

**Family & Friends..... August 25, 2021**

I am always in awe of God's creation! I'm very much fond of the Hummingbirds and hope none of them meet their fate with the Praying Mantis. They are able to blend in with their surroundings and are extremely gifted in camouflage. The flower Mantises are so convincing that unsuspecting insects come to collect nectar from them and become dinner. They are agile like cats. Mantises have been found to jump with extreme precision, contorting their body in midair to land on a precarious and specific target. They also like to prey on warblers, robins, flycatchers, hummingbirds, frogs, lizards, and spiders. They provide helpful pest control for gardeners, because they eat destructive insects like beetles, crickets, and grasshoppers. The bad news is they prey on helpful insects like native bees and butterflies. They are not picky eaters. They have advanced eyesight, but do not hear like most insects, two eyes and one ear. The only insect that has stereo-vision. They were named for their prominent front legs that fold and clasp together as if in prayer. They love to be held, and some people even have them for pets. When you spot a Praying Mantis, it is because they have chosen to step out of their disguise to show themselves to you. In many cultures an appearance by a Praying Mantis is a message to be still, meditate, get quiet, and reach a place of calm. Not bad advice to take from an insect. We would probably all feel better if we did that often enough! To God Be the Glory! God is good!

*Pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. (James 5:16 b)*  
 Love our visitors: Paul & Paula Nikolai (Brighton, CO), and Wanda James (Bella Vista).

Those on our prayer list: Aaron Sloan's brother-in-law, Dennis, is in the hospital with Covid. Bob Musson will have surgery on September 3rd. Doug Klingman is recovering from surgery. Lee McCain is recovering from surgery on both wrists. Judith Carmical had surgery on August 24th. Remember those with cancer: Pat Musson, Judith Carmical, Chris Oneal, Monica Klingman's father, Bob, Loisell Tyler, Robbie Arnold, Lou Hollo, Jennifer Oxford, Rebecca Hedges, Hilda Jones, Bob Musson. Conner Evans asks for prayers, is having health issues. Continue to remember and pray for Phil Ward, Mike Lacey, Orlene Webb, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid virus. Remember to check the members only web site for the church for a more detailed list.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: soups, canned tuna and chicken, juice, pop tarts, and hand soap. For Our Food Pantry: cake mixes, frosting, breakfast muffin mixes, applesauce, fruit cups, and Ravioli.

Careful meditation on the Scriptures makes for a closer walk with the Savior. 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	9:45 AM
Early Worship	Bible Class (Livestreamed)	9:30 AM	7:00 PM
Worship (Livestreamed)		10:30 AM	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
Ladies' Class	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  
 Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379  
 Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott Robert Horton  
 Randall Hunt Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

**MINISTERS**

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
 Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
 Selwyn Nel.....Cape Town, South Africa  
 Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

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**MEMBERS**

**Pray Then Like This**

Prayer is an integral part of the life of the believer. It is our lifeline, our communication with God. Over and over in Scripture we see the people of God cry out to him when trouble and uncertainty come. We hear them praise his name and thank him for his mercy and grace. We listen and we hear them plead with God to change the circumstances that they faced. Prayer is a beautiful thing. It is where we enter into the throne room of God and request help and grace in times of need (Hebrews 4:16).

It should be no surprise that prayer is such a big part of the life of Christians. After all, it was a big part of the life of Jesus. Luke tells us that Jesus would withdraw from the crowds to desolate places and pray (Luke 5:16). Prayer was a part of the rhythm of the life of Jesus. Since it was so important to him, it is no wonder that it is so important and essential to our lives as his followers.

One of the greatest benefits of prayer is that it invites us to see things from a different perspective. You see, we are surrounded every day by things that cause a lot of anxiety. We see the news of the day: unrest, violence, inhumanity, etc. We read about natural disasters and the plight of people in various places around the world. We have our own relatives, friends, neighbors, and church family who are struggling with disease, loss, uncertainty, and the frailty of life. All of this can and does push us toward anxiousness, worry, or even despair.

Jesus gives us a way to deal with this in the Sermon on the Mount. As he looked out on the crowd that was present that day; a crowd that included the sick, those with various pains and diseases, the demon oppressed, the epileptics, and paralytics (Matthew 4:24), he offered hope.



Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:9-13 ESV)

The "Lord's Prayer" or the "Model Prayer" is a passage of Scripture that is very familiar. It is often memorized and quoted. But, it is far more than just a nice set of verses to keep in mind. It offers us some real insight to this essential part of our lives as followers of Jesus as we live in a broken and fallen world.

It begins by shifting our view. What you and I see every day has the potential to cloud our vision. But, in the opening lines of this prayer, we are invited to look at something much different, something much greater: our Holy Father in heaven. This gives us the opportunity to see that God is still on the throne, sovereign over all. From this perspective, the troubles that constantly come our way don't seem as big and threatening. Prayer has a way of reminding us that the God who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them is still reigning.

