

Family & Friends..... November 29, 2023

Can you believe the month of November will pass this week and we will enter the month of December? This month is often referred to as "the most wonderful time of the year." December has a way of inspiring a sense of magic in people's hearts. The first month of winter, the last month of the year. This month also brings the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, which means the shortest day of the year and the day with the least amount of daylight. This will occur on Thursday, December 21st. The Full Cold Moon appears on Tuesday, December 26th. Look up in the sky and enjoy God's beauty! December often marks the beginning of rain, snow, and cold weather. Christmas is on December 25th and the festive decorations have already started and shopping too. This time of year can also bring on stress, so be mindful and try to make it stress free and enjoy this wonderful time of year!

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Our visitors put smiles on our faces: Keith Gant (Singapore), Isabella Snyder (New Mexico), David Rhodes (Rockaway Beach, MO), Jeanne Melton (Bentonville), Abigail Butcher and Ted Irby (BV), and Otis & Carol Busbee.

Those on our prayer list: Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go to Grace Martin in the loss of her mother. Please keep Grace, Mike, and the family in your prayers. Deb Reiss also lost a cousin, David Doggett. Amy Rooney begins her chemo treatments this week. Be sure to keep her in your prayers. Joe Hott had a pacemaker installed on Tuesday at Mercy in Rogers. Joan Hopkins is also in Rogers Mercy after having her gall bladder removed. Continue to remember and pray for Homer Makinson, Susan Duffy, Donna Rowland, and April Howton.

We give a big welcome to our newest members, Mark & Darlene Sherrod! Darlene is Bob Musson's daughter.

Children's Home List: Chicken noodle soup, green beans, crackers, peaches, and cookie mix. Food Pantry: The ladies that help with this ministry say we need everything we did for the Thanksgiving meal to give away for Christmas meals. We will have a more detailed list next week.

God's care for me eases my mind. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

**ELDERS**

- Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
- John Caylor.....903-520-2131
- Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
- Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
- Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
- Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

**DEACONS**

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

**MINISTERS**

- Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
- Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
- Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525

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<b>SUNDAY</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)	



**The Way to Greatness**

They all saw it. It was sitting in plain view. They knew its purpose. They knew it was needed. They all saw it, but no one wanted to be first to put it to use. So, Jesus did.

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (John 13:1-5)

The disciples had discussed among themselves which of them was the greatest. A couple of them had even asked Jesus for special status in his new kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 22:24-27). That may be the reason that no one wanted to pick up the towel and the wash basin. How could any of them be considered "great" if they volunteered for the job of a servant? Simon the Zealot may have thought

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that tax collector should do it. Peter may have thought it beneath his station as the unofficial leader and spokesman for the group. Whatever their particular reasons, none of them wanted the position of servant.

We look at this group of men and sometimes wonder why just being next to Jesus for three years wasn't enough. Then we stop and think about ourselves. We all want to be great in some way. We argue with our siblings over who is the favorite child. We want to be the favorite parent, or to be the parents with the most well-behaved children. We want to be the best grandparents. We want to be the model employee, the MVP.

This can bleed into the church as well. We want to be great. Maybe it is as the leader of some particular ministry, or the one to whom people come for answers, or the best preacher or Bible class teacher, not for the sake of those to whom we minister, but for our own egos.

Jesus knows our desire to be great and points the way to achieving that goal. It's not what we thought it would be. It's not what we hoped it would be. It is not what the world around us tries to tell us it is. It is not success, power, and money. It is service, humility, and love. It is the position of a servant with a towel and a basin of water.

*When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher*



*and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. (John 13:12-17)*

This is our call. We are called to serve one another. We do this because we belong to Jesus. We do this because of our status as children of God, our position as followers of Jesus, and being indwelt with the Holy Spirit. We serve out of confidence in that identity. What greater status could we seek?

We are called to serve those around us, all of those around us. Shortly after the foot washing, Judas left the upper room to go and gather the mob that would arrest Jesus. Knowing this would happen, Jesus still washed Judas's feet. It is hard for us to serve those who have hurt us, or those who don't seem eager to serve in return, but we are to look out for the needs of others, whoever they may be.

I love the way John begins this narrative. *"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."* Then after Judas had gone, Jesus gave them this new commandment. *"Love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."* Love is to be the motivation for serving others. You and I can serve others without loving them. But we cannot love them in the way of Jesus without serving them.

We love and serve others because Jesus loved us and served our needs. We desperately needed forgiveness, cleansing, hope, redemption, and healing. We needed a way back to the Father. We needed an atoning sacrifice. We couldn't do it ourselves. So, Jesus did. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."* (John 3:16-17)

May God help us to seek greatness in the way demonstrated by Jesus.

-JEFF GRISHAM

*Remember our annual Women's Shelter Christmas party. December 4th*



**SUNDAY SERVANTS December 3, 2023**

**First Service**

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Leo Bratcher    Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
 Greeters ..... Don Cope, Phil Ward, David Saunders    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Mark Tucker  
 Closing Prayer ..... Randall Hunt  
 Nursery Workers ..... Patsy McCool, Angie Christiano

**Second Service**

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Stan Hankins    Song Leader ..... Mark Bagwell  
 Greeters ..... Don Cope, Eric Gibson, Zach Ballard    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Mitchell Whittington  
 Closing Prayer ..... Curt LaPorte  
 Nursery Workers ..... Jamie Fulgham, Nan Cope    Van Driver ..... David Ellison

**December Worship Coordinators**

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