

Family & Friends..... December 6, 2023

“Joy to the World” was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts and remains one of the most published hymns in North America. It was not intended to be a Christmas Carol, but instead this work referred more specifically to the works of Jesus. Joy to the World was originally part of a book of poems based on the 98th Psalm. His dad challenged him to incorporate his writings and poems with music, which was an adaptation of Psalm 98. Isaac wanted to celebrate the impact of the Almighty on the world. Lowell Mason helped Isaac to adapt it to the music part which has made it one of the most celebrated Christmas carols of all time. The vision of Psalm 98 is to bring joy and hope to people. It inspires the listeners to look forward to the future. Watts and Mason had no clue that their work would spark a tune that would last through the ages. Watts was one of the greatest hymn writers ever!

Make a joyful noise unto Jehovah, all the earth: Break forth and sing for joy, yea, sing praises. (Psalm 98:4)

It is a happy time when we get to greet our visitors: Bryan McCool (Stark City, MO), Landon Crabtree and Jessica Wheeler (Fort Smith), Alyce Johanson (Centerton), Ted Irby and Joyce Parks (BV).

We extend a warm welcome to our new members: Doug and Cynthia White. We are glad you are a part of our family!

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies go to these families: Perry Johnson in the loss of his niece, Curt LaPorte in the loss of his brother, Grace Martin in the loss of her mother, and the Eitzen family in the passing of Delores. Please keep all these families in your prayers. Susan Duffy continues to struggle with her health and needs our prayers. Amy Rooney started chemo treatments this week.

Items need for Children’s Home: Green beans, mac & cheese, cookie mix, cranberry sauce, and body wash. Food Pantry: Green beans, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, large canned chicken and tuna, cake mixes and frostings, cookie mixes and frostings/sprinkles, mac & cheese, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, pie crust and fillings, marshmallows and donations for turkeys and hams.

A Christian’s life is the window through which others can see Jesus. 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

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

*Bella Vista*  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

REACHING FATHERS - MOVING CLOSERS - GROWING DEEPER

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

**Return Service Requested**

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

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

<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)	



**Time in the Garden**

Crucifixion was a horrible method of execution. Invented by the Persians, and later perfected by the Romans, it was designed to be slow, painful, and humiliating. This horrific method of execution was carried out in full view of the public along main roads. It was meant to serve as a deterrent for those who thought of rebelling against the government.

The condemned would be attached to the cross with nails driven through the wrists and the feet. Once that was done, the cross would be raised into place. In a very short time in this position, the condemned would be unable to breathe unless he pushed against the nail in the feet and pulled against the nails in the wrists. Crucifixion took the human will to survive and the human desire to avoid pain and pitted them against one another. Victims of this execution could last multiple days before finally succumbing to death.

Crucifixion was reserved for the worst criminals. It was not spoken of in polite society because of its hideous nature. Just the thought of it was terrifying.

As we read the crucifixion narratives in the Gospels, we notice a lot of fear around this event. However, it's not from whom we would expect it.

**LIFELINES**



There was a lot of fear among the Jewish leaders. This had been going on for quite some time. As the ministry of Jesus gained momentum and as Jesus gained popularity, the ruling class of the Jews were increasingly afraid. John tells us that they were afraid of losing their status.



Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." (John 11:45-48)

They were also afraid of the Jewish people who had believed in Jesus. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd. (Luke 22:3-6)

There was a lot of fear in Pilate. The Jewish officials brought Jesus to Pilate. Once the Roman governor had questioned Jesus, he could see that there was no reason for his execution. Luke tells us that to avoid having to deal with this issue Pilate sent Jesus to Herod. Herod sent him back

to Pilate who continually tried to release him. The Jewish leaders demanded Jesus be crucified, and Pilate gave in to their wishes.

The one in all of this that was not ruled by fear was Jesus, the one facing this horrible death. In the passion narratives we see the disciples scatter, and Peter deny any association with Jesus. We see the Jewish leadership call a late-night trial and attempt to come up with witnesses to justify their desires to get rid of Jesus. We see Pilate attempt to get someone else to deal with the situation, try and persuade the people to call for the release of Jesus, and finally wash his hands to attempt to avoid putting this innocent man to death. Then we see Jesus refusing to answer the false charges, yet confidently responding to his identity as King. Amazing isn't it. The one we think should be the most terrified is actually the only one who isn't. Why?

To say that Jesus had no fear or dread of the cross would be to deny his full humanity. But we see that fear conquered in the Garden just prior to his arrest. *And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.* (Luke 22:40-43)

There are a lot of things that cause us fear. Perhaps it is the fear of what the future may hold for us or for our children. Maybe it is the fear of how people will react as we share our faith. It could be that taking a risk for the kingdom of God in some way causes us fear. After all, what if we try and fail?

In these moments of fear, maybe we should look again at Jesus in the Garden and spend some time with him there. It is in the Garden that he communicates with the Father. It is there that he commits to live out his purpose. It is there that he is given strength and comfort to face what is coming.

It is in the Garden, in spending time in God's presence that we are reminded of our identity as his beloved children and heirs. It is in the Garden, in the presence of God, that we are reminded of our purpose and of the one who is with us in carrying out that purpose. It is in the Garden, in the presence of God that we received strength, comfort, and encouragement to continue. It is in the Garden where we are reminded that because of what Jesus faced for us, we have nothing more to fear.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Remember our Ladies' Gift Exchange.  
December 9th at 5:00 pm.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

Sugar & Spice

## Wrap-up Party

10 DECEMBER  
3:00PM-4:30PM  
BY COC FELLOWSHIP HALL

COOKIE EXCHANGE  
Bring a dozen cookies - take home a dozen

Games & Prizes | Snacks  
Hot Cocoa  
Hot Cider

PLEASE RSVP TO 479-531-8489

### SUNDAY SERVANTS December 10, 2023

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Bill Alumbaugh    Song Leader ..... Bright Newhouse  
Greeters ..... Josh Porter, Phil Ward, David Saunders    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Phillip Strickhausen  
Closing Prayer ..... Jack Johnson  
Nursery Workers ..... Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Ken Rosenbaum    Song Leader ..... Austin Bishop  
Greeters ..... Josh Porter, Eric Gibson, Zach Ballard    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Jeff Oxford  
Closing Prayer ..... Ray Reiss  
Nursery Workers ..... Patti Bertschy, Jennifer Busbee    Van Driver ..... Stan Hankins

#### December Worship Coordinators

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