

**Family & Friends..... March 8, 2023**

It seems like Spring is trying to make its appearance with some warm, sunny days and lots of rain. Daylight Saving Time will be on Sunday, March 12th this year. That's a sure sign Spring will be here soon. Easter Sunday is on April 9th. The daffodils are in full bloom in my backyard. They get beat down by the rains and shoot back up. They don't give up, maybe we can learn something from this. The birds are liking this weather and are showing up at the feeders more. My backyard got invaded by an armed force of blackbirds. All the other birds took off and did a hide out from them. I was watching all this and shouted, "Yeehaw" from the kitchen window and you wouldn't believe how fast they flew off the feeders together. Almost immediately a cardinal came and sat on top of the feeder like he was in charge and guarding it; like daring those blackbirds they better not show up again. I had another little tiny bird show up at my kitchen window and looked right at me like he was trying to say, "Hello." Now that was sweet! I'm excited about Spring coming and looking forward to seeing the hummingbirds make their long journey back. God is good! To God Be the Glory!

*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. (Proverbs 4:23)*

Always blessed with our visitors: Elizabeth Dillard (Joplin), James & Marla Dillard (Derby, KS), Mark & Lynn Algaier (Cabot), Jack, Bennett, and Parker Spaw (Harrison), Partick Wilson (Heber Springs), Danny & Charlotte Wall and Luther Green (Pea Ridge), Sharilu Brown, Duane & Tammy Hawkins (Centerton), Jennifer Hodge and Don Kent (Rogers), Keith, Courtney & Michelle Rosancrantz (Bentonville), Schon Booher, Judy Dillard, Allen, Sue and Fay Fletcher, & Victoria DeLaCrue.

Those on our prayer list: Pray for Chris Johnson and family in the loss of his uncle. Continue to remember Susan Cluck in the loss of her uncle. Remember the Hotts' grandson, Kris, in the loss of his home in a fire. Connor Evans had surgery at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. Susan Duffy is scheduled to have surgery March 15th to help prevent further damage to her esophagus and stomach. Continue to pray for Stan Hankins, Jim Caylor, Debbie Helms, Mike Hale, Mike Lacey, Wade Nichols, our missionaries, our military and police, our leaders, president and country.

We give a big welcome to our newest members, Jacob and Carlie Haskins who placed membership with our congregation Sunday. We love you and are ready to serve our Lord with you!

March Food Pantry: Cereal, Pancake mix, syrup, mac & cheese. Children's home list: Salad dressing, cake mix & icing, snacks, popcorn, honey, paper plates and cups.

God gives us the seasons of our lives. Love you, stay safe.

*Karen*

**Bella Vista  
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40  
989 NW McNelly Road  
Bentonville, AR 72712

**Return Service Requested**

<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

[www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com](http://www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com)

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439  
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379  
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Josh Porter Joe Hott Mike Spencer  
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mike Martin Jerry Snyder

**MINISTERS**

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 206  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Bentonville, AR  
72712

**Bella Vista**

**Bread From Heaven**

A well-known part of the history of Israel is the period of wilderness wandering, in which Israel spent 40 years learning what it meant to follow God. During that time, God led them and cared for them, fed them and gave them water. He fed them with bread from heaven, manna.

Manna seems to be a very strange substance. It appears with the dew. It looks like frost. It is described in a couple of different, yet similar ways. *"It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey."* (Exodus 16:31) *"Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium..... And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil."* (Numbers 11:7-8)

It's not surprising that manna is a bit difficult to describe. After all they had never seen anything like it before. Moses reminds them of this just prior to Israel's entrance into Canaan. *"And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."* (Deuteronomy 8:3) In fact, manna gets its name from the Hebrew word that means, "What is it?"

Aside from its never before experienced physical properties, there are some things of which we can be certain in regards to manna.

It was evidence of God's love and care for Israel. Israel's first encounter with it comes in the Sinai desert just two months after leaving Egypt. They cry out to Moses because they have no food, and God immediately responds with quail in the evening and manna every morning. He did not want his people to suffer. He fed them.

It was evidence of God's faithfulness. Every morning, with the exception of Sabbath mornings, Israel found this bread from heaven. God continually provided for their needs from that point in Exodus 16 until Israel entered in to the land of Canaan, the land that God had promised. It was

**MEMBERS**



daily proof that God could be trusted to take care of his people.

Far more than just satisfying a physical need, manna had much deeper significance to Israel. It's no wonder that Jesus makes the comparison between this bread from heaven and his own life and ministry.

We read of this comparison in John 6. Jesus had just fed over 5000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread. Now, this same crowd had followed him to Capernaum, apparently in hopes of being fed again. When Jesus told them to focus instead on doing the works of God, and that meant believing in the one the Father had sent, they requested a sign. They suggested that Jesus feed them again, as God had fed their ancestors in the desert.

