

Family Information

Daylight Savings Time Begins This Weekend

Daylight savings time begins this weekend. The time change took place at 2:00 AM today, Sunday March 12, when clocks were to be set ahead one hour.

Work Day This Saturday

There is a work day scheduled for this Saturday, March 18th, from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. There will also be a work day on Saturday April 8th from 9:30-12:30. We will be addressing some of the inside needs of the church building. Weather permitting on April 8th, we can also work on some of the outdoor needs. All are welcome to help take care of our building! If you have questions please talk with Mike Evans, Art Silva, or Robbie McVicker.

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.

Updated Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Team Meeting will be on May 3rd. The team will coordinate in the meantime through emails and phone calls while Caleb and Ashley have their baby.

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them begins after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

On Line Bible Studies

Pantry Help Needed

We're looking for volunteers for the Northside Pantry to escort shoppers. The time needed is Wednesdays, starting at 3:30 for 2-3 hours. If you can help, please see Jeff McVicker.

Current On-Line Studies

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM (Note the new schedule and new time) - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him or Leisha for details and updates.

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:	\$4950	\$4846
Designated:	\$0	\$10

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.

A New Covenant Established...

A New Covenant Established On Better Promises

We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being. - Hebrews 8:1-2

We do have such a high priest, not a mere human being, rather the Son of God, who lives forever and who is at the right hand of our Heavenly Father. Jesus came to establish a new and better covenant, not based on law, rather one based on grace and truth and compassion - *The ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. - Hebrews 8:6*

The 1927 science fiction movie "Metropolis" takes place in a futuristic city where life seems ideal, yet it has become increasingly dependent on numerous large machines that in turn need to be operated by escalating numbers of workers. It starts when Freder, the son of the city's leader, meets Maria, who lives with the workers below the city; both are anxious about what might happen.

Maria compares the city with the biblical Tower of Babel (in Genesis 11), an example of human ambitions gone out of control, and they realize the need for understanding and mutual care. Similarly, God knew all along that the law of Moses was a temporary covenant, and he had already planned a new and better covenant based on redemption by grace through faith in Jesus - *If there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. - Hebrews 8:7*

In spite of the efforts of Freder and Maria, things start to collapse as everyone else resorts to scheming and force, until they finally realize that this approach cannot lead to anything good. The movie ends with Maria and Freder beginning the process of healing and rebuilding. Likewise, the old covenant teaches us the human inability to become righteous through our own deeds and abilities, so Jesus came to bring a better way and a better covenant - *This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. - Hebrews 8:10*

Maria had often spoken of the need for a mediator, and as she puts it, "The mediator between the head and the hands must be the heart." Similarly, Jesus came to be our mediator, and in him we can see the heart of God, in him we see our Heavenly Father's holiness and his compassion, his wisdom and his understanding, and especially his desire to be with each of us - *I will be their God, and they will be my people . . . they will all know me . . . For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. - Hebrews 8:10-12*

Jesus brings a new and better covenant established on the promises of salvation and eternal life.

- Mark Garner



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I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need, and well provides me,
Loves me every day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away,
Jesus is my Staff and Stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go
Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,
By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.

- *Henriette Luise Von Hayn, 1724-1782*

*This is one of several dozen hymns written by German schoolteacher Henriette Von Hayn.
She also devoted considerable time to caring for the sick and disabled.*

Give Me, O Lord, A Heart Of Grace

Give me, O Lord, a heart of grace,
A voice of joy, a shining face,
That I may show, where'er I turn,
Thy love within my soul doth burn.

A tenderness for all that stray,
With strength to help them on the way,
A cheerfulness, a heav'nly mirth
Brightening my steps along the earth.

- *Rosa Mulholland, 1841-1921*

*Irish novelist, poet and playwright Rosa Mulholland had several stories published when she was young.
When Charles Dickens read one of her stories, he encouraged her to write full-time, and he also published
some of her stories in one of his periodicals.*

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 turn to him. This week, Mike Paden writes about God's desire for us to turn to him with our hearts.

A New Heart

The Latin expression, "sine qua non" means "that without which". As an example, my desire to buy new car is impossible without money, "the without which no new car." Certain things are essential for the outcome that we would want.

The same is true spiritually, I might want God to "create in me a new heart", but before He can do so, He requires actions on my part. In Deuteronomy 10:16, God says, "Circumcise your heart and do not be stiff necked any longer." What comes first? The circumcision, i.e. repentance, or could God do it without my asking? No, I must implore him to renew my heart. (It is true that God took the initiative to provide the way for salvation, but after I entered into covenant relationship with Him, if I sin, I must desire and ask for a new heart.)

As Tara mentioned last week in her article, Ezekiel 36:26 is another instance where God desires to replace my heart of stone with a heart of flesh. Ezekiel was in Babylon and God assures the people that once they return to their homeland, He would work on their heart. Unfortunately, from Ezra and Nehemiah we learn that only a remnant returned, the rest turned their backs to their legacy and birthright. I do not want to turn my back on my promised reward, but I also realize that I am prone to sin. What to do? Implore forgiveness and strive to resist temptation with the help of the Holy Spirit. Lelia M. Morris expresses beautifully the steps of this reconciliation in the hymn she wrote in 1898, "Nearer Still Nearer".

Nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart
Draw me my Savior so precious Thou art
Fold me O fold me close to Thy breast
Shelter me safe in that haven of rest.

Nearer, still nearer nothing I bring,
Naught as an offering to Jesus my king,
Only my sinful, now contrite heart,
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

Nearer, still nearer, Lord to be thine,
Sin with its follies I gladly resign,
All of its pleasure, pomp and its pride;
Give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last,
Till safe in glory my anchor is cast,
Thru endless ages ever to be,
Nearer my Savior, still nearer to Thee

God will create in me a new heart, one completely new and pleasing to Him only when I present Him a contrite and broken heart, and a desire to be whom He wants me to be.

- *Mike Paden*