



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September 2019 Volume 48 No. 9

FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:

*"Therefore, remember that formerly you who are gentiles by birth... at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenant of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."
Eph. 2:11-12*

What a beautiful day we had worshipping in the park! We were blessed with great weather, great fellowship with Christian Fellowship Church, and great worship! Thank you to all who invested so much time and energy preparing, setting up, transporting, cooking, serving, and putting it all away again afterward! And thank you to all who brought food to share. We sure missed the efforts of Bill and Debi who were hospitalized, but everyone came together and got it done anyway. And what love was shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ from CFC! What a loving and caring bunch of people they are! It must put a smile on our Heavenly Father's face as we come together and demonstrate the unity He longs for His family to have!

The passage above is part of the text that was shared on Sunday. What really struck me was the expression "without hope". What a terrible feeling that would be to be absolutely without any hope. To have nothing to look forward to, no chance of anything changing or getting any better, to be absolutely hopeless. Paul was describing the condition that all of us were in at one point. The covenant that God had made was with the children of Israel. Gentiles were not included in the grace of God that was demonstrated through the sacrificial system. We were excluded from the promise, excluded from the covenant. We were on the outside looking in. We were without hope.

But through the prophet Isaiah, hundreds of years before, God had given us insight into what was going to happen. He said, "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, "Here am I, here am I." Is. 65:1

So, because of His great love for us, he revealed himself to those who weren't even asking for him, and he allowed himself to be found by those who weren't even seeking him. He cried out "Here am I, here am I" to us who weren't paying attention to him! That's love and that is where our hope comes from. Not because of anything that we did to earn or deserve it, but all initiated by God himself because he loves us!

So, Paul goes on to say:

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ." Eph. 2:13
Notice, we have been brought near, He brought us, we didn't initiate it. And it happened at the cross where Jesus shed His blood for us! No longer are we outside looking in. No longer are we excluded from God's promise, but he chose to bring us to Himself which moves us from being "without hope" to being kids of the King! We are part of the inner circle, we have confidence in the blood of Jesus, we are included in the promises! In fact, all of the promises that God has made are ours! So, rejoice, we are loved, accepted and included thanks to Jesus work at the cross!

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.

OUTREACH SERVICE PROJECT

Each year we like to take the members of our Saturday Bible Study out into the community to offer them the opportunity to use the gifts that God has given them to serve others. Last year we connected with the Brightmoor Community Center to cut their lawn and clean up around their building. The Community Center has a very small budget to work with and their property is badly neglected. They greatly appreciated the work that we did last year and were excited to hear from us again this year.

If you would like to join us the date will be Saturday, Sept. 21st. We will leave from church at 8:45am and wrap up with a hot dog lunch around 11:45am. The Community Center is located on Burt Road at Lyndon across from Gompers School. Bring your lawn tools and gloves and smile to share. If you would like to help with serving the lunch please contact Barb Christopherson.

Following lunch food will be distributed to all our volunteers. We try to wrap up by 12:30pm. Come and get to know our Saturday Bible Study group in a different light, you'll be blessed!

FALL LENTEN STUDY

Well, the kids are back to school which is our indicator that the summer is coming to an end. For us that means that it is time to start thinking about our Fall Lenten Soup Supper/Study nights! Our series will begin on Thursday night, Sept. 26th. The night will begin at 6pm with a soup supper provided by the REDEEMED Care Group followed by worship and teaching at 6:40pm. We will then break into our Care Groups for a time of discussion and prayer ending at 8pm.

The children will have their own study also concluding at 8pm. Each week the soup supper will be provided by one of the Care Groups. We hope that you and your family will plan to participate in our Lenten Series.

MEN'S MICHINDOH RETREAT

Attention all men: No More Excuses! That is our theme for the Men's Retreat, September 13 – 15. The food is great, the lodging is fantastic, and the teaching and growth will be blessed. I am led to ask ALL men to attend this event which we are praying will be life changing and world changing. We have been in prayer about this and ask that each member be in prayer as well. The cost is \$110 per man and includes everything at Michindoh Conference Center. Checks should be made out to Christ Church and placed in the offering plate or given to Mike Boyle. In addition to a great study, fellowship, meals, lodging and fellowship, the following are also included:

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| Paint Ball | Disc Golf |
| Pickleball | Basketball |
| Swimming | Canoes |
| Rowboats | Softball |
| Fishing | Hiking |
| Campfires | Late-Night snacks |

Please plan to attend.



CHILDREN/YOUTH

We are starting a young adult Bible study twice a month. This is a time for students out of high school to 30 years old to spend time in fellowship together and time learning and growing closer to God. This will be after church every 2nd and 4th Sunday at the McMillan's house. We will carpool to and from the church. Hope you can join September 8th!

Youth group is starting back up to its normal back to the school schedule. It is Tuesdays from 6-7:30. Kindergarten to High school students are welcome to attend. Please contact Mrs. Stephanie for a ride or additional information. We are also always looking for fill-in volunteers or every Tuesday volunteers. Please contact Mrs. Stephanie if that is something you are interested in.