



## *From the Pastor:*

Dear Friends in Christ,

From time to time it is good to focus on a road map for directions to a destination or a game plan for a victorious outcome.

The next several Sundays in worship we'll do just that in our sermon series, "Why Our Church Must..."

Our topics will be our main ministry focus areas: worship, discipleship, community, mercy and stewardship.

With these reminders, we can focus our efforts as Christians, families and as a congregation on doing the main things that Christ has called us to be and do as we make our way towards heaven.

This first Sunday we'll take a look at the subject of worship. God has made us and redeemed us to worship him. The purpose of the church is to make worship accessible for Christians so that they might commune with the Lord. There's so much more to be said and you'll have to wait for Sunday to hear it!

Sunday night will be our first 5th Sunday of the year and so we'll have our tradition of a hymn sing and social. Make plans to join your church family for this event. Let us know if you'd prefer not to drive at night and we can arrange for a ride!

We're having supper together afterwards and a sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall for crockpots of chili, tortilla chips, cornbread, cheddar cheese, sour cream/ yogurt, guacamole, brownies with ice cream! Please make plans to come sing, eat and enjoy one another's company. Bring a friend or family member with you! And if you aren't able to bring food, come anyway and bring your appetite.

Also, be sure to catch Connie Bennet and hear about her trip to Trinidad. She and her fellow team members returned late Sunday and I'm sure she has lots to tell. We will officially hear from her on Sunday, February 19 at our Congregational Luncheon after Worship.

Several of you have mentioned interest in participating in short-term missions. Our church has a tradition of assisting those who'd like to participate. Please be sure to speak to Jay Snow who chairs our Missions Team well in advance of your trip. Our Missions Team, as well as the Session, will take you through a process of discernment and assistance for fundraising and preparation for the trip. We love to set apart and send those we believe the Lord has called to go.

Many in our church are facing difficulties at the moment, so let's remember one another in our prayers to the Lord of Heaven. Please know that you are prayed for weekly during our prayer time on Sundays in our evening service.

May the Lord give us grace!

See you Sunday,

## 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

**Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social** will be this Sunday, January 29 at 6 PM. We're having supper together and a sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall for crockpots of chili, tortilla chips, cornbread, cheddar cheese, sour cream/yogurt, guacamole, brownies with ice cream! Please make plans to come sing, eat and enjoy one another's company. Bring a friend or family member with you!

**Handbell Rehearsals** will resume on Wednesday, February 1.

**Men's Lunch** will next meet on Monday, February 6 at Noon at Southbound Sandwich Works and the next **Men's Evening Gathering** will be February 20 at 7 PM at Panera Bread.

**Ladies Tuesday Evening Book Study.** Our Ladies' book study of Melissa Krueger's *Envy of Eve* will begin with a study/discussion of Chapter 1 on Tuesday, February 7 at 7 PM in the Hospitality Room. This study is for ladies of all ages and will be taught by Pastor Crofts. Please let him know if you need a copy of the book.

**The Session** will next meet on Monday, February 13 at 7 PM.

**Congregational Luncheon** will be held on Sunday, February 19 after Worship. 19 Connie Bennett will be giving a report on her Mission Trip to Trinidad. The Church will provide the meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and bread. The Congregation is requested to bring desserts.

### January/February ARP Magazine

You can find the latest ARP magazine here:

<http://www.omagdigital.com/publication/?i=369130>

## FEBRUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Ickes	2/1
Don Childrey	2/2
Dylan Jones	2/2
Harold Boswell	2/4
Janice Richardson	2/4
John Robinson	2/7
Stephanie Dobbins	2/9
George McKinney	2/10
Margaret Owens	2/10
Abigail Newton	2/13
Jan Burwell	2/15
Karen Hoke	2/17
Lynn Limon	2/18
Al Wright	2/18
Alex Jones	2/22
John Greeson	2/23
Karen Jones	2/27
Jim Christopher	2/28

### ANNIVERSARIES

John & Cathy Young (38)	2/3
Stephen & Ann Dobbins (23)	2/12
Ossie & Jennifer Spaulding (21)	2/14
Michael & Mary Peppo (25)	2/21

### First ARP Calendar of Events

#### January

\* Young at Heart Luncheon resumes in March  
25 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
29 Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing and Social - 6 PM  
30 Burlington Woman's Club - Fellowship Hall

#### February

1 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
1 Handbell Rehearsal Resumes  
5 Lord's Supper  
6 Men's Lunch  
7 Women's Envy of Eve Book Study - 7 PM  
8 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
13 Stated Session Meeting  
15 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM  
19 Congregational Luncheon & Short-Term Missions Report  
20 Men's Gathering - 7 PM  
\* Young at Heart Luncheon resumes in March  
22 Ladies Bible Study - 11 AM

#### Nursery:

Jan 29: Fran Haynes & John Robinson  
Feb 5: Jimmy Smith & Vicki McPherson

#### Counter:

Jan 29: Larry Isley  
Feb 5: John Robinson

#### Deacon Duty:

Jan 29: Stephen Robinson  
Feb 5: Glenn Owens

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