Seeing his holiness and majesty, we seek his direction. We make the plea that his rule and reign become a reality in the broken world in which we live. This means that we ask for his rule and reign to be what guides our steps each day. We commit to live out his instruction and purpose. This changes the question from, "Why is this happening?" to "What do you want us to do in this situation?" This rekindles our desire to see the time when he makes all things new. It reminds us of Paul's statement to the Christians in Philippi, "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." (Philippians 3:20-21)

Seeing the Holy God on his throne also highlights his mercy and grace. When we see ourselves in light of who he is, we see how much we have been forgiven and that on our own we are totally dependent on him for all we are and all that we do. We see the forgiveness and love he has extended to us and understand that we are to extend that same love and forgiveness to those around us. We are to forgive as we have been forgiven. This moves our prayers from being focused on ourselves, and shifts that focus to the work that God wants done in the world. It moves us to trust in his lead, and reminds us that he wants what is best for us and for the world around us.

Prayer, as Jesus illustrates it for us, is much more than just bringing our wish lists to God; although God wants us to bring our cares and concerns to him. It is a reminder of the fact that we serve One much bigger and much greater than we can imagine. It gives us the chance to have our perspectives altered where we attempt to see things from God's view. It is a reminder of his amazing love and grace towards us. No wonder Jesus began this section with, "Pray then like this..."

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Knowing God: The Highest Priority in Life

To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (understanding), so that you may know Him better" (Ephesians 1:17). Zophar, a friend of Job, asked the question, "Can you by searching find out God?" (Job 11:7) The answer is "yes!" He then asked in the same breath, "Can you find out the Almighty unto perfection?" The answer to that second question is obviously "no, of course not!" In Paul's doxology of God he wrote, "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!" (Romans 11:33) But, having said that, it is God's fervent desire "that men would seek Him and perhaps reach our for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28).

In order to find the answers to Zophar's questions and others like it, our God must not only be a God who exists, but also a God who has spoken. Through the Bible, and creation for that matter, God has spoken! "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2). How beautiful! the heavens speak to us and impart knowledge of God. Though not verbal, it is still speech, a language.

Our idea of God and our idea of man in relation to God form the basic determinative concepts of all life. It should be our insatiable desire and aim to "know Him better." To that end let us look briefly at three great attributes of God.

**God is omnipotent.** God has all power! Limitless power! "In the beginning," the genesis, "God created the heavens and the earth; (Genesis 1:1). The divine record of creation reveals over and over again "God said... And it was so." He simply spoke and the worlds and all therein just came into existence. What power! The Hebrews writer wrote, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed by God's command" (Hebrews 11:3). Not only did He create all things, but He is now "sustaining all things by His powerful word" (Hebrews 1:3). On a more personal note, He exercises his limitless power in us. Paul shares with us this wonderful promise, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). Fantastic! God is omnipotent!

**God is omniscient.** He has all knowledge. God knows everything about us; He knows us better than we know ourselves. "You know me... You perceive my thoughts from afar... You are familiar with all my ways... Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord... Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain... How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:-16, 17) God is infinite; He has no bounds; He is without limit.

**God is omnipresent.** "God is spirit." God is everywhere. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there: if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you" (Psalm 139:7-12) Enough said?

Perhaps the best definition of God was given by John when he simply said, "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16). Now that is not an attribute, but the very essence of God. After all these centuries no better definition could be given of God than "God is love."

We were created by God and for God. There is a vacuum in a person's life that is God-shaped and can be filled only by God. C.S. Lewis, in "The Joyful Christian" wrote, "Theology means 'the science of God,' and I think any man who wants to think about God at all would have to have the clearest and most accurate ideas about Him which are available." The Bible and all the universe speak to us of God! Are you listening?

Isn't it possible for all of us to know God better? Is this your aim and desire?

-CHARLES CASH, from *Lifelines*, 2017

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 8/29/21

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Bill Alumbaugh	Song Leader .....	Alex Thompson
Greeters .....	Gary McCool/David Saunders	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Randall Hunt
	Closing Prayer.....		Chad Dobbs
	Nursery Workers .....		Susan Cluck, Gaylynn Welden

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....	Tracy Bowman	Song Leader .....	Chris McSweeney
Greeters .....	Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson	Communion Scripture & Prayer .....	Mitchell Whittington
	Closing Prayer.....		Don Butcher
Nursery Workers .....	Becky Pittman, Jennifer Royer	Van Driver .....	Michael Hale

#### August Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator .....	Mike York	Streaming Coordinator .....	James Beaty
Audio Coordinator .....	Homer Makinson	Video Coordinator .....	Marquis Elliott