

Family Information

Child Care Help

The Child Care industry is suffering from a shortage of teachers. We are in desperate need of teachers. If you know someone that is interested, please let the elders know. We will provide training and help with the necessary certifications.

As a result of the shortage our current staff is having to put in a lot of extra hours. We are asking the congregation to contribute to the Child Care so we can give our staff Christmas bonuses. If you wish to contribute, please mark your contribution for Child Care. We will also be using this contribution to purchase Christmas gifts for the children. We will be collecting until Sunday December 12.

Sunday Morning Class Schedule

The Sunday morning Bible class resumes meeting today, Sunday December 5, and we'll conclude the series on 1 Peter. Next week, we'll start a new series, "It Is True", based on Luke 24.

Sunday Evening Worship Schedule

The Sunday evening worship session at 4:30 PM will not be meeting for the next several weeks. It will resume meeting in February. See Mike Paden or Jeff McVicker for further information.

What's The Point Of Leviticus?

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 Leviticus?"

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM
Sunday Ghana Worship 12:00 PM
Sunday Spanish Worship 3:00 PM
Sunday Evening Worship 4:30 PM

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

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

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.

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 the book of Galatians. 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:	\$3181	\$4462
Designated:	\$5	\$90



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A Fountain Will Flow

Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. - Joel 3:17

The Lord our living God, our Father in heaven, dwells on Mount Zion, yet he is near with those who open our hearts and minds to him; and his Son has opened the curtain to his presence so that we may be with our Creator. The river of the water of life flows from God, and it nourishes and renews the souls of those who drink it - *The hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. - Joel 3:18*

Water has intrigued not only scientists but also philosophers and poets and others over the centuries, and as Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) said, "Water is the driving force of all nature." So it is fitting that Scripture often uses the imagery of water flowing and bringing nourishment and life, for our Heavenly Father is the source of all life, he sustains every living thing, and he gives eternal life to those who hold fast to the good news of Jesus.

Poet and writer Lucy Larcom (1824-1893; several of her poems about God have been set to music as hymns) used water as a metaphor when she wrote, "A drop of water, if it could write out its own history, would explain the universe to us." For we can see God's wisdom and care all around us, even in the smallest things he made and in easily overlooked places. Truly a fountain of compassion and understanding and grace flows from God to water our thirsty spirits - *A fountain will flow out of the Lord's house and will water the valley of acacias. - Joel 3:18 (concluded)*

Ancient philosopher Lao Tzu (571 BC - approx. 490 BC) writes of water's unique qualities, "Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it." Similarly, God speaks to us softly through nature, he speaks to us patiently through his words; our Father in heaven shows us unfailing patience and mercy as he makes his strength perfect in our many weaknesses. The Lord is our refuge from this world's harshness and restlessness, a stronghold of truth and grace - *The Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. - Joel 3:16*

Moreover, Jesus brings us living water and the gift of God's Spirit, who lives within us and who unites us with our Heavenly Father and with believers across the earth and across the centuries.

Judah will be inhabited forever . . . The Lord dwells in Zion. - Joel 3:20-21

There is no one like God, who rejoices in dwelling with those who walk humbly in the light of his Son.

- Mark Garner

A Sure Foundation For All Our Times

Whether we are in times of hope or fear, joy or sorrow, peace or confusion, God and the message of Jesus are always a sure foundation. This week, Paula Robbins writes more about the eternal foundation we all share in Jesus.

Our Shared Foundation

"We're all in this together." We've heard that statement a lot in the past 18 months. How does this relate to the sure foundation that God promises us? As I contemplated this, my thoughts turned to Scotland - Edinburgh Castle is one of the oldest fortifications in Europe, sitting atop Castle Rock, a huge chunk of dolomite that has been a shared foundation and a source of security for 1000 years.

There are many things that are determined by a shared foundation. I'd like to call attention to three responses described in the Bible that we will experience when we accept and submit to God's foundational truths:

We will experience deep humility. If we believe that all humans share the same essential nature, that leaves no room for "us and them" thinking. There is no "them"; only God and us. To have complete contempt toward any human, to consider them of no value, denies that they bear God's image. We are warned that whatever we do to "the least of these" we do to God himself (*Matthew 25:40*). Humility is the response God expects of us as we accept the truth of our essential nature.

Humility makes us able to accept that we are completely dependent on God not only for our salvation (*Ephesians 2:8*) and spiritual transformation (*2 Corinthians 3:18*), but also for our ability to function effectively in daily life (*Psalms 119:37; Proverbs 3:5*). We can no more achieve these benefits by our own effort than we are able to plunk a 260-foot-tall chunk of dolomite onto the coastal plains of Scotland!

We will accept and strive to obey the "hard" teachings of Jesus and his apostles. Only when we are convinced that all people bear God's image and are valued by him does it make sense to treat our enemies with love and generosity (*Matthew 5:14-15*), freely forgive those who offend or harm us (*Matthew 6:14-15*) and respond to disrespect and hostility with forbearance and gentleness (*Matthew 5:39*). Understanding the great value we have in God's eyes and trusting in God's promised redemption makes us able to be thankful in all circumstances (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*).

We share God's eternal desire that all people put their faith in him and receive the same redemption and transformation that he is working in our lives. When we are convinced each person's inherent worth comes from bearing God's image and of their need to be saved from the "reign of death", we will feel a natural urgency to help other people understand these foundational truths (*2 Corinthians 5:20-21*). We are being built into God's house on the foundation of God's truth (*Ephesians 2:19-22*) and we want as many people as possible to be added. But we will be unable to influence unbelievers if we persist in trying to get our identity and security from material abundance, our own personality, religious affiliation, social status, or any other carnal source. But when we embrace and submit to God's foundational truths that all people share, even hostile nonbelievers will recognize that we have something unique that they lack (*1 Peter 3:15*).

"We're all in this together" isn't just true regarding Covid-19. It is God's foundational truth about our nature. Let's show the world what that statement really means.

- Paula Robbins

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #1

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 32 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out the mystery verse from this week's mystery book.

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|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| COVENANT | HONOR | OLIVES | SON OF BEREKIAH |
| DONKEY | HORSES | OVERTHROW | TERRIFY |
| EARTH | HOUSES | RAVINE | THREE SHEPHERDS |
| ELEVENTH MONTH | LIVING | READY | THRONE |
| ENTREAT | MEASURE | RETURN | TOWER OF HANANEL |
| ESCAPE | MYRTLE TREES | SHEBAT | TURBAN |
| HAPPY FESTIVALS | | | |

T O W E R O F H A N A N E L
H E E R U S A E M I W I H M
R D L I V I N G L L L A Y E
E O I E O I V T E A I R N E
E N M C V V O A N K T O A G
S K T A O E E E E L R R Y H
H E R U O V N R E H T U D O
E Y F I R R E T T H E C L U
P D A R U B R N H H O E S S
H A T T F E A E A M R N H E
E E E O E E L N O N O O O S
R R N S H E B A T R T N W R
D O L I V E S C A P E D T O
S L A V I T S E F Y P P A H

The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week.

- Mark Garner