

Family Information

Holiday Schedules

Sunday Morning Bible Class in E44 - The class is taking a break this morning, and will resume meeting next Sunday, December 31.

Sunday Morning Bible Class in the Auditorium - The class will be meeting through the holidays.

Sunday Afternoon Worship (4 PM) - The class is taking December off, and will resume sometime in 2024.

Monday Women's Prayer Group - The prayer group will take a break on December 25 and January 1, and will resume meeting on January 8.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - The Bible study is taking a break on December 26, and will resume meeting on January 2.

Wednesday Outreach Meetings - The group will meet next on Wednesday January 3.

Friday TGIF Bible Study - See Leisha or Mike Evans for updates.

2024 Offering Envelopes

The 2024 offering envelopes are now available to be picked up in the foyer for those who have requested them. The names are written on each box. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, please see Ashley Dillinger.

Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Wednesday January 3, from 6:30-7:30 PM. The Outreach Team is now meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. See Caleb if you have any questions.

On Line Bible Studies

Current Mid-Week Studies

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him or Leisha for locations, details, and updates.

Mondays at 6:30 PM (On-Line) - 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 (On-Line) - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is on 1 Peter, using the workbook "Living Stones" by Casandra Martin. Contact Karen for more details.

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 details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

Clothing Closet - Current Needs

The closet clothing now needs winter coats (of all sizes), gloves, winter hats, and scarves. Thank you for anything you can donate.

Clothing Closet Schedule

The Clothing Closet is now open once per month, by appointment only, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It will next be open Wednesday, January 17; for appointments call 614-918-7925 from 5:30-8:00 PM Monday. We are also looking for helpers to sort and hang clothes on Wednesdays when the Clothing Closet is closed.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5192	\$4486
Designated:	\$	\$273

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, 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.

The Impossibility Of Jesus

There's a scene in Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back where Luke Skywalker is fighting the villain, Darth Vader. After Luke has been beaten, Darth Vader tries to convert Luke to his side, claiming that he is in fact Luke's father! Luke's response: "That's impossible!"

Sometimes we feel there are impossible things in our lives. It will be impossible for me to get ahead of my finances; it will be impossible to finish that project on time; it will be impossible to make that person happy; it will be impossible . . .

The mother of Jesus, Mary, thought the same thing. "It will be impossible to have a child when I'm a virgin." Yet, when God has a plan, the impossible becomes possible. This is how Gabriel responds to Mary:

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:35-37)

Elizabeth in her age having a child should be impossible. But not with God. Jesus and his birth should be impossible. But not with God. Jesus saving us from our sins should be impossible. But not with God. Jesus giving us eternal life should be impossible. But not with God. Jesus being raised from the dead should be impossible. But not with God.

This Christmas season, I hope you remember that the impossibility of the birth of Jesus is just one of God's many impossible things that He has accomplished. Our God is the God of the impossible. He did it with Jesus, and he can do it with you. Hold on to the hope of the Christmas season, and remember God's impossible accomplishments.

- Caleb Dillinger



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The One Who Calls Us Is Faithful

Rejoice always . . . - 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Writer, college literature teacher, and diplomat Henry Van Dyke Jr. (1852-1933) was often asked to speak about Christianity. On one of his trips, he was in a mountainous region of New England; as he contemplated the beauty and splendor of God's creation as well as Jesus' message of salvation, Van Dyke was moved to write the hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

Henry wrote, "Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love, hearts unfold like flowers before Thee"; for when we humbly ponder our Heavenly Father's majesty and understanding, and what his Son has done for us, our spirits rejoice and we find lasting peace and hope in Jesus. As the hymn continues, "Blooming meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee", we are always surrounded by reminders of God's nearness and his care for us.

Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances . . . - 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Van Dyke had the words set to music from Beethoven's 9th symphony, using an excerpt that the composer himself had meant to convey joyfulness. There are so many ways that God blesses us, as Henry writes, "Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest."

The one who calls you is faithful. - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

The one who calls us is faithful, and his grace overflows to those who humbly follow Jesus.

- Mark Garner

The Nativity

Beneath the dark, expectant skies
While crowded Bethlehem slept,
Their sleeping flocks in quiet fields
The faithful shepherds kept;
When round about them, suddenly,
There shone a glorious light,
And in the midst an angel stood,
Majestical and bright.

Fear not; behold, I bring you joy!
The angel spake and smiled;
To you this day in David's town
Is born the promised Child;
A Savior, even Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign—
Ye in a manger lowly laid
Shall find the Babe Divine.

- Harriet McEwen Kimball, 1834-1917

*Poet Harriet Kimball also wrote the words to over two dozen hymns.
She also co-founded a hospital in her hometown.*

Glad Tidings

Glad tidings, glad tidings, O wonderful love!
A message has come from
Our Father above;
'Tis Jesus who brought it
To young and old,
A message of mercy
More precious than gold.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #3

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 23 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out this week's mystery verse.

ACCORDINGLY	DAUGHTER	ZION	HOMETOWN	JOURNEY	REPLIED
ACROSS	DAWNED	INDEED	LAUGHED	SOLOMON	
BETTER	ELEAZAR	JERUSALEM	NAZARENE	THADDAEUS	
CANAANITE	GREETED	JOHN THE BAPTIST	PEACEMAKERS	VERMIN	
CARRIED	HEALING	JORDAN RIVER	PLACES		
COMFORTED	HEAVEN	JOSEPH	PREPARE		

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

The answer, and another puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. (Last week's mystery verse answer: *The eternal*)