

## Family Information

### From The Elders & Minister

Covid Updates: 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.

Our second safety measure to change will start Sunday April 11th. We will resume printing Bulletins on that Sunday. They will be set on the same table as masks and communion supplies, so it is completely up to the individual if they want one. No one will be passing them 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., dismissal by sections until April 4. For further guidelines and details, please check with the elders.

We will continue 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.

### Baptism

Last Sunday, Paul Silva was baptized after services. Be sure to encourage him on this journey of faith.

## On Line Bible Studies

### On-Line Sunday Afternoon Bible Class

In the Sunday afternoon on-line Bible class, this week we're beginning a new series, "We Have Come To Mount Zion" (based on Hebrews 12). The studies are being taught by Mark G., Phil S., Steve C., and Leon N. This week, Mark will teach the class, beginning at 2:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to join. Note: Next Sunday, April 4 is Easter, and we'll take a break from the Sunday afternoon study next week.

### More On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM, next session April 2 - 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>	\$6696	\$4901
<b>Designated:</b>	\$155	\$133
<b>Scholarship Fund Current Balance</b>	\$ 315	

### 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

## As The Mountains Surround Jerusalem

*Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. - Psalm 125:1*

Truly the Lord is our Rock of salvation and grace and truth; our Heavenly Father keeps us from being shaken by this world's loudness and chaos when we trust in him instead of in human ways. God steadies our spirits with his truths, and he reassures our hearts with his unfailing care for us. God is near with us, both now and forever more - *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore. - Psalm 125:2*

The Lord surrounds us with reminders of his care and splendor, as Charlotte Brontë writes, "We know that God is everywhere; but certainly we feel His presence most when His works are on the grandest scale spread before us; and it is in the unclouded night-sky, where His worlds wheel their silent course, that we read clearest His infinitude, His omnipotence, His omnipresence." Moreover, God's words transcend earthly thinking; he writes them on our hearts, and they reassure us of things that earthly eyes cannot see. We were sheep without a shepherd, so Jesus came to restore our spiritual fortunes and to fulfill the inmost dreams of our souls - *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. - Psalm 126:1-2*

Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) has a character in one of his novels say, "Love all God's creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things . . . you will begin to comprehend it better every day."

As we contemplate God's wonders of nature, they will tell us of his splendor and understanding; as we ponder God's wonders of grace, they will teach us of his compassion and care for us - *The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. - Psalm 126:3*

In 1846, Charles Dickens wrote an account of the life of Jesus for young children. It opens, "My dear children, I am very anxious that you should know something about the History of Jesus Christ. For everybody ought to know about Him. No one ever lived, who was so good, so kind, so gentle, and so sorry for all people who did wrong, or were in anyway ill or miserable, as he was."

Jesus cares for the lonely and for the lost and for the outcasts; he brings his straying sheep back to his heavenly pasture, he comforts the mourning, he changes our despair into contentment, he renews our weary hearts with living water and satisfies our fearful spirits with living bread - *Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. - Psalm 126:5*

God rejoices in being with those who walk in the light of Jesus, and it is good to be near him. - Mark Garner



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## Good News These Blessed Words Impart

Good news these blessed words impart  
To every humble, trembling heart;  
Good news to all that fear the Lord,  
To all that trust His sacred word.

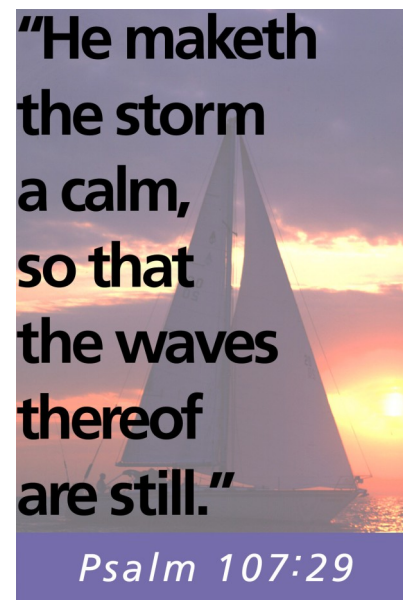
Tidings of health, of peace, of joy,  
To those whom Satan's darts annoy:  
Let my soul this news embrace,  
And wait the coming of His grace.

Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness,  
Will rise and scatter my distress:  
I shall behold the King of Kings,  
With health bright beaming from His wings.

One smile from Him, like noon's display,  
Shall turn my darkness into day;  
One look of love from Him shall raise  
My doubts to faith, my prayer to praise.

He will arise, my fears assuage,  
And shine in spite of Satan's rage:  
Soon shall I see the glorious Son,  
And sing the wonders he hath done.

- Susanna Harrison, 1752-1784



## 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, Leon Norwood writes about what it means to us to be able to pray to God anytime and to be able to talk with our Heavenly Father about anything.*

### Pray In The Spirit On All Occasions

In Ephesians 6:10–20, Paul concludes with a famous series of metaphors to describe the "armor of God." Paul uses the comparison of a Roman soldier's basic equipment to show us how in a similar way, the components of Christianity work together as we strive to live for and serve God. The soldier's tools include a belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword. In parallel, the Christian's equipment is truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. Just as a soldier's equipment is designed for their earthly battle, a Christian's equipment is meant for spiritual warfare.

Paul adds another important part for spiritual battle in verse 18: prayer, essential to winning spiritual battles. Why? Prayer connects us to the power of God, which is absolutely necessary to defeat spiritual enemies. Communication in battle is often the difference between victory or defeat.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:18, *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.* He notes some specific applications of prayer in this verse and the next. First, believers are to pray "*in the Spirit.*" This is simply believing and trusting in the Holy spirit for his help, as we pray. Praying in the Spirit is prayer with divine help (Romans 8:26). "*On all occasions*" is praying during the good and bad times; It is something we must do with all perseverance. Could you imagine what it would be like to pray only once each day and then stop. Remember God loves to hear and respond to our prayers.

"*All kinds of prayers*" are not merely about our thoughts and desires. We should talk with God persistently and about all matters. Our prayers should also be seasoned with a sincere praise and adoration directed toward a Holy God. Since God is already aware of and willing to meet all our needs, don't neglect to praise Him for the privilege of presenting your request to him. [He loves](#) to hear our praises and our prayers.

We all need to "*keep alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*" This means we should be vigilant in watching and responding to the affairs of life as they unfold before us. The pandemic is a great example of how easily things can get out of control and complicate lives. In situations like these our prayers to God can have a positive impact on how things work out, not just for us but for the whole nation. Finally, Paul also emphasizes the importance of praying for the needs of other believers which should be constant and encompass not only their physical but spiritual needs too. By dedicating prayers to God daily on behalf of other believers, we can encourage and facilitate their peace, health, and growth and the vitality of the congregation.

The takeaway: We praise God in prayer, pray for our own needs, and continuously pray for the needs of others. Amen. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

- Leon Norwood