

Family & FriendsMay 1, 2024

Are we ready for the Swarm? Billions of Cicadas are expected to emerge this spring in Northwest Arkansas. It's a big year for them, a double brood of periodical cicadas will emerge from the ground, molt, and take to the trees to serenade us in 17 states. They can be quite loud and annoying. The two broods that are emerging are the 13 and 17-year periodicals. This only happens about every 221 years. They come out in Spring when the ground temperature reaches 64 degrees, and they are full of protein. It's an "all you can eat buffet" for the birds. This will probably bring the wildlife out of hiding to eat them, the copperhead snakes, and the fish like them too. They are only around for two months and these are known as the "Great Southern Brood." Some call this event one of the wonders of the world. The Cicadas have stout bodies, bugged out eyes, broad heads, and clear-membrane wings. They don't carry diseases, bite, or sting. They like the outdoors, so if you see one in your home, find something to scoop them up in and put them back outdoors. When you see them, slow down and listen to their loud chorus of song, and stand in awe of nature. God is amazing!

"The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it." Psalm 24:1

We love our visitors: Jeanne Melton, Cory & Jess Aycok, and Gary & Brenda Wild.

Our prayer list: Janlyn Brewer has taken a turn for the worse and needs prayers. My heart ablation went well, doctor said it will take about 10 days to know if it's going to work. Thank you for all of the prayers, God is great! Continue to remember and pray for Mark Tucker's mother and Susan Duffy.

I am happy to announce the three baptisms we had last week. They are Letrell, Tavian, and Kendren Menyweather. It is a joyful occasion!

Children's Home List: tomato sauce, peaches, Spam, canned chicken, pork and beans, and spinach. Food Pantry: cereal for adults and children, jars of applesauce, cans of fruit/fruit cocktail, boxes of mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, and Spam.

Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life. Love you, 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
 Stephen 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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SUNDAY	8:15 AM
Early Worship	8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	7:00 PM



The Promise of Rest

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

By the time we get to this passage in Matthew's gospel, we have:

- Seen Jesus be led into the wilderness to be tempted (Matthew 4:1-17)
 - Heard the Kingdom life described in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
 - Heard him speak of the cost of discipleship (Matthew 8:18-22)
 - Seen him criticized for associating with tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:10-11)
 - Heard him speak with certainty about the opposition that his followers would face (Matthew 10:16-25)
 - And describe the life of a disciple in terms of taking up the cross (Matthew 10:38-39)
- Now, we are supposed to believe that he provides rest?

The Christian life is hard. The call to be a disciple is demanding. It takes focus, discipline, and dedication. It is costly. There is a real possibility of losing friends, or being estranged from family when we say yes to Jesus. All of this in the face of

LIFELINES



opposition that is naturally found in living life against the flow of culture. How many times have we heard this as we read the New Testament, and see it in the lives of those early followers, or listen to the preacher on Sunday? Yet, Jesus promises rest. How is that possible?



We can rest in the fact we are deeply loved by God. Just think of it. The Creator of heaven and earth, the sea and all that are in them loves us deeply, and wants to be with us. He loves us so much that he was willing to send his Son to rescue us. Paul says it this way in Romans 5: *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:6-8)

We can rest in the fact that what we do as his disciples makes a difference in the world. There is no doubt that Jesus made an impact on those he met. He healed, fed, encouraged, served, taught, revealed the Father, and offered life and hope. He sent his followers into the world to carry on that same mission (John 20:21). As a result of continuing to live out his commands, they were seen as people who

“turned the world upside down.” (Acts 17:6)

As their spiritual descendants, we have been given those same orders. Carrying out the mission, continuing to live the way that Jesus has instructed makes an impact on the world around us. It makes a difference in our families, in the workplace, in our schools, and has an effect on all the people we meet.

We can rest in the fact that we can let go of control. Rest is a common theme throughout Scripture, both Old and New Testaments. God commanded the Israelites to keep the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15). Sabbath was to be kept for two reasons: 1) to remember God as Creator in Exodus, and 2) to remember God as deliverer in Deuteronomy. On that seventh day each week, Israel could rest in the fact that God could take care of the world he created, and also that he could and would look after the people he had redeemed from slavery.

We can do the same. Although, we see no command in the New Testament to keep the Sabbath, the principle is still alive and well. We can rest in the fact that it is God who keeps the world spinning and it is in his hands. We can rest knowing that he is alive and at work, and that we are dependent on him, not the other way around. We can also rest in the fact that this same God can take care of those who have responded to his call. Listen again to the promise of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. *Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* (Matthew 6:31-33)

We can rest in the fact that if we are in Christ our future is secure. John gives us these words of Jesus from John 10: *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.* (John 10:27-30)

We don’t have to worry about our future, about our salvation, our eternal destiny if we belong to Jesus and continue to follow him. The difficulties, the opposition, the voices that tell us that we aren’t good enough, none of them can shake us. If we are his we can rest easy.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School

Sign Up Here:

Join Us!

Bella Vista Church of Christ
989 NW McNelly Rd.
Bentonville, AR 72712

May 11, 2024	9:00 am to 2:00 pm	Free Entry
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Hot dogs and drinks will be provided at no cost.

Win a \$50 Visa Gift Card for Best in Show!

SUNDAY SERVANTS May 5, 2024

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Josh Metheny Song Leader Tyler White
 Greeters Don Cope, Phil Ward Communion Scripture & Prayer Roger Arnold
 Closing Prayer Jerry Snyder
 Nursery Workers Susan Waites, Gay Lynn Weldon

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Hayden Fulkerson Song Leader Marquis Elliott
 Greeters Don Cope, Bill Evans, Bob Spaw Communion Scripture & Prayer Cory Spruiell
 Closing Prayer Tracy Bowman
 Nursery Workers Alivia Bockholt, Brenda Branstetter Van Driver Mike Hale

May Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Kim Metheny Streaming Coordinator Kyle Dillard
 Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Matt Grisham, Steven Hunt