

## Family Information

### From The Elders & Minister

With high numbers of Covid-19 cases, we ask that you please continue to follow all CDC guidelines and recommendations so that we are still able to meet in person. Take extra time to wash your hands before coming to services on Sunday, touch as few surfaces as possible, and continue to maintain distance while talking and worshipping with one another.

During the month of December we'll have sermons focused on hope, beginning with a look at Romans 5:1-5 today.

Here again are the precautions we are currently taking with the building worship time:

The worship service time will be 10:00 a.m. Facemasks will be required. If you do not bring your own, one will be provided for you. The facemasks are to be worn at all times during the service apart from taking the cup and bread during the Lord's Supper. We will have individual cups with bread on top packed and ready for each of you as you come into the foyer. Instead of a collection/contribution time, we will have a contribution plate where you can leave your contribution. Bulletins will not be printed. They will be on our website.

Each family must sit together, and there has to be 6 feet or more distance from the next person or family. Once service is finished, we will dismiss starting from the back and working towards the front, going section by sections. Please do not gather around in the foyer. Our Ghana brothers and sisters will be starting worship at 12:00 p.m., so please leave the parking lot by 11:40 a.m. to honor the space for their time of worship.

For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

### Adjusted Service Times

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12:00 PM Sunday Ghana Worship  
3:00 PM Sunday Spanish worship

*Classes and devotionals are  
Currently meeting on-line*

**Minister:** Caleb Dillinger  
**Elders:** 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

### On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, a new series begins this week: "A Branch That Bears Fruit In Every Season" (based on Isaiah 11). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Phil will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join.

### More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

Wednesday evenings after 7:00 PM - Pre-recorded Instagram Devotional by Caleb Dillinger will be available. Contact him for details.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study, "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. Contact her for more details.

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$4275	\$4684
<b>Designated:</b>	\$50	\$67
Scholarship Fund Current Total		\$ 715
See The Elders If You Have Any Questions		



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## God's Love And Faithfulness...

### God's Love & Faithfulness Protect Us

*I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart. I proclaim your saving acts . . . I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.  
- Psalm 40:8-10*

God writes his words on our hearts and saves us from our sins when we walk by faith in Jesus; our Heavenly Father pours out his faithful care on those who acknowledge him and our constant need for his help. It is always the Lord's love and faithfulness that protect us and save us - *Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me.* - Psalm 40:11

Woodpeckers find food and make their nests (and often communicate) by repeatedly banging their beaks against tree trunks. In a few seconds, a woodpecker's head endures forces that would cause severe damage to human skulls and human brains, yet they can peck as many as 10,000 times in one day. For our Heavenly Father protects them with his understanding and his care. Woodpeckers' brains are compact and fit snugly in their skulls, and their skull bones are flexible yet sturdy, giving plenty of protection for their brains. Also, a woodpecker's hyoid bone (in humans, a small bone between the jaw and the larynx) is considerably enlarged to form a natural safety harness. Moreover, their entire bodies are designed so that whole body, instead of just the head, absorbs the blows.

In this world, we are often jarred by troubles both physically and spiritually, *Troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see (Psalm 40:12).* Yet just as God is pleased to protect the woodpeckers' heads from the knocks and jolts they endure, God is pleased to come quickly when we call on him, and he helps us escape the accuser's snares - *Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me.* - Psalm 40:13

Woodpeckers must also contend with constant debris and wood chips flying past their faces. Yet God has provided for this too; woodpeckers have a thick, translucent membrane that closes to cover their eyes when their beaks strike a tree, and their slim nostrils are protected with custom-designed feathers. Similarly, our Father in heaven protects us from the distractions and spiritual threats that rush at us each day; he gives us his words to protect our spirits from this world's empty thinking, and he gives us his Spirit to help us understand what he does for us. It is because of God's love and faithfulness that when we seek him, we will find him -

*But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for your saving help always say, The Lord is great! - Psalm 40:16*

The Lord is truly great and his words are truths that earthly minds couldn't ever have thought of, and his love and faithfulness give us hope all day long.

- Mark Garner

## Immanuel, God With Us

Jesus is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior, the Lamb of God, and he is also called Immanuel, God with us. This week, Renée Jackson writes about what it means to her that he is Immanuel.

### God With Us, A Present Reality

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel which means 'God with us.'" - Matthew 1:23

The birth of the Immanuel means salvation from sin for everyone who believes and obeys (Romans 1:16). The birth of the Immanuel means God will not leave, forsake or fail His people. It is a word of hope. No matter how desperate conditions become we know that God is with us.

Any situation we might suffer through, unemployment, illness, death of a loved one and even the Covid19 pandemic, Immanuel means that God is with us even in such situations. In all these God surrounds us with His love, His presence, His Spirit. It means that even in such situations we are not left on our own in our pain, hate, anger, fear or hurt. It is written in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Other references can be found in Revelation 21:3 and Psalm 139.

The words "God with us" describe a present reality. Jesus knew He would be leaving earth to return to heaven. He promised before He left that He would be with us until the end of the age. Matthew 28:20, "... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Even though He is seated at the right hand of the Father, He promises to be with us. One way that is fulfilled is by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

John 14:16-17, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

We are not alone.

- Renée Jackson



## MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #1

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 27 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out the mystery verse from this week's mystery book.

ABISHAI	BURNT OFFERINGS	HUNGRY	STRENGTHENING
AMMONITE NOBLES	CHOOSES	HUSHAI	STRONGHOLD
ANOINTED	DESPISED	LOTIONS	THOUSAND
ARAMEAN KINGDOM	EPHOD	MEPHIBOSHETH	THRESHING
BETHLEHEMITE	FORCED	RELATED	ZERUIAH
BRICKMAKING	HONOR	SHIELD	

S E L B O N E T I N O M M A  
G T H D E S I P S E D O B R  
N I R D W G H R H E A I R A  
I M T E E Y O I U O S A I M  
R E S T N T R G E H D C C E  
E H N E H G N N A L H F K A  
F E O S O O T I O O D O M N  
F L I A H S U H O N O R A K  
O H T V E R G S E N R C K I  
T T O E E N E E A N A E I N  
N E L Z O S I R G N I D N G  
R B Y R G N U H N L D N G D  
U O T R E L A T E D R D G O  
B S H T E H S O B I H P E M

The answer, and a new puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week.

- Mark Garner