

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Bob Parker

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#716 Sing to Me of Heaven

#535 The Glory-Land Way

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch

#381 Years I Spent in Vanity

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#869 We're Marching to Zion

Sermon: "A More Excellent Way"

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

#650 Send the Light

#867 To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way

Closing Prayer by: Chris Young

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#851 I'll Fly Away

#797 Lord We Come Before Thee Now

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: David Smith

#543 Wonderful Words of Life

Sermon: "Twelve Ordinary Men: Peter"

Matthew 16:17-18

#643 Sowing the Seed of the King

#852 When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

July 8, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

A Friend Who Bears With Us

I've heard my dad tell the story often. When he was a boy, the family took a vacation to Yellowstone Park. If you have ever been to Yellowstone, or to most any area known to have bears, you have seen the signs everywhere: "Do Not Feed The Bears." This is no secret.

For whatever reason – maybe he didn't see the signs, maybe he believed it wasn't all that serious – my great-grandfather decided not to heed that warning. They stopped the car to watch the bears, and he thought it was a good idea to toss out a cookie. That's "bears" plural and "cookie" singular; he threw one cookie for two bears. It was not his finest hour on a number of levels. The end result was an angry bear shaking the car and a rapid getaway.

There are many humorous stories revolving around people who encounter bears. One tale is of two friends on a hike in the woods who had promised to assist each other if they met danger. They had not gone far when they saw a bear coming toward them. There was no time to flee. One of them, being very active, sprang up a tree; the other, seeing that, threw himself flat on the ground and played dead. The bear walked up to him and spent some time smelling him, but ultimately he went on his way.

When he was out of sight and hearing, the hero from the tree called out, "Well, what did the bear say to you? He seemed to whisper to you very closely." "He did," replied the other, "and he gave me some good advice. Never associate with a scoundrel who will desert his friend!"

Of course, the point is to make us consider: what is a friend? There will always be many definitions. All of us likely have our own ideas about the subject. There are some things, however, that we can all agree upon.

A friend is your friend when things go wrong – perhaps, especially when things go wrong – as well as when all is right.

A true friend does not make critical statements about you to others.

A real friend will not listen while others make uncomplimentary remarks about you.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Doris Trahan its taking chemo treatments.

Frances Petree is in Fall Creek Rehab in Humble.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Teresa McKewen, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Phillip Cottle

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Help Needed

We are in need of teachers and helpers for Children's Bible Hour and help in the nursery. If you are interested in helping with either of these, please let the office know and we will work you into the rotation.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meet Monday, July 9th at 7:00 pm.

Deacons meet Sunday, July 8th at 4:45 pm.

Primetimers are having a Baked Potato Supper on Tuesday, July 10th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship room. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is Saturday, July 21st at 8:00 am in the family life center.

VBS is July 23-26th. Make your plans to attend. Our theme this year is "Trailblazers of Faith". Invite your friends to come VBS.

It's almost time for those Happy Campers to head off to church camp....

The kiddos will be going to Camp Bandina this year. Please register ASAP for spots are filling up fast.

Ages 10-18, Camp Bandina-Elliot Session
July 15-21

Online registration and payment @ camp-bandina.org.

FYI-Don't forget to print the medical release form for they will need this when they get to camp.

See Phillip Strickhausen if you have any questions

Privilege to Serve

Sunday, July 8th

Communion Preparation: Marsha Rader

Nursery Attendants: Tania Balch, Catherine Parker

Children's Bible Hour: Emily Nance

Teen Helpers: Jennifer & Brooks McKelroy

Communion Preparation for Sunday, July 15th: Ann Rogers

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, July 15th: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, July 15th: Daisy Cary

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A friend is someone you can call in the middle of the night when you have car trouble and they come, even though it is 100 miles away and raining, and they were asleep.

A friend is there to support you when your loved ones are sick or dying.

A friend is someone who knows all of your flaws, and yet loves you anyway – warts and all.

Jesus is the best friend you and I will ever have. There is no record of him abandoning anyone. He was forsaken, but he did not forsake others. The actions and words of Christ were pure and right toward all people. We sometimes sing hymns about that: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" or "There's Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus," for example.

We should be his friends in return. He offers us that opportunity. As he said to the apostles, *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.* What does it mean to be Jesus' friend? *You are my friends if you do what I command you (John 15:14-15).*

Friends of Jesus Christ! What a blessing! But friends of Jesus keep his commandments. Friends of Jesus do not forsake – they are loyal to him.

It is good for us to have true friends. I don't know what we would do without him. But even the closest of our earthly friends can do very little for our salvation. *There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* May we long for his friendship.

Bryant Perkins