

Church Events

For the month of July, we are taking a break from our devotional Nuggets format. The devotional Nuggets will return in August.

- July 11th-Jane Schmitz
- July 11th-Missions Committee meeting, Noon
- July 18th-Pastor Lloyd
- July 25th-Joel Garrison
- August 1st-Pastor Lloyd

FBNV nuggets

Women Who Worship

More Than Talk

"The one who says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same manner as He walked" (1 John 2:6).

In his letter of 1 John, the apostle John mentioned several times "people who say." John saw some *professing* believers saying one thing and living another. Some professed to be Christians but didn't obey Christ (1 John 2:4), claimed to abide in Him but had unChristlike attitudes and behavior (2:6), or claimed to be "in the Light" but hated others. John stated that such claims are lies.

It's easy to make casual statements. "Oh yes, I love my sisters and brothers in Christ." "I care about others." "I know God will take care of me if anything happens." But the Lord tests our claims. Recall Peter: "Lord, I'll never deny You." But a true believer who seeks to grow and apply God's Word by faith and prayer will eventually demonstrate *genuine* virtue and power.

Before John Wesley (the great English evangelist) was truly converted to Christ, he professed to be a Christian. In 1736, he went on a missionary trip to America. On board ship was a group of German Moravian believers. Wesley saw more than talk with this group. He wrote, "Of their humility they had given continual proof by performing servile offices for other passengers which none would undertake." "If they were pushed, struck, or thrown down, they rose again and went away." During one morning prayer meeting, a sudden, fierce storm blew up and a huge wave crashed over the ship's deck, splitting the main sail and swamping everything. While other passengers screamed, "the Germans calmly sang on." "I asked them afterwards, 'Were you not afraid?' The answer was, 'I thank God, no.' 'But were not your women and children afraid?'" Again, the answer was no. Wesley began to question his own relationship to God as a result of the Moravians' faith. Eventually he became a true disciple of Christ, living his own life of virtue and power.

You and I must look honestly at our own lives. I can make many claims, but my life must be more than talk.

The Thought Afar Off

"...You understand my thought afar off." – Psalm 139: 2

Anyone attending my Sunday School class knows I regularly emphasize the importance and awareness of the believer's daily thought life. What we think about is a major determining factor of who we are, and subsequently, how we conduct ourselves: "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

"You understand my thought afar off." That statement fills me with awe! I cannot find a hiding-place where I can sin in secrecy. I cannot attend the sanctuary and hide the evil of my heart within its walls. I cannot put on a sheep's skin and hide the wolf. I cannot camouflage my jealousy with flattery and keep it unknown. "Thou God seest me" (Genesis 16:13). He knows the root thought that creeps in the basement of my being. Nothing surprises God! He sees all of me, and I am filled with awe.

"You understand my thought afar off." This also fills me with hope and joy. My God sees the faintest, weakest desire and aspirations for goodness. He sees the smallest fire of affection and ambition burning in my soul. He sees the first inklings of repentance and confession and the longings to continually be 'at home' with God. He sees every triumph as well as all the deep waters of life, and assures me, "A bruised reed He shall not break, and a smoking flax He shall not quench" (Isaiah 42:3). Nothing is overlooked by God. My God is NOT like a policeman, only looking for crimes; He is the God of grace, looking for graces, searching for jewels to adorn His crown. So, I am filled with hope and joy.

– Article submitted by Chuck Wetzel, 07.21

Be Kind by Dan Baker

"...what does the Lord require of you but to do just justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

In the preceding verse Micah says that what is good and delights God is not being outwardly righteous or offering sacrifices. To love kindness as one of three things God wants of us shows me the importance of being kind.

Recently I heard of a survey done on people looking to date. For young people, appearance is the number one factor; for those over 50, what people most wanted in a partner was kindness.

In a 2014 [Atlantic](#) article by Emily Smith, she goes into detail concerning the work of the Gottman Institute in NYC, devoted to studying what constitutes a healthy, happy marriage versus those that end in divorce. After seeing that only 3 of 10 marriages are healthy and happy, and divorce was increasing at an alarming rate, 'love labs' were set up to monitor physiological responses between couples. Newlyweds and couples married 6 years were tested. Couples fell into two groups: masters and disasters. Masters were calm and connected, warm and affectionate even when disagreeing, exhibiting a climate of trust and intimacy. The couples would face each other requesting a response, a sign of interest and support, recognizing a need to respond in a respectful and appreciative way. "It comes down to the spirit couples bring to a relationship. Do they bring kindness and generosity, or contempt, criticism, and hostility? Contempt is the number one factor that tears couples apart. Kindness, on the other hand, glues people together."

Proverbs 11:17 "The man who is kind benefits himself..." (NIV). Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Of course, the greatest example of kindness is God's mercy and grace in saving us. I Peter 1:3 "... (God) who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope..." Ephesians 2:7 "...so that in the ages to come He (God) might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Your Questions - Answered by Pastor Lloyd

Question? Is there ever an instance in which we can biblically justly withholding forgiveness for an offense?

Thanks for asking, and because there are many ramifications of this question, I may not be able to finish this in one article. The quick answer is no, but don't stop reading. The perfect role model for this is Jesus and the forgiveness He demonstrated to us.

