FAMILY FOCUS

Welcome home, church family! What a wonderful day it is that we can actually be together in person. Our online services have been great (and they will continue for those who can’t or don’t want to get out just yet), but there is something special, even irreplaceable, about actually being together. In preparation for today’s return, our youth group had a work day Thursday where they painted fences, trimmed shrubs, and worked really hard to make things nice for us today. Let’s give them a big thank you for their hard work!

It is exciting having church events again! Yesterday several men went to the Ozark Shooters Complex for the 3rd annual sporting clay shoot. We had breakfast together, heard a great devotional from Dwight, and of course, shot many clay pigeons! A big thanks to Craig Thomas and Joe Easter for putting together this awesome event!

Today as we return to our physical assembly, let’s not take this moment for granted. Maybe we have gotten complacent worshiping from the comfort of our own homes the last several weeks and have forgotten how powerful it is to sing together, break bread together, and pray together. Above all, let’s remember how much of an honor it is to praise our great God together!

Phillip Bates

RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

- Mike Parker had outpatient hernia surgery today. All went well.
- Please pray for Officer Mark Priebe & his family. Mark was struck by a vehicle Tuesday outside police headquarters. Mark provided security at Sunset often in 2019. We planning to deliver cards Monday. If you would like to participate, drop your card at the office by noon Monday. Sunset will be sending a check, if you would like to contribute funds, please send your check as soon as possible made out to Sunset with a note on the memo line.
- Luella Sell and JP Pirtle have been discharged from the hospital.
- Harold Hadley is off the ventilator & having coherent conversations & moving his limbs. His MRI showed no stroke damage. He is expected to go to rehab for a few weeks in the same facility with Helen. Helen remains in hospice care following her stroke, though she is able to eat and respond. The family asks for prayers.
- Venton Haskins has been discharged from the hospital. He is recovering from surgery.
- Deanne Cobb was discharged from the hospital Wednesday. She had jaw surgery recently.
- Jo Anna Biglieni’s brother, Jack Roy, is doing better as he recovers from a broken hip.
- Virginia Davis moved Saturday to live with her daughter. Her new address will be 12176 Unicorn Road, Stark City, MO 64866.

TODAY’S LESSONS


Link: https://SunsetChurchofChrist.org/Sunday-Worship
CONTINUING PRAYER

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

As Paul is describing to the Galatians the transformation both Jews and Gentiles make to follow Christ, he is helping them understand their baptism and how it connects them to the cross. Paul shares this beautiful statement that ultimately redefines our identity. Baptism is a burial, a death to sin and self. Paul connects not only our death to sin with the cross, but he makes the powerful statement of life, “I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

As an illustration, consider our driver’s license. It is an ID that verifies we are who we say we are. When we are baptized into Christ our stained spiritual ID gets washed in the blood of Jesus, it’s renewed and made clean. Unfortunately, that doesn’t keep Satan from taking a Sharpie to us. Satan wants to scribble all over us. He wants to ruin our identities in Christ and make us unrecognizable.

When I was 16 and got a new driver’s license, all I wanted to do was to show my family and friends. It was a proud moment. Similarly, when I became a Christian in college, Jesus was all I wanted to talk about. I shared how much he loved me, how he gave himself for me and how he lived within me. It was an exciting time. Over time we’ve likely grown weary of showing others our driver’s license, but nothing should deter us from showing Christ. Nothing should cover or conceal that Christ lives in us. And if Satan has us all marked up, we can draw near to Christ and seek him for healing, for cleansing, and for renewal. Then once again, we will be proud to share what Jesus has done for us. God bless you and have a great week!

Chris Livingston
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