

The Community Church
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Community Church News *February 2019*

Come Worship With Us

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Pastor Scott's Issue: #WeRemember



Everybody sing: Zacchaeus was a very little man. A very little man was he. He climbed up in the sycamore tree, the Savior for to see. And when the Savior passed that way, He looked up in the tree. “Zacchaeus, won’t you come down? For I am going to your house for tea.”

The label society had placed on Zacchaeus was “tax collector.” How could Jesus EVER spend time with a “tax collector?” (Luke 19:7)

In our own lifetime we have seen the tragic results of hatred toward people groups. The oppression of millions upon millions based on a belief, a location, a profession or the color of their skin.

The World Jewish Congress has a social media campaign called #WeRemember. Their Facebook video reminds us that “the horrors of hate didn’t end with the Holocaust.” It reminds us of the genocide in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur. I would add to that list Bambuti, Myanmar, and Yazidis. And we are reminded that the tragic results of hatred are seen not only in the atrocity of genocide, but in our everyday life.

This brutal reality lives quite close to home. A church member shared with me the struggles he had renting an apartment just two years ago. His family was moving to Wisconsin. You see he wasn’t from Wisconsin, he was from “Texas.” You see he wasn’t Caucasian, he was “Latino.” You see he didn’t have a mid-west accent, he had a “southern accent.” Oh, he was gainfully employed. Oh, he had a wife and children and owned his own home in Texas. Oh, he had plenty of money in the bank. Oh, he spoke fluent English. Oh, he was a U.S. citizen. You see, he had a hard time renting an apartment in Wisconsin because of his MEXICAN ACCENT.

Luke 19:9,10 Jesus said to him [Zacchaeus], “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Every person in the world is precious to God. Jesus came for every person in the world. Jesus leaves no room for hatred toward one another. Jesus message is to love one another as He loved us. (John 13:34)

May we not rob ourselves of the blessing of loving someone with a “label.”

#WeRemember

Peace,

Pastor Scott



February 2019 Birthdays & Anniversaries

7th Daniel Wahlgren

10th Gil Jung

13th Peter Johnson

14th



20th Galen Bergmann

24th Carole Rowe-Zaeske



February 3rd Mike and Rhonda Sybeldon
Bruce and Shirley Meriwether

February 10th Glen and Cindy Wildenberg
Carole Rowe-Zaeske
Missy Scheel

February 17th Harold and Joanne Eick
Karen Newberg
Ron Winter

February 26th Matt Lowe
Wendi Neupert
Dorinda Jensen
Sue Fehlandt



February 3rd Linda Sterba

February 10th Bruce Greenhill

February 17th Harold Eick

February 26th Carol Rowe-Zaeske

EDITOR'S NOTE

If we haven't been listing your Birthday / Anniversary in this section of the newsletter and would like to be included, please give your information to Rhonda in the office or email me at: ccbjnewsletter@gmail.com

Thank You, Jim Hornbrook

From the Church Office . . .

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed at the worship service February 3, 2019.

COUNCIL MEETING

Church Council meets Tuesday, February 12, at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room. Prior to the Council meeting, Elders Department meets at 6 p.m. Watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements of when other departments or committees meet.

A CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE

Women's Tea will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall as we help the Zogata Family prepare to welcome their baby Girl into our world. Bring a package of disposable diapers (any size) to enter your name into the raffle drawing.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Please inform the Church Office of any changes in mailing or email address so you can continue to receive this newsletter. If you would like the method of delivery changed, let us know that as well.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The Website Committee is happy to report that our totally redesigned website is now live. You'll still find it with the same url: <http://commchbj.org>. Our new website has an up-to-date look and is much friendlier to people accessing it on their smart phones. Whether you're using your phone or your computer, check it out. We hope you like it!