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as God in Christ forgave you.**" These last five words give us the pattern for how we are to forgive. The biblical definition for "forgive" someone, means to "**no longer hold something against**" them.

Humanly speaking, that is not an easy thing to do. Even the disciples were amazed at Jesus' parabolic teaching on this topic. Luke 17:1-5 tells of a man who sins against you and 'repents' and comes to ask your forgiveness. Jesus said they were to forgive the offender. Then, in this same parable the offender returns for repeating the same offence seven times in one day and Jesus' response is that we are to forgive because he has come asking. The disciple's response is "Lord increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). They didn't think they were willing or capable of doing that.

How is it possible to be so forgiving? **Ephesians 4:31** "let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice." Then in verse 32 we are told to " be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as God in Christ forgave you.**"

Often one of the reasons for not wanting to forgive is personally wanting to get revenge. In that situation, Romans 12:17-21 teaches us when someone has done something against us we are not to seek 'revenge' but leave that in the hands of the Lord who judges righteously.

If a person has done something that is 'illegal' against us, the Lord and the legal system (Romans 13:4) are the proper way to deal with that. But as children of God we are called upon to follow the example of our heavenly Father sending Jesus, and the example of Jesus in how he forgave the "sins issue" as our pattern for forgiving others.

Other examples of forgiveness are: **Acts 7:60** while Stephen is being stoned to death cries out "Lord, do not charge them with this sin."; Jesus while being nailed to the cross said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." **Luke 23:34.** (This statement by Jesus is not to be misconstrued to mean to absolve them of their sin, but rather 'hold back your judgment for now'.) Their sin of the personal injury against Jesus will be dealt with in the final judgment; In **1 Corinthians 5** the church is told to excommunicate a man for unrepentant incest sin, but in 2 Corinthians 2:6-11 Paul told the church to "forgive and comfort" that same person because he had repented and changed.

Well, that's as far as I can go in this article. Trust this helps explain a complex issue. I will have more to say in another issue.

Thanks for asking!

Connie's Corner

Connie McMichael

"To everything there is a season..." Ecclesiastes 3:1,2

Farewell Spring - Hello Summer! Well that season went quickly. I am sure that this one will as well. I have learned to enjoy each season as they arrive, knowing they will not linger. Whatever "season" of life you are in, be thankful and be sure to enjoy each season as they are fleeting!

In the beauty of the seasons I can see the Master's touch; and my heart cries out with gladness that my God loves me so much!

This is strawberry season so the recipe below is a favorite of ours. If you have never made scones, you will find this recipe easy. The scones are tender and flaky with a creamy glaze.

Strawberry Scones

2 cups flour
1 TBSP Baking powder
3 TBSP white sugar
1/2 tsp salt
6 TBSP chilled butter, cut in small cubes
12 small strawberries, hulled and diced
3/4 cup half and half

Glaze

2 cups powdered sugar
1/4 cup half and half
1/2 tsp vanilla or almond extract

Preheat oven to 400° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, sugar, and salt. Add butter; cut in with a pastry blender or your hands until mixture resembles crumbs. Toss in strawberries and coat lightly with the flour mixture.

Add half and half to crumb mixture; fold together gently until mixture just begins to come together and forms a soft dough. It will be wet - do not knead or overmix dough. Turn dough out onto a floured surface and pat into a 1 inch thick rectangle or circle. (If dough is very sticky, sprinkle with just a hint of flour.) Using a sharp knife, cut into 6 or 8 triangles. Place on prepared baking sheet.

Bake 16-18 minutes or until golden and no longer wet. Make the glaze. The scones can be dunked into the glaze or you can drizzle glaze on top of the scones. The scones will keep at room temperature for one day. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to three days.



JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Karen Lanning (B)
KT Jobson (B)
Bill & Lindsey Davey (A)
- 7 Sheryl Howell (B)
- 10 Ruth Strong (B)
- 11 Jo Bartholomew (B)
David O'Donnell (B)
- 13 Tessa Baker (B)
Rachel Brennan (B)
Hazel Webster (B)
- 15 Kelly Donnelly (B)
- 17 Jean Giessman (B)
- 19 Chad Goodrich (B)
- 22 Jonathan Garner (B)
Phil & Suzanne Kasper (B)
- 24 Ann Owens (B)
- 27 Doris Davies (B)
- 28 Kayden Rockwell (B)
- 30 Kurt Brennan (B)
- 31 Jerod Meddaugh (B)



Our Everyday Acts Of Worship

Everything we do
Is an act of worship
That brings pleasure and delight
When it's done for God,
It touches His heart
And is our God-given purpose in life

For God created
Everything that exists
For His glory and His pleasure
And we, His children,
Have so much worth,
More valuable than priceless treasure

For worshiping God
Is truly a lifestyle,
Affecting everything we do
It's not just in singing
Spiritual songs,
But in our everyday happenings too.

As we minister to those
We see in need,
Offering to them our service,
And even the mundane,
Everyday things,
To God, they're acts of worship.

We need to be offering
As a dedication
Every area of our lives
As an act of spiritual
Worship to God
And a most holy sacrifice.

For God cares so much
About every detail
No matter how great or small,
For God will walk
In our every day life
As we establish Him as Lord.

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