

Family Information

Sunday Evening Worship Resumes Today

Sunday evening worship resumes meeting today, February 6, at 4:00 PM. (Note that this is a change from the previous time.) See Mike Paden or Jeff McVicker for further information.

Missions Group Meeting

The next Missions Group meeting will be held on Wednesday February 9th at 6:30 PM. Contact Jeff McVicker if you have questions or suggestions.

What's The Point Of Deuteronomy?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb Dillinger and Mark Garner have each written one page on "What's The Point Of Deuteronomy?"

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.

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. The current study is 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:	\$3750	\$4377
Designated:	\$	\$31

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

Service Times
Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM
Sunday Spanish Worship 10:00 AM
Sunday Ghana Worship 12:00 PM
Sunday Evening Worship 4:30 PM

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



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February 6, 2022
Volume 31, Number 6

Under God's Mighty Hand

Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. - 1 Peter 5:5

This world praises human pride and human ambition, yet Jesus blesses the meek and God calls us to walk humbly in the light of his Son. This world values outward appearances, yet God gives the choicest blessings of his eternal pasture to those who open our hearts and minds to him, and who acknowledge our need for him each moment. We are weak, yet God is strong, and when we trust in him alone, he will lift us up and carry us with his mighty hand - *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:6-7*

Giovanni Bernardone (1182-1226, he went by his nickname Francesco), came from a prosperous family, and when he was young he lived a life of luxury and self-indulgence. Becoming bored, Francesco became a soldier, hoping for fame and profit. Instead, he was captured and became severely ill in prison. After his release, he returned briefly to his old lifestyle, yet soon he felt both empty and helpless; in humility he began seeking God and following Jesus.

Bernardone is known to history as Francis of Assisi, whose compassion and kindness both for people and animals made him a source of encouragement, comfort, and help, especially for those in distress or need. Likewise, when we let God keep our hearts soft and let him sustain us with his grace and his might, he will help us resist the accuser's snares and taunts, as he does for everyone in every time and in every place who walks by faith in the Lab of God - *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. - 1 Peter 5:8-9*

Francis of Assisi learned to see God's understanding and care in all of his creations, as he writes, "All creatures of our God and king Lift up your voice and with us sing, Oh praise him . . . Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness." Francis also writes in the poem, "You who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and on Him cast your care . . . You lead home the child of God, And Christ our Lord the way has trod."

For God knows all our sorrows and hopes, he knows all our pains and joys; he carries us through this world's storms, and he is our sure foundation amidst this world's chaos and uncertainty - *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. - 1 Peter 5:10-11*

Truly our Heavenly Father is the God of all grace, and it is good to praise him.

- Mark Garner

There Is A Great Change In Me

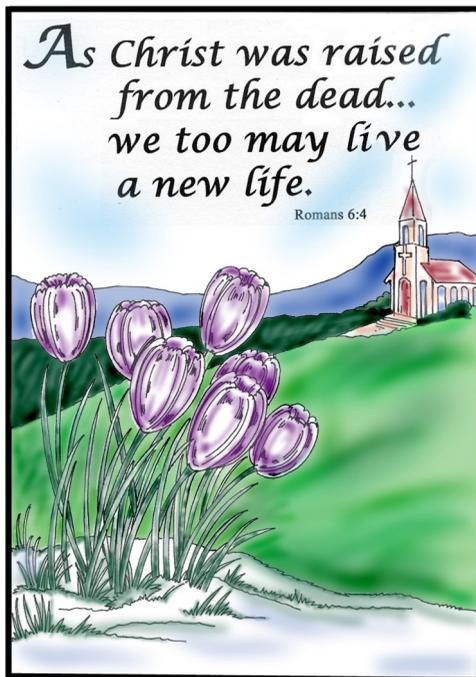
There is a great change in me
Great change in me
I am so happy I am so free
Since Jesus brought me out of the darkness
And into the marvelous light,
Oh there's a great change in me.

I went to the Rock the Rock was sound
And the love of God came streaming down
Since Jesus brought me out of the darkness
And into the marvelous light,
Oh there's a great change in me.

I've got the love of God within
And I'm so glad He saved me from sin
Since Jesus brought me out of the darkness
And into the marvelous light,
Oh there's a great change in me.

- Doris Mae Akers, 1923-1995

Hymnist and singer Doris Akers wrote her first hymn at age 10, started a singing group with her siblings as a teenager, and began writing and singing hymns full-time at 22. She became widely known as "Miss Gospel Music".



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, Leon Norwood writes about how God can help us re-adjust our focus when we are discouraged or lose heart.

Shifting Focus

In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Paul encourages us not to lose heart because even though we are perishing outwardly, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light but momentary troubles achieve for us an eternal glory that far exceeds them all. So we fix our eyes on the unseen versus the seen, since what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal. What comes to mind when you read this text. I myself am reminded of my weakness and vulnerability. How easily we can get discouraged when preoccupied with the brevity of life and the various challenges we face every day.

Are you disheartened today? Paul here reminds us that no Christian is immune to discouragement. We all lose heart now and then. Maybe you struggle as you watch a loved one's health steadily decline. Or perhaps your faith is being tested as never before. Whatever it may be, don't lose hope. The struggles and disappointments of this life will come and go. Like life itself, they too are transient. The key is focusing your attention on what truly is and will be. And that is the love and promises of an eternal God.

In verse 18, Paul tells us to look to the unseen world for encouragement. During hard times, we should pray to God to let our spiritual eyes open. Through the Spirit we can look through a farsighted lens past what is seen, to what God has promised. And with eyes of faith we see what cannot be seen, and gain a fresh perspective of the wonderful eternity that waits for those who learn to depend on and trust in God.

It's all really just a matter of shifting our focus. The world's allurements and pursuit of performance-based praises and acceptance distracts us and stifles our spiritual growth. Likewise, we should learn to resist being unduly preoccupied with the struggles and challenges of this life. We all face them, but as God's children we are promised and are given his strength and power to get through them.

Finally, but most importantly. Remember to meditate and focus on God's eternal promises. I personally really enjoy meditating on 1 Peter 1:3-5; "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

Paul instructs us to focus on the confident hope of the eternal (unseen) so that we will avoid distraction, and find renewal and strength, keeping us spiritually fit and ready to take hold of our future inheritance.

- Leon Norwood