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Income	Expense
December	\$ 37,751.41	\$ 17,288.61
Fiscal Year to Date	\$143,518.78	\$126,813.52

NEXT MONTH'S NEWS

March newsletter articles are due on February 15th. Email items to Jim Hornbrook at ccbjnewsletter@gmail.com

THANK YOU

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! The Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall was once again decorated with tags indicating needed items for residents of Frederick Place, NATH's house for homeless families and individuals, and Lily's Place, the Tri-County safe house for those escaping from domestic violence. Though your gifts may have seemed small, they all help people regain their dignity and give them independence to get their lives moving forward. The items were delivered mid-January.



**The Departments of Church Property and Personnel
Are happy to introduce our new Outside Custodian of Building and Grounds, Ryan Adams**



Ryan and his wife, Jill, have lived in Boulder Junction for two years and are in the process of renovating their new home. They are both employed at National Ecological Observatory Network in Land O Lakes. Ryan is the lead lab technician and runs lab analyses of wetland, bog and deciduous forest soils with additional work on mosquitos, ticks and small mammals as well.

Ryan has a B.S. in Conservation and Environmental Sciences and a Biology Minor from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee campus. He also attended UW in Green Bay and Madison with studies in Mechanical Engineering and Graphic Design. He comes to us with many diverse skills and experience in general repairs, construction, plumbing and electrical.

He enjoys woodworking and music. Also has volunteered for the Milwaukee County Parks, Great Lakes Alliance and Urban Ecology Center.

We are so pleased that Ryan will be joining our church staff and look forward to working with him. He begins this position on April 1.

Christian Education / Youth

Chances are good that by the end of February, or quite likely the day after Valentine's Day, you will be relatively weary from all of the talk about "love". After all, February is the month of love and the topic gets more attention than it does the rest of the year. Well, brace yourselves, because I might be writing a little about love in the next several newsletters.

Like most people who stop long enough to truly consider the significance of the greatest commandments, I'm captivated by the simplicity of Jesus' response to the Pharisee and yet his profound directive for our lives today. Here it is:

Matthew 22 (NLT) ³⁶ *"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"*

³⁷ *Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* ⁴⁰ *The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*

Man was accustomed to living by a set of rules through the Ten Commandments given to Moses and all the words of the Old Testament Prophets. I'm sure they enjoyed having an exhaustive list to check things off as they completed or avoided them according to the command. You know, like a list on a notepad before guests arrive for a visit at our home or especially a holiday:

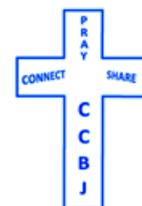
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ✓ Wash dishes | ✓ Scrub Toilet |
| ✓ Dust wood surfaces | ✓ Wash dog nose smudges off patio window |
| ✓ Mop Floor | ✓ Clean the cat litter box |
| ✓ Wipe cobwebs | ✓ Vacuum the carpet (yes, move the couch and chairs too, no vacuuming around!) |

While wiping the sweat from your brow, you can finally verify the completion of the list, check...check...and check...chores are done! Soon the guests will be here to enjoy our time together!

I am a list maker myself with my daily work tasks or my honey-do chores at home. This style of task management helps me better prioritize my time and efforts, and offers mental satisfaction of getting things done when each item is checked off the list. Contrarily, the beauty of Jesus' summarization of the law into these two commandments gets us away from the endless task list, transforming our efforts from "what to do" into "who to be."

Oh, I'm well aware that love is a verb and requires action. But, when I consider Jesus' words "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind" my self-righteous list of do's and don'ts begins to quickly fade. Rather, I began to focus on my walk with Jesus. Scripture clearly tells us that He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Is He really that important to me? Does my existence really revolve around my relationship with Christ? Am I really loving Him with everything I have...my heart, my soul, and my mind? Are there areas of my life that I haven't completely surrendered to the Lord? I pray that we will bow our heads and bend our knees in reverence to our Lord and Savior, desiring to Love Him more than ever before. To be continued...

Love and Abundant Blessings to each and every one of you!!!



