



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October 2019 Volume 48 No. 10

FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:

Gifts! Who doesn't like getting gifts? There are a number of reasons for this, one of which is the understanding that the gift indicates that someone cares for you. The giving of a gift is a way of expressing love for someone or appreciation for something that they have done.

The same is true for God's gifts to us as it is for our giving gifts to each other. And since God is not showing appreciation for anything that we have done, I believe that His gifts are truly an expression of His love for us, and we should receive them as such.

As a child we learned that "Jesus loves me this I know, because the Bible tells me so." Now as adults we can also say that "Jesus loves me this I know, because He has expressed it through the 'gifts' that He chose to give me when I became His."

Every member of the body of Christ has received the Holy Spirit and has been given gifts that are evidence of the Spirit's power at work in and through us. We now have the responsibility of exercising those gifts.

What if someone gives us a gift, but we set it aside and never use it. How does that make the giver of the gift feel? Let's be faithful to show God our appreciation for what He has given us and purpose to develop and look for opportunities to use our gifts!

God's Word puts it this way: *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."* 1 Peter 4:10-11

Notice that our gifts have been given to us to serve others and in doing so we are administering God's grace into their lives! What if we truly considered the words that we speak as being the very words of God. How might that change what we say? And as we serve, if we do it with the strength that God provides, He gets praised!

Peter reminds us that our lives are to be lived for His glory and that is accomplished as we faithfully use the gifts that He provides to us, serving others, speaking His words, and demonstrating His strength! Take time today to thank God for giving you the gifts that He has and honor Him by using them! If you need some help figuring out where and how to use the gifts that God has given you, feel free to ask one of the elders or your Care Group leaders.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: JOHN PART TWO

In our adult Sunday School class, we completed the first half of the book of John. The study was led for us by Dr. Tony Evans. We took a break after part one, chapters 1-11, and are ready to continue with part two, picking up at chapter 12. Being that Tony Evans has not yet completed this part of the study we will complete the book of John with the aid of Kenny Boles who retired as a professor of New Testament studies at Ozark Christian College. Professor Boles uses a very different style of teaching but is full of knowledge regarding the New Testament era customs and lifestyle. He is a wealth of information and digs deep into meaning of God's Word.

If you missed the first half of John this would be a great time to jump into the study with us. Hope to see you there.

FALL SOUP SUPPER STUDY

As I sit down to write this, we will soon be starting our Fall Soup Supper/Study nights. This session will be led by one of America's favorite author's and teacher's, Max Lucado. He will be sharing with us on the topics of Hope, Hurt, Help, Haves/Have Nots, and Hereafter.

Why Me? Why am I here? Why did this happen? Can you help me understand? *Where's the lifeline?* Where can I turn? **Is there any hope?**

We have questions. Real, important and challenging questions. Questions about family, finances, and forgiveness. Unsettling questions regarding illness, death and eternity. Don't we crave answers to these questions that tug on the deepest parts of our hearts?

Max Lucado has received thousands of questions and wrestled with plenty of his own. In these eight Bible study sessions, one of today's most trusted pastors takes on life's most important questions. Here's hoping that his answers to the questions of others will help you find answers to your own.

Max shares using incredible testimonies given by real life people like you and me who have struggled through the same problems that we are struggling with right now. You won't want to miss this creative presentation full of truth straight from God's Word!

Beginning Thursday, Sept. 26th we will meet at church at 6pm and enjoy a soup supper together that will be provided by one of the care groups. We will then gather in the sanctuary for worship and a teaching, followed by breaking down into our care groups for discussion and prayer. The study will last for 5 weeks. We will be taking off the week of October 17th which is the date of the AAA Pregnancy Resource Center banquet and October 31st which is the Hallelujah Party. I hope that you will plan to join us and enjoy the fellowship!

LIFE CHAIN – SUNDAY OCT. 6TH

In Proverbs 24:11-12, God tells us:

“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?”.

Every time I read that verse I am reminded of those precious babies that are being formed in their mothers' wombs by the hand of God. Each one of them is a masterpiece, different from any other baby that God has created and precious to Him. Yet, so many of them are slaughtered before given a chance to experience life outside the womb. Our society has been deceived into believing that their lives are simply a “choice” to be made.

We who know better have been given the instructions to “rescue” them. We can't claim ignorance about the problem as if we know nothing about it. So, what are we doing to “rescue” them? We vote for those who will legislate for their protection, we pray for them, and we support the efforts of ministries like AAA Pregnancy Resource Center. But can we do more?

Here is an opportunity! LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 90 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Will you consider coming and joining us as hundreds of thousands of people line the streets across the United States and Canada to join their hearts in prayer. If you would like to join us, we will meet at the “Concord Plaza” parking lot at 16100 Middlebelt at 2:00pm on Sunday Oct. 6th. Even if you can't stay for the full hour and a half, come for what you can and pray with us.

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Young Adult Bible Study at the McMillan house after church on October 13th. On October 27th is the young adult Three Cedars Cider Mill Trip \$10. This includes the price of Lunch.

Youth group Tuesday at 6:30.

October 20th after church is the Three Cedars Cider Mill Trip \$10. This includes the price of Lunch.

November 15th-17th: Students Helping Detroit \$10. Please see Mrs. Stephanie to apply.

Youth group Tuesday at 6:30.

HALLELUJAH PARTY TIME!!

The cool weather has not yet arrived but a few of the leaves have begun falling and that means that it won't be long until it's time for our HALLELUJAH PARTY! This year the party will fall on a Thursday night, Oct. 31st. There will again be a sign-up sheet for candy donations in the rear entry. Also look for the sign-up sheet for volunteer help for registration, games, setup, skit, Hallelujah Highway, and refreshments.

Our community looks forward to our providing a safe and fun environment for the kids that night. We look forward to also sharing the love of Jesus with them and the message of the Gospel! But it is a big undertaking and we like to call for "all hands-on deck." Please pray for God's purposes to be met, for all our needs to be met, and for how you might help serve. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please see Jane or Stephanie.

FREE FLU SHOTS are being provided by Walgreens on Saturday, October 19th for Outreach from 9:30 -11am. They will take your insurance if you have it but if not, there will be no charge.

OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Thank you to all who made the clean-up day at the Brightmoor Community Center a huge success! It was such a blessing to take the Saturday morning Bible Study group out into the community to use the gifts that they have been given to serve others!

We had the opportunity to work on the badly neglected Brightmoor Community Center and what a difference we made! We filled over 60-yard waste bags with weeds and grass clippings. We mowed the front of the building along Burt Road and the community park next to the center.

It was fun to be part of such a hard-working team of servants, all of whom attend our Outreach on Saturday mornings. We had over 35 volunteers on site plus those who bagged, boxed and transported all the food that was distributed. In addition, we provided lunch to all who participated, gave out tee shirts, and blessed several families who saw the activity and came to receive food too. Thank you to all who made this opportunity happen!

MEN'S RETREAT

What a great time we had on our men's retreat at Michindoh Camp with our brothers from Fellowship Christian Church! It was such an encouragement to spend time with other Christian men who struggle with the same things that we do and be reminded of the victory that is ours in Christ! NO MORE EXCUSES!

We enjoyed great worship, teaching, fellowship with each other, meals, and fun. There was fishing, paintball, pickleball, basketball, disc golf, and time around a bonfire. And the food that the camp provided was excellent!

If you couldn't join us this year we hope that you will get to next year!