

Family & Friends..... February 14, 2024

What a refreshing surprise to wake up Monday morning to a beautiful snow fall out your front door and all over the area. The trees glisten throughout the woods. It was simply a delightful sight to observe. I stood in amazement as I watched the male cardinals in their full color of red going from tree to tree. God's creation of beauty and color was on display. The snow melted fairly fast, but it was a special gift from God for us to enjoy. Last week it was so nice and warm several days, I was thinking maybe Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog in Pennsylvania, was right about an early spring. I love it when it snows, but I am ready for the warmer weather and sunshine. The weather has been a little erratic lately with temperature changes, high winds, snow, tornadoes, and an earthquake thrown in the middle of it all. Never a dull moment do we have around our area. Hope everyone has a wonderful week. Enjoy God's creation! To God Be the Glory!

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, (Isaiah 55:10)

We are blessed with our visitors: Bryan McCool (Stark City, MO), Ben Waldron (Owasso, OK), JoAnna Tallakson (BV), Kasey and Ludden Bryant.

Those on our prayer list this week: Kacie White is on modified bed rest due to premature labor. Susan Duffy has Covid. Bonnie Benton is now at home from the hospital, but continues to struggle with health issues. Amy Rooney is still undergoing chemo treatments. Janlyn Brewer will begin chemo treatments soon for her brain cancer. Continue to remember and pray for Frances Thomson, Margaret Wicker, Evelyn Lessly, Charles Flanary, and Doug Klingman, our missionaries, military and police, and our country and leaders.

There will be a wedding shower for Kyle Bowman and Kaleialoha Davis on March 2nd at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Be sure and check your new Care Groups. It's the best way to get to know the congregation by meeting with your group each month.

Items needed for the Children's Home: Chocolate chips, pork & beans, soups, peaches, vinegar. Food Pantry: Chicken and Tuna Helper, cereal, pop tarts, snacks, hygiene products (body wash, shampoo), mustard, mayo, and ketchup.

Creation is filled with signs that point to the Creator. Love you, stay safe.

*Karen*

**ELDERS**

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

**DEACONS**

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Leo Bratcher 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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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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)	



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**Missing the Obvious**

*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. (John 5:39-40)*

Have you ever spent time hunting for your car keys when all the while they were in your hand? Have you ever gone over all the things on your desk looking for the pencil you just had when it was resting comfortably behind your ear? Ever used the flashlight app on your phone to hunt for your phone? Me neither. We may not have done these exact things, but they bring to mind other things that are just as silly. These and countless other similar acts are performed every day by relatively normal people who just for a moment, miss the obvious.

Missing the obvious, in some cases, may be relatively harmless and the only real consequence is a moment of embarrassment. Other times it may have much more of an impact. When we read through the Gospels, we find a lot of people missed the obvious when it came to the identity of Jesus.

Many of the Jewish people who were watching and waiting for God to visit his people missed it. Throughout Scripture, there was a promise of the Coming One. There was the expectation of God visiting his people. In Genesis 3 it is the one who

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would crush the head of the serpent. In Genesis 12 it was the seed of Abraham, through whom all nations would be blessed. In Deuteronomy it is the prophet like Moses to whom everyone should listen. In the books of Samuel, it is the descendent of David who would sit on the throne and reign over an eternal Kingdom. In Ezekiel it was the promise of the coming shepherd. In Daniel it is the Son of Man who receives the Kingdom from the Ancient of Days. Not only was this theme prevalent in the Scriptures, it was also a part of their worship and festivals. Yet, sadly when Jesus arrived, when the Coming One appeared, they missed him.

John 5:39-40  
 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

It seems that many people wondered if Jesus could be the promised Messiah but couldn't quite make up their minds. The question that constantly arises from the people with whom Jesus interacts is, "Who is this?" The Jewish leadership saw him as a threat and as one who could lead God's people astray. of welcoming the King, the consistently looked for ways to discredit, marginalize, and finally to destroy him. They missed the obvious.

What caused some to see him and others to miss it? What made some people ready to and eager to believe that he was the Messiah and others to continue down the road of doubt and denial? One reason is self-assurance.

In John chapter four, Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well. When she approached the well Jesus asked for a drink.

When she questioned him as to why a Jewish man would ask a Samaritan woman for a drink Jesus replied, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10) Jesus went on to explain what he meant by living water, which prompted more questions and conversation. Finally, the woman said, "I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." (John 4:25-26) She left and ran back into town to tell everyone that the Messiah had come.

In the next chapter of John's gospel, Jesus healed a lame man at the pool of Bethesda. It was a great event, but it upset the religious leaders because the healing took place on the Sabbath. When confronted by those leaders, Jesus answered, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." (John 5:17) The response from the Jewish leadership was get rid of Jesus.

It is strange, isn't it? The difference in the responses to Jesus in these two narratives. We have a woman whose reaction is to tell everyone the good news that the Messiah has come. Then we have Jewish leadership who work to convince others that he should be killed.

The reason is that while the Samaritan woman was humble enough to listen and learn, the religious elite believed they already knew everything they needed to know.

It's sad. The gift of God, the very Son of God, the opportunity to be changed and to be a part of the great things that God was doing stood right in front of these men, but their self-assurance kept them from experiencing it.

It is a good reminder to us. Sometimes we can be so certain that we are right, so certain that we know all we need to know, that we miss what God wants for us. We can do that as we study Scripture. We can come to it with an idea of what it is going to say. We can open its pages with our minds already made up of what we are going to find. We can even come to it and look for confirmation that what we think about a certain situation, or how we should react to the situations of life are just as we suspected.

Scripture is given to us to transform us, to mold and shape us into the people that God has called us to be. Let's not let our belief that we have nothing more to learn from it cause us to miss opportunities to be different and better people.

-JEFF GRISHAM

**MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**MARCH 2ND 8:00 AM**  
**COURSE TBD**  
**SIGN UP ONLINE**





**A Divine Ladies Day**  
 April 6, 2024  
 8:45am - 2:30 pm

Based on Matthew 4:1-11  
 Presentations on the 3 Life Questions  
 Engaging Group Activities  
 Practical Takeaways  
 Breakfast & Lunch provided

With Author  
 Lori Ann Wood



Cost: \$25 - pay at the door (cash or check)  
 Register by March 6, 2024 to receive your complimentary gift.



**SUNDAY SERVANTS February 18, 2024**

**First Service**

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Dylan Bowman    Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
 Greeters ..... Josh Porter, Phil Ward, Billy Helms    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Doug White  
 Closing Prayer ..... Randall Hunt  
 Nursery Workers ..... Patsy McCool, Shannon Hubanks

**Second Service**

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Jack Johnson    Song Leader ..... Tyler White  
 Greeters ..... Josh Porter, Eric Gibson, John Hayes    Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Zach Ballard  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tracy Bowman  
 Nursery Workers ..... Anna England, Jennifer Royer    Van Driver ..... Bryan Busbee

**February Worship Coordinators**

Worship Coordinator ..... Mark Tucker    Streaming Coordinator ..... Dwane Hawkins  
 Audio Coordinator ..... Jim Caylor    Video Coordinator ..... Marquis Elliott