

Family Information

From The Elders & Minister

Covid Update: A couple weeks ago we received significant feedback that indicated as a church family we needed to slow down transitioning to "post-pandemic" mode. The elders and Caleb met, prayed, and came to a conclusion. We first want to start with a minimum two week notice before making any changes. This will allow opportunities for church members to share any concerns, and it allows the elders time to reevaluate any decisions. We also realize that the importance of face coverings is among the most controversial subjects in our society, inside and outside the church. Our goal is to bring souls to Jesus, not get sidetracked in controversy. So for now, no changes to face masks will be made. We do however think there are some safety precautions that can be reduced. Our first safety measure to change will start Sunday April 4th (Easter Sunday): we will no longer do the closing dismissal process. Services will end with the closing prayer by the elder. Our building is thankfully quite large, so those who would like to fellowship outside or leave upon the closing prayer are still able to do so, but this change opens extra space for people to talk inside and spread out.

Please continue to practice safety and caution. When we meet in person, we will maintain all safety features until otherwise noted: mandatory face masks throughout the service, seating in every other pew, service approximately 1 hour, starting at 10:00 a.m., and dismissal by sections, starting in the back. For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

Daylight Savings Time Begins This Weekend

Daylight savings time begins this weekend. The time change takes place at 2:00 AM this morning, Sunday, March 14, when clocks can be set ahead one hour.

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

On Line Bible Studies

On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, the current series is, "Treasure In Jars Of Clay" (based on 2 Corinthians 4). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Steve will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join.

More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session March 19 - 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
General:	\$5172	\$4855
Designated:	\$0	\$145
Scholarship Fund Current Balance	\$ 350	



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Salvation Belongs To Our God

There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- Revelation 7:9

In this world, we may often feel isolated, so our Heavenly Father reassures us that all across the world there is a multitude of believers who have turned to Jesus, who have been redeemed by his overflowing grace, and who understand what we are enduring in this unbelieving world, for they too have put their hope and faith in the message of the Lamb of God. Through the centuries, a multitude of men and women have believed the good news of Jesus, and God carried them every step, as he promises to do for us. For salvation belongs to our God - *And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.* - Revelation 7:10

The game of chess originated many centuries ago in central Asia, where the pieces were named after familiar things of the time like chariots, elephants, and counsellors. As chess spread to other parts of the world, some pieces were renamed, though their functions were the same. For example, today in many nations the elephants are called runners (messengers); in Russia they are still elephants, in France they are court jesters, and in England and Ireland they are called bishops.

In each language, the pieces are known by various names, yet this does not hinder international games, since the pieces move the same regardless of what a player calls them. The game is in essence a language unto itself. In a much deeper way, God's words and the message of Jesus and him crucified and raised are truths that transcend human thinking; they can be expressed in any human language, yet they speak truths beyond human words, for they speak to our souls - *Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!*
- Revelation 7:12

Chess grandmaster Judit Polgar, who began playing the game when she was around five, says that one of the reasons that she was drawn to the game is, "that it's a game for everybody: rich, poor, girl, boy, old, young. It . . . can unite people and generations. It's a language which you'll find people 'speak' in every country." Likewise, the good news of Jesus brings lasting hope and enduring peace to anyone, anywhere in the world, who opens our hearts and minds to God.

Judit also said of chess, "You find a very rich world"; and how much truer this is of following Jesus and knowing God. Our Heavenly Father gives the spiritual riches of his heavenly pasture to those who walk in the light of the Lamb of God, and he rejoices in being with us - *They are before the throne of God and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.* - Revelation 7:15

And the good news of Jesus remains the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- Mark Garner

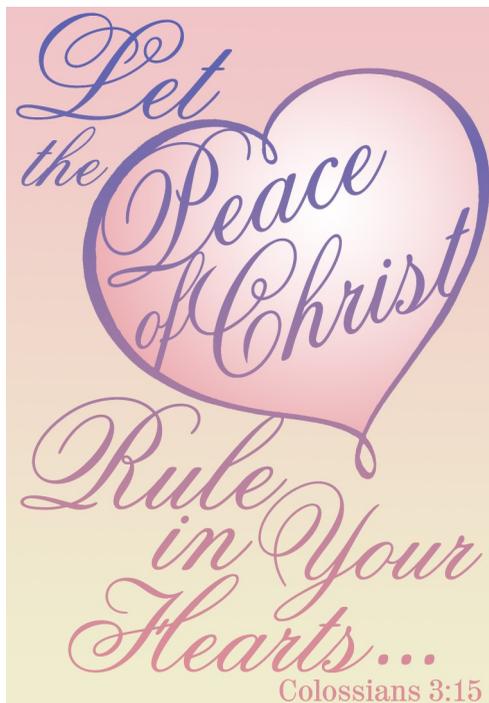
My Maker & My King

My maker and my king,
To Thee my all I owe;
Thy sovereign bounty is the spring
Whence all my blessings flow;
Thy sovereign bounty is the spring
Whence all my blessings flow.

Thou ever good, and kind,
A thousand reasons move,
A thousand obligations bind,
My heart to grateful love.
A thousand obligations bind,
My heart to grateful love.

The creature of Thy hand,
On Thee alone I live;
My God, Thy benefits demand
More praise than I can give.
My God, Thy benefits demand
More praise than I can give.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778



All Kinds Of Prayers On All Occasions

God always welcomes our prayers, whatever our circumstances may be and however we may be feeling. This week, Micah Evans writes about how eager God is for us to talk with him, and how easy our Heavenly Father makes it for us to come to him and put everything in his hands.

The Battle Belongs To The Lord

I am going to be perfectly honest. When I was asked to write an article on the topic of prayer, I had no idea what I would write. I felt extremely unqualified to write on such a topic, because there are others who I'm sure have much more mature and "put together" prayer lives than mine, right? Still, I immediately agreed to writing, because I knew that as always, God would give me the words. Because that's exactly what He does, doesn't He? He calls those who seem, on all worldly counts, less than qualified, and gives them exactly the tools they need to do the job.

So in that, God reminded me of a topic that has been coming up repeatedly for me as of late. In songs on the radio, in hymns at church, in scriptures I've been reading, the same thought has been revealed to me by God over and over. The battle belongs to HIM. The fight is not mine. It belongs to God. The society in which we are living tends to tell us that we have to fight, protest, and be the LOUDEST to get anything done, or to get what we want. And I, personally, have fallen into this trap far too many times! I will tell you, friends, it's an exhausting way to live. Always feeling like I have to solve all the problems, convince everyone of everything, and bring everyone to the "right" conclusion . . . that is just too much for one person to bear. Thank our awesome God that I don't have to.

God is always READY and WAITING for us to call on Him to fight those battles for us. 2 Chronicles 20:15 tells us "*Do not be afraid . . . for the battle is not yours but God's.*" Scripture shows this to us time and time again. David and Goliath, Jericho, and Gideon vs. Midian are all perfect examples of God winning, what seems to us, an extremely unlikely victory. Yes, God oftentimes uses us to win those battles, but we don't do it on our strength alone. And that's what I am SO thankful for because I know I don't have that strength.

The amazing news is that calling on God is so incredibly easy! It's worth repeating that God is ready and waiting for our prayers. He doesn't need our prayers, but He WANTS them! How amazing is that, that the Almighty Creator of the Universe WANTS us to talk to Him?! Wow. How powerful. The battle belongs to the Lord, friends. And all we have to do is look up and start talking.

- Micah Evans