It's here that we read another of the "I am" statements of Jesus. *"Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."* (John 6:32-35)

**Jesus is evidence of God's love and care for humanity.** Guilty of sin, headed for destruction and completely helpless to do anything about it, God has sent his Son in order that we may live, really live. In Jesus we can live life the way God intended it. It is Jesus that satisfies our deepest needs – our need for forgiveness and redemption, for relationship with the Father, for hope and a future. It isn't just our physical survival that is of interest to God, but our eternal survival.

**Jesus is the evidence of the faithfulness of God.** After the fall in Genesis 3, God promised a redeemer. Those there that day in Capernaum were standing in the very presence of God's fulfillment of that promise. We who are in Christ experience the faithfulness of God's forgiveness and mercy that are new every morning, as well as his presence with us through the Spirit he has given us.

Israel in Sinai saw the gift of God and wondered, "What is it?" Those in Capernaum that day were in the presence of the gift of God and wondered, "Who is this?" Not recognizing him for who he was, many walked away. But, others continued to follow all the way. My hope and prayer is that we always see the absolute necessity of continually depending on Jesus, the bread that came down from heaven. And, that we continue to avail ourselves of the blessings of his coming every day until we reach the land that God has promised us.

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Celebrate Jesus

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which one thing is spoken of as another. For example, Jesus is referred to as the "Lamb of God" and the "Lion of Judah." Jesus spoke of Himself metaphorically at least fifteen times in the New Testament. Note:

### Jesus is the I AM.

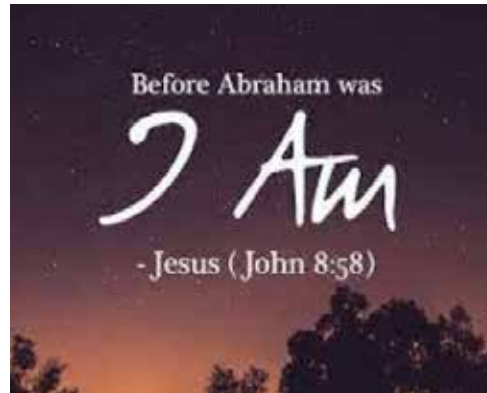
What's in a name? A lot, if you are the I AM!! Jesus said, *"Before Abraham was, I am."* (John 8:58) Jesus was, is, and shall be forever. After you and I are gone, Jesus will still exist. He is eternal! He is the same yesterday, today and always! Are you a child of the great I AM?

### Jesus is the Bread Of Life.

(John 6:35) The manna came from God, so did Jesus. Both are from heaven. Both were God's grace gift. The manna was supplied free and bountifully to the Israelites, but they had to obey God to benefit from its lifesaving nourishment. The commands of Jesus must be acknowledged and followed if we expect Him to be our spiritual sustenance. *"If you love Me, you will obey My commandments."* We must listen, believe, obey and dwell with Him. *"By Grace are you saved through Faith. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."*

### Jesus is the Vine.

(John 15:1) John fifteen is about being attached, abiding, remaining, dwelling in the Vine. It is in the vine that we bear fruit and bearing fruit is where true joy is found. If we are not attached to the vine there is no life! There is no fruit. The strength to live the abundant life is found in the Vine... Stay attached... Be strengthened... Bear fruit. Strength to go on, strength to overcome the world is found in Christ. Life is in the vine. Are You?



### Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

(John 10:11) Psalm 23 is probably the best-known chapter in the Bible. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus knows who we are. He provides our needs. Leads us. Protects us. Accompanies us. Disciplines us. Comforts us. Runs life's cup over with blessings. Makes us sons. Provides us with goodness, mercy and an abode in the Father's house forever. Those in Christ have entered the sheepfold. He is the door. Only those in the fold are safe and saved. Are you there?

### Jesus is Resurrection and Life.

(John 11:25) Perhaps this is our most valued metaphor of Jesus. It is a faith fact, which should be celebrated daily. Like Paul we should celebrate the fact that we will share in the power of His resurrection. Jesus died to live again forever and so will we. But, not only is He the resurrection, He is the Life. Life is worth the living just because He Lives.

Perhaps the most meaningful blessings we have in Jesus are best understood metaphorically. Indeed!!... He is our way, our truth and our life! So, CELEBRATE!!

-RANDALL CASELMAN  
From *Lifelines*, March 27, 2002

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/12/23

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Billy Helms      Song Leader ..... Tyler White  
Greeters ..... Josh Porter, Gary McCool, Terry Roberts      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Joe Hott  
Closing Prayer ..... Josh Metheny  
Nursery Workers ..... Bobette York, Karen Oliveira

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Phillip Strickhausen      Song Leader ..... Lee McCain  
Greeters ..... Josh Porter, Bob Spaw, John Bowman      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Jerry Orr  
Closing Prayer ..... Perry Johnson  
Nursery Workers ..... Robin Kinder, Brenda Branstetter      Van Driver ..... Jim Branstetter

#### March Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mark Tucker      Streaming Coordinator ..... Chris Johnson  
Audio Coordinator ..... Jim Caylor      Video Coordinator ..... James Beatty