

Family Information

Wednesday Outreach Meeting This Week

There will be an Outreach Meeting this Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 PM. For now, the Outreach Team will be meeting once per month, on the first Wednesday of each month. See Jeff or Caleb if you have any questions.

Faith-Based Book Club Meets This Saturday

The first meeting of the faith-based book club will take place this Saturday, March 4, in the fellowship room (E41-42) from 1:30-3:00 PM. The first book up for discussion is "Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense" by N.T. Wright. See Caleb if you have any questions.

Baby Shower For Ashley Dillinger This Afternoon

A baby shower for Ashley and baby Dillinger will take place today at noon in room E41-42. They are registered online at Babylist. Hope to see you there!

Daylight Savings Time Begins In Two Weeks

Daylight savings time begins in two weeks. The time change takes place at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 12, when clocks can be set ahead one hour.

Open House In April

The Outreach Team is organizing a church "Open House" on April 29th (Saturday), inviting anyone interested to come and see the building and rooms and interact with members of the church. It is essentially a "meet and greet" for anyone looking for a new church home. More details to come in the following weeks.

On Line Bible Studies

Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 6:30 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 in Acts. Contact Karen for more details.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4729	\$4887
Designated:	\$0	\$10



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Setting Our Hope On The Grace...

Setting Our Hope On The Grace Jesus Brings

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. - 1 Peter 1:13

This world offers us many false hopes, yet the message of Jesus is true, and it brings hope and peace that rise above this world's fears and sorrows. This world makes many empty promises, yet God's promises are trustworthy, and he gives salvation and eternal life to those who turn from this world's ways and who walk humbly by faith in the good news of Jesus - *Do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy. - 1 Peter 1:14-16*

Writer Mary Roberts Rinehart (1876-1958) was best-known for her mystery stories. Many of them show how appearances sometimes give us the wrong impression, as Rinehart writes, "The mystery story is two stories in one: the story of what happened and the story of what appeared to have happened." Likewise, we can become disoriented by this world's distractions, yet all along what we need most of all is the overflowing grace and unfailing compassion that come only from God.

Many of Mary's stories featured Hilda Adams, a nurse skilled in deduction who frequently helps the police. They would have her take a position that would enable her to get close to the case, yet her first duty remained to caring for her patients, as she says, "No patient of mine had suffered. I was a nurse first and a police agent second. If it was a question between . . . compresses . . . and seeing what letters came in or went out of the house, the compresses went on first."

Similarly, with Jesus, healing us spiritually comes before anything else; he came above all to redeem us from our own sins and to cleanse us and sanctify us so that we may be with God - *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. - 1 Peter 1:18-19*

Of her personal life, Mary Rinehart often said, "With a cat and a Bible, nobody needs to be lonely." Indeed, God is always near, and the Scriptures continually reassure us of his presence and his ongoing care. And our Heavenly Father has given us rebirth and renewal - *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For . . . the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever. - 1 Peter 1:23-25*

The word and the promises and the compassion of the Lord will endure forever.

- Mark Garner

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 4:00 PM

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.

Give Me A Clean Heart

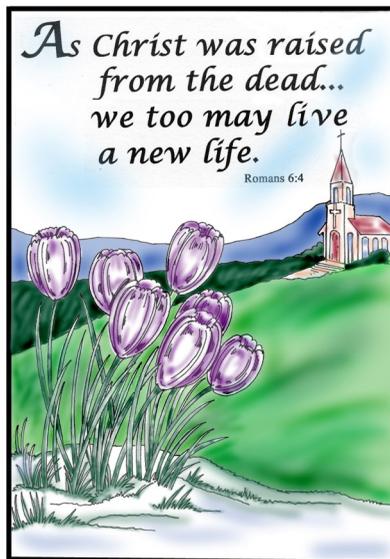
Give me a clean heart,
so I may serve thee.
Lord fix my heart,
so that I may be used by thee.
For I'm not worthy,
of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart,
and I'll follow thee.

I'm not asking for the riches of the land,
I'm not asking for high men to know my name.
Please Lord give me a clean heart,
so that I may follow thee.
Give me a clean heart, a clean heart,
and I'll follow thee.

Sometimes I am up
and sometimes I am down.
Sometimes I am almost level to the ground.
Please Lord give me a clean heart,
so that I may follow thee.
Give me a clean heart, a clean heart,
and I'll follow thee.

- Margaret Pleasant Douroux, 1941-present

Hymnwriter, teacher, and author Margaret Douroux taught and counseled for elementary schools for over 20 years, and later she devoted herself to writing songs about God and the message of Jesus. This is one of her best-known hymns.



A New Heart & A New Spirit

In Ezekiel 36, God tells us that he will give us a new heart and a new spirit when we realize our need for him and turn to him humbly. This week, Micah Evans writes about the difference it makes when we fix our thoughts on God and let him be our guide.

Spiritual Astigmatism

If you ask someone who depends on glasses or contact lenses to describe their field of vision without them, they'd likely use words and phrases such as "blurry," "fuzzy," and "out of focus."

My sister-in-law Rebecca is "famous" for forgetting to wear her glasses. When she does, she's constantly squinting to see more clearly, but to no avail. Somehow no matter how much she understands logically that she needs her glasses to be able to see, she still manages to forget to wear them. It usually causes her a great deal of confusion and frustration (and sometimes a good laugh!).

Now, I'll stop picking on her, because I want to remind you that we are all this way! I don't personally wear glasses, and maybe you don't either, but that's not what I'm talking about now. I'm referring to how we walk through life forgetting the one thing we need to see clearly, even when we as Christians KNOW that we need it! How easily we forget to set our vision on God, and His path for us.

When we forget to look at life through God's lens, everything looks blurry, fuzzy, and out of focus. Our field of vision is then skewed, and we start looking through lenses of self-indulgence, self-reliance, and worldly desires. We stumble around suffering from a spiritual astigmatism, struggling to make sense of the path before us. However, when we allow God to work through us, to guide our lives, and renew our spirits, we can see clearly and wipe away the fuzz!

I've been recently working through reading the book of Psalms, and I love what Psalm 51:11-12 reveals to us. These verses take place just after King David had sinned against God by what he had done with Bathsheba. He was crying out to God to restore his spirit, and renew his closeness to Him. This is a prayer that we could all stand to pray often. We all fall short daily, and should always remember to call on God to restore our hearts and minds with His goodness.

Let us not forget to set our sights on God, and also to thank Him for the ultimate help, the Bible, which helps us to see the world His way.

- Micah Evans