

Family & Friends..... March 13, 2024

“There is Sunshine in My Soul,” a hymn written in 1887 by Eliza Edmunds Hewitt. Eliza was born in 1851 in Philadelphia, and grew up in the nurture of the Lord. Later graduated valedictorian of her class and became a school teacher. It was in one of her classes in school that she was seriously injured trying to discipline a student. He slammed a heavy slate across her back. The doctor put her in a heavy cast for six months. When it was time for the cast to be removed, the doctor told her that she could take a walk in the park after being inside her home for so long. It was a warm and sunny spring day. She was overcome by joy, returning home, she picked up her pen and immediately wrote the hymn, There is Sunshine in My Soul. Though we live in a world dark with sin and pain, it is possible to find sunshine in our lives, despite the circumstances we face daily. She also wrote, “When We All Get to Heaven,” and other great hymns. God is good!

No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, and you God for your glory. Isaiah 60:19

Those on our prayer list: Doug and Monica Klingman asked for prayers as they struggle with health problems and others in the family. Bill Evans will have a surgery coming up. Tom Verkler will have knee surgery on March 13th. Ava Sailors has been placed in hospice care at Circle of Life Bentonville. Continue to remember and pray for Mary E. Harris, Frances Thomson, Kacie White, Janlyn Brewer, Kat Spencer, Howard Hurst, our missionaries, military and police forces, and our country.

Items needed for the Children’s Home: eggs noodles, tuna, pudding, soups, pork and beans, and jellies. Food Pantry: Canned fruit (low stock), peas and carrots (low stock), green beans, corn, rice, instant potato packets, family sized soups, flour, sugar, and all kinds of pasta.

Each day we need to be still and listen to the Lord. Loveyou, stay safe.

Karen

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
John Caylor.....903-520-2131
Perry Johnson913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Leo Bratcher Josh Porter Joe Hott Randall Hunt
Mike Martin 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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Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

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SUNDAY

Early Worship 8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY

Ladies' Class 9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed) 7:00 PM

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You're Welcome

During his ministry, Jesus drew great crowds. No matter the motives, whether they came seeking healing, or to hear his teaching, or to see if there might be reason to accuse him of some wrong doing, a lot of people came to see Jesus. There was a sense of excitement. We might compare it to people today coming out to see a celebrity or star athlete who is coming to town.

Luke records one of these moments in Luke 19:1-10. Jesus came to Jericho, and true to form, people came out to see him. One of those who had to see him was Zacchaeus. He wanted to see Jesus. Maybe he had heard that Jesus was considered a friend of people in his position. As a tax collector, Zacchaeus was not a popular guy. He wasn't just any tax collector; he was a *chief* tax collector. The title given to him here seems to indicate that he had some superiority to the rank and file tax collectors. So, since folks hated the regular tax collectors, we would assume that they viewed the chief tax collectors in even less favorable light. Maybe he wanted to hear this new rabbi. Maybe he just wanted to see what all the fuss was about. Whatever the reason, he wanted to see Jesus.

He was at a bit of a disadvantage when it came to accomplishing his task. He was short. It was

LIFELINES



not going to be easy for him to see Jesus. After all, there probably weren't a lot of the folks in Jericho who would make room for him to get to the front of the crowd. He did the only thing he knew to do. He climbed a tree. That wouldn't be a very dignified thing for a wealthy, powerful man to do, but it was his only option.



When Jesus saw him, he called him down out of the tree and invited himself to the home of this despised man. Imagine for just a moment what must have gone through the mind of Zacchaeus. Not only was he able to see Jesus, he was also able to host this famous teacher in his home. Imagine the joy he must have felt.

Not everyone was happy about this turn of events, however. Luke writes that when the crowd saw this, they all grumbled (Luke 19:7). No one seemed to think that Jesus being the guest of a sinner was a good idea. The crowd seemed upset that Jesus would spend time with the wrong sort of people. Jesus didn't seem to mind the criticism of the crowd. Zacchaeus, however, seemed to realize exactly what was so special about this teacher. He knew the change that he needed to make and repented, which included restitution to those he had wronged.

There is great comfort in this narrative. Reading it reminds us that there is no one beyond hope, no one beyond redemption. We may have really made a mess of things in our lives. Our life choices and attitudes that we have held

may have moved us away from Jesus and from his people, yet redemption and forgiveness is available. Each of us has been in the shoes of Zacchaeus. Our desires, the focus of our life, may have become disordered. The good news of Jesus is that change can happen. If we have gotten things out of order, we can change. Jesus sees us and still wants us to be with him, still welcomes us to be called his people and change is possible.

There is also a great challenge in this narrative. It reminds us that God's grace, welcoming call of Jesus is open for everyone. That includes people that we, or other people may not like. The crowd that day was upset that Jesus would spend time with someone they viewed as a traitor and an enemy. He wasn't like them. He didn't share their values. He had hurt them and cheated them, yet Jesus welcomed him. This narrative reminds us of the mission of Jesus, the mission into which each of us is called. *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* (Luke 19:10) The



lost often includes people who don't share our values. That group often includes people who are more concerned with looking out for themselves than for the people around them. It includes those whose lives are disordered and even sinful. This

group referred to as, "the lost" includes broken people. We are called to welcome them, to introduce them to Jesus, and to receive them into the family of God's people, remembering that each of us are only included in the people of God because of his great grace and love. God continually places opportunities in front of us to display the love of Jesus. My hope and prayer is that we continually watch for these opportunities and take advantage of the opportunities to welcome people to join us as we seek to follow Jesus.

-JEFF GRISHAM

St. Patrick's Day Block Party

at
Wishing Springs

2PM - 5PM **SUNDAY
March 17**

Hosted by Pedal it Forward
and Pedal Kids USA

- Community Rides
- Indoor Bike Playground
- Outdoor Bike Skills Park
- Community Booths
- Sale at Pedal it Forward



SUNDAY SERVANTS March 17, 2024

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Roger Arnold Song Leader Stephen Hunt
 Greeters Jock Johnson, Roy Barnica, Gary McCool Communion Scripture & Prayer Doug White
 Closing Prayer Kim Metheny
 Nursery Workers Janet Alumbaugh, Angie Christiano

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Ken Rosenvaum Song Leader Marquis Elliott
 Greeters Jack Johnson, Bill Evans, Bob Spaw Communion Scripture & Prayer Hershel Ward
 Closing Prayer Tracy Bowman
 Nursery Workers Jennifer, Busbee, Robin Kinder Van Driver Phillip Strickhausen

March Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator James Beaty
 Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell