

Family Information

Area-Wide Worship Night Postponed

The area-wide worship night has been postponed, and it will be rescheduled sometime this Spring.

Service Project Meeting

There will be a discussion time for the Service Project team this Wednesday, January 26, at 6:30-7:30. This meeting is to focus our service efforts based on the resources we have. This includes supporting the Child Care, clothing closet and pantry along with other ideas that may be suggested. There will be a signup sheet on the prayer request table. Please signup so we can select the correct size room. If you have questions or want to be involved but can't attend the discussion, please contact Jeff McVicker.

Contribution Statements For 2021

Contribution statements for 2021 are available in the church office. Please see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement.

Words Of Wisdom

Great is God our Lord, great is His power and there is no end to His wisdom. Praise Him you heavens, glorify Him, sun and moon and you planets. For out of Him and through Him, and in Him are all things . . . We know, oh, so little. To Him be the praise, the honor and the glory from eternity to eternity.

- Johannes Kepler (astronomer),
1571-1630

Jesus is a God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair.

- Blaise Pascal,
1623-1662

On Line Bible Studies

Current On-Line Studies

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

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. This week they will start a new study on Colossians. Contact Karen for more details.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5867	\$5030
Designated:	\$	\$17

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: Luis Valdez

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.

The Hope Of The Ends Of The Earth

Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion . . . You who answer prayer, to you all people will come. When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.
- Psalm 65:1-3

It is good to praise our God, who is always near and who hears our prayers and who alone can meet the deepest needs of our souls. His Son has taken away the unbearable burden of sin and has redeemed us with his own lifeblood; he is the hope of the ends of the earth. Our Heavenly Father has given us his Spirit, who fills our hearts and who helps us understand the many good things God does for us - *We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple. You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.* - Psalm 65:4-5

In one of her poems, Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) writes about sensing the presence of God, "They say that God lives very high But if you look above the pines You cannot see our God . . . And if you dig down in the mines You never see Him in the gold, Though from Him all that's glory shines." For indeed we can see God's understanding in the wonders he has made, and the eyes of our hearts can see his unfailing compassion in the cross.

In the poem, Barrett Browning also wrote about God's care and understanding, "God is so good, He wears a fold Of heaven and earth across His face Like secrets kept, for love, untold." This world surrounds us with the roaring of its harshness and its futile ways, yet God stills them when we put all our trust in him, and the earth is full of God's glory and splendor - . . . *who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.*
- Psalm 65:7-8

Moreover, in the poem Elizabeth also writes about the joy and contentment that God's presence and his care brings our spirits, "I feel that His embrace Slides down by thrills, through all things made, Through sight and sound of every place." When we look beyond this world's false hopes and distractions, and look upward to our Father in heaven, he can speak to our hearts and he can reassure us of his care for us - *The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain . . . you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty.*
- Psalm 65:9-11

God is so gracious to us all, and he pours out the spiritual bounty of his heavenly pasture on those who walk humbly by faith in Jesus.

- Mark Garner



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January 23, 2022
Volume 31, Number 4

Peaceful Be

Since thy Father's arm sustains thee,
Peaceful be;
When a chastening hand restrains thee,
It is He;
Know His love in full completeness
Fills the measure of thy weakness;
If He wound thy spirit sore,
Trust Him more.

Fearest sometimes that thy Father
Hath forgot?
When the clouds around thee gather,
Doubt Him not;
Always hath the daylight broken,
Always hath He comfort spoken,
Better hath He been for years,
Than thy fears.

Without murmur, uncomplaining,
In His hand
Leave whatever things thou canst not
Understand.
To His own the Savior giveth
Daily strength,
To each troubled soul that liveth,
Peace at length.

- Karl R. Hagenbach, 1801-1874

Historian and author Karl Hagenbach taught at several universities in Germany, and he wrote numerous books, including several on the history of Christianity.



Renewed Inwardly Day By Day

This world's futile thinking may perplex us, and its empty ways may hard press us, so in our Heavenly Father's unfailing care he renews us inwardly day by day. This week, Karen Susenna writes about how God renews our hearts and spirits even as our physical bodies age.

Aging & Renewal

I turned another year older this year. Not a surprise, but this year I really felt it. I had rotator cuff surgery 3 months ago. When I asked the doctor what had caused the tendon to tear, he said, "these things wear out"! Not what I was hoping to hear! I'm getting to the stage where things are wearing out. I never thought I would get here, but indeed here I am. I've learned a few things as I've struggled thru the long recovery of shoulder surgery.

Age is inevitable. Celebrate the age that you are right now!

The Body of Christ is a true gift. I had visits and meals and chauffeur services from some that I knew as acquaintances, but through their service to me, I learned about their hearts - their lives, their struggles, their joys - and realized, "hey, they are just like me!". Christ takes all our differences and wraps them up into one Body and it is up to us to unwrap this blessing. I count it a blessing that I went thru this long recovery because I was able to get to know my brothers and sisters – and count them as family.

God gives us new insights as we age. As we slow down and recognize our own mortality, we get closer (and submit more fully) to God. As the saying goes, "When you are flat on your back, the only way to look is up". God uses our frailties and the process of aging to slow us down and to show us truths that we would not have seen otherwise.

God changes our hearts as we age. During my recovery I've noticed people with physical limitations – in the grocery store, in the doctor's offices – and my heart is moved in a way it has never been moved before. I grieve for them as well as admire them for their strength and perseverance in the face of hardships. I could only have learned this thru my own physical hardship.

May you be blessed as you age. May you recognize God's hand in the aging process. May you see Him more fully!

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green." Psalm 92:12-14

(Dedicated to the memory of Betty Chappell, 1931-2017)

- Karen Susenna