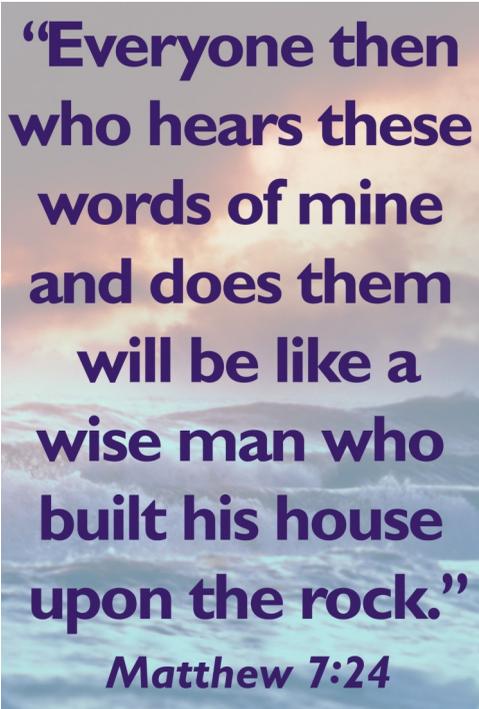
## Our Lord's Face

Glad and cheerful and sweet is the blessed, loving face with which our Lord looks at our souls; for he is constantly in love-longing towards us while we live, and he wants our souls to look gladly on him so as to give him his reward. And so I hope that by his grace he has made the outer face like the inner face, and shall do so still more, and shall unite us all with him and with each other in the true and lasting joy which is Jesus.

I have three kinds of understanding of the expression of our Lord's face. The first is the suffering face which he showed while he was here, dying. Although this is a sight of mourning and sorrow, it is also glad and cheerful, for he is God. The second face is pity, grief and compassion; and he shows this face to all those who love him, with the certainty of protection for those who need his mercy. The third is the blessed face which he will show forever, and I saw this oftenest and longest.

And so when we sorrow and suffer, he shows us the face of his passion and his cross, helping us to endure through his own blessed strength. And when we sin, he shows us his face of pity and grief, strongly protecting and defending us from all our enemies. And these two are the faces which he most often shows us in this life; and mixed with them is the third, which is his blessed face, shown in part as it will be in heaven. And that comes to us through gracious touching and sweet illumination of the spiritual life by which we are kept in certain faith, hope and charity, with contrition and devotion and also with contemplation and every kind of true pleasure and sweet comfort. The blessed face of our Lord God works this in us through grace.

*- Julian of Norwich (1342-1416),  
from Revelations of Divine Love*



**“Everyone then  
who hears these  
words of mine  
and does them  
will be like a  
wise man who  
built his house  
upon the rock.”  
Matthew 7:24**

## The Lord Himself Is Our Rock Eternal

*This world is full of uncertainty, yet God himself is our Rock eternal, our sure foundation, a trustworthy source of compassion, understanding, truth, and mercy. To begin this series, this week Steve Carver writes about what this means to him.*

### Finding Shelter In The Lord

Isaiah 26:4: “Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”

The definition of the transliterated Hebrew word “sur” from my NIV Bible is: “rock; stone mass, rocky crag; a title of God, with a focus of stability, and possibly as a place of security and safety.” Other OT passages refer to the Rock as being: eternal, just and perfect, our redeemer and savior, the one who birthed us and fathered us, and who is our God. Jesus reemphasizes this truth in Matthew 16:15-18: “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

On the flip-side, Isaiah also reminds us that when we forget that God is our Savior and Rock, i.e. our thoughts and actions turn away from God, the fruits of our labors will come to naught. “You have forgotten God your Savior; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress. Therefore, though you set out the finest plants and plant imported vines, though on the day you set them out, you make them grow, and on the morning when you plant them, you bring them to bud, yet the harvest will be as nothing in the day of disease and incurable pain”, Isaiah 17:10-11.

I remember as a young teenager in scouts going on hikes and camping trips in inclement weather. On one chilly occasion, we set up a camp of 6 tents before the storm was to hit that night. We woke up to find all but 2 of the tents collapsed and were sitting in pools of water. We all scrambled about looking for dry shelter and warmth.

We all seek shelter from the storms of life in this broken world. But the shelter we seek is for more than to just keep us high and dry during a thunderstorm. The storms of life, the anguish and hurts, the stress and losses, the emptiness and lonelinesses that we can feel deep in our souls typically outweigh any physical struggle we face. We often try to run and hide from these soul sorrows by covering them up with temporary distractions and pleasures. But at other times they grab and shake us by the collar, immobilizing and depressing us.

It is only in turning to our Rock, our Lord and Savior, that we can truly find respite. The closer we draw to Him the more we can say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.” “Sometimes God calms the storm. Sometimes God lets the storm rage and calms His child.” (Unknown)

For me, David says it best in Psalms 18:2: “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

*- Steve Carver*