Praying Through the Bible 2019
A Weekly Devotion and Prayer Guide
by
Pastor Scott Jorgenson

1. Week of February 3 Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

We see the word “obedience” twice in the first few verses here. The call to obedience is a call to love God, love others, and live in the light of His commandments. The law was given to enlighten our attitude toward God and to others. The law was given not only as a means to gain life, but to also show what true living looks like. Most of the law highlights what separates us from God. And the law always allowed us to make the choice: life or death; blessings or curses. Now that the law has been fulfilled in Christ, the choice remains...

Prayer

God of law and love, forgive us when we choose those things that separate us from You. Forgive us when our hearts turn away. Thank you for your forgiveness and mercy, for your Son, Jesus, that shows us a better way. Thank you for your Word, written upon our hearts, and for your Holy Spirit that convicts us and quickens us for the life you desire of us.

2. Week of February 10 Joshua

Joshua 24:14-15

“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

These are the words of Joshua near the end of his life: a life dedicated to serving the Israelites as the Lord gave them the Promised Land through the conquering of peoples and cities. We recall the battles at Jericho and Ai. A people that praise God in one victory and turn to other gods a moment later. A people that saw wondrous works of the Lord. And, a people that repeatedly returned to “gods of their ancestors”. It is hard to break the chain of generational habits. They become engrained in the fabric of our being. It is a daily choice to overcome these tendencies. And we need, at times, to rely on others to help us in those decisions to overcome. “As for me AND MY HOUSEHOLD” ...together, as a family, the chains can be broken...if we choose The Lord.

Prayer

Lord, you are the Overcomer. You are the one that provided victory for Joshua and the battles that allowed your people to come into The Promised Land. Lord, forgive us when we look elsewhere for our strength. Lord, forgive us when we look elsewhere for comfort. Lord, forgive us when we look elsewhere for peace. You are our strength and our shield. You are our comfort and refuge. You are our peace and love. Lord provide the victory over the chains that hold us from realizing the promises you have for us.

3. Week of February 17 Judges

Judges 6:12-18

¹² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

¹³ Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” ¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?” ¹⁵ So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” How many times a day do we think of all the obstacles in our way for achieving some act of service? Here Gideon cites weakness and lack of prestige as barriers to God’s call in his life. Life in the church and in our homes is no different. We cite lack of funds, not enough people, not enough time, too inconvenient or any number of other excuses for not pursuing those nudges that God gives us. God has a wonderful response to Gideon and to us, “Surely I will be with you.” You can hear the inflection in the voice as God is reminding us that it is not in OUR power but in His power to accomplish whatever it is that He desires in our life. We can march into our battles confident that the Lord is with us!

Prayer

God of power and prestige, you are able to accomplish all things for your glory! Instill in us that Spirit of confidence knowing that you are there. Lord, when we hear your Spirit urging us onward, remind us that it is not in our frailties that you lead us, but in our faithfulness to you that you impact the world around us.

4. Week of February 24 Ruth

Ruth 2:10-12

¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?” ¹¹ Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

Ruth 3:10-11

¹⁰ “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.

What an uncomfortable feeling when we find ourselves in a strange place. What are the rules? How will I be perceived? Will I be taken advantage of? Feelings of loneliness, estrangement, fear and uncertainty all play a part when our circumstances change. And through all this we find Ruth true to her calling as a servant. And in her service she becomes a leader for all of us. Leading us in how to humbly walk and how to humbly serve, wherever we may be called. Ruth’s humility and service to Naomi were first of all noteworthy when we read, “I have been told all about what you have done.” And her attitude was also respected in the admonition, “all the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.” May our humility and service be as impactful as Ruth’s.

Prayer

Lord of servants and masters, men and women, young and old, we give you praise for your love and compassion poured out for all people. We thank you Lord that as Ruth came to a foreign land, that You left your kingdom in heaven to dwell on Earth. And as Ruth served humbly and faithfully, Lord, you came in service to us. Renew in our hearts humble commitment and service wherever you may lead so that your love and your forgiveness will be known to all peoples.