

First Christian Church Wayne City

Monthly Edition: December 2021

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How God Shows Up in the Ordinary

From the beginning of time, God was doing His work in small places. He didn't choose the mighty or the clever. He worked in the small, quiet places and in ordinary, unremarkable lives. When Micah foretold of Christ's unremarkable birth in the manger in Bethlehem, he wasn't telling us anything new about God.

Bethlehem, the City of David, was the hometown of the humble shepherd boy who defeated a giant with a slingshot and ruled the nation of Israel during its Golden Age. Micah's words call us to remember the humble beginnings that God has always used for His might. No one anticipated the Savior of the world being born in a lowly place. They expected thunderous applause and honor that attempted to show proper respect for the Creator of the Universe, the One chosen to make all things right. From the beginning of time, God worked in the unexpected ordinary. And the foretelling of the birth of Christ reminds us that God hasn't changed, and will continue to use the small, ordinary place and small, ordinary people to accomplish His purposes.

In my life, I've often felt insignificant in the Kingdom. My daily life feels like it lacks eternal value. I doubt that God is big enough to work in little, old me. But I forget the truth prophesied by Micah. When spiritual battle needs to be done, the key players aren't the mighty – they are the forgotten, the ones too small to even be counted.

“Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” – Micah 5:1-2, ESV

God spoke to Israel and told them to prepare for battle. But the battle had been raging since the dawn of time when Adam and Eve doubted God and tasted the forbidden fruit between their lips. The battle wasn't simply for their borders or even their physical freedom, it was for their very souls. The Israelites weren't strangers to captivity nor were they strangers to see God work in mighty ways. They'd watched Him make a mockery of Pharaoh and his priests and part the Red Sea to lead them to safety. They had been sustained by His provision of manna in the wilderness. They'd watch the god of the Philistines fall down before His presence.

All of these stories show God's ability to show His mighty power in ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. So why do I doubt that He can work powerfully in my life? Why is my day to day service on His behalf the exception? I confess with my mouth that I believe He works in the ordinary but my heart shows that I fear this. I try to establish my worth. To assert that I am good enough, organized enough, committed enough, devoted enough, holy enough. But I know I will never be enough. Micah's words remind me that I don't have to be. In a season that cries, "More, more, more!" I am reminded that I don't need to be more. Jesus reminds me that He is more than enough.

God will use me exactly where I am. His power is more than enough to make up for my own insignificance. Christ's birth in Bethlehem reminds us of this. And Micah's prophecy reminds us to expect God's work in the ordinary.

So expect His work today as you go about your normal pre-Christmas planning. Expect to be used in the grocery line, in preparing dinner for your family, and in delighting in the latest Hallmark movie.

Don't let yourself become dismayed but, like Mary, offer yourself up as a hand-maiden of the Lord. Christmas is a time I see the big, beautiful, life-transforming power of God up close and personal. I sing about it. I celebrate it. I feel it in my heart. But as I celebrate the bigness, I cannot forget the small places in which it happened. Because long after the lights fade and carols cease, God will still be working in small, ordinary places in me and around me to accomplish His magnificent, redemptive purposes.

Events and Happenings

12/1	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
12/3	Ladies of Grace Christmas 6pm Men's Meeting 6:30pm
12/5	Sun. School 9:30am/Worship 10:30am
12/8	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
12/10	Wayne City School Christmas Concert 6pm
12/11	Wayne City Matters Children Activities 5pm Wayne City 5th Annual Lighted Parade 7pm Get in the Spirit for Christmas Singing 8pm - Led by Steve & Rhonda Griswold
12/12	Sun. School 9:30am/Worship 10:30am Leadership Meeting 4pm
12/15	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
12/18	FCCWC Fellowship Hall is rented out.
12/19	Sun. School 9:30am/Worship 10:30am
12/22	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
12/24	Christmas Eve
12/25	Merry Christmas!!
12/26	Sun. School 9:30am/Worship 10:30am
12/29	Wed. Bible Study 6pm
12/31	New Year's Eve

12/2	Ben Caldwell
12/7	Lena Mason
12/8	Kyson Seymour
12/13	Amanda Seymour
12/16	Angie Hedden
12/27	Mindy Price
12/30	Sherry Locey
12/31	Rylyn Anderson Jacey Smith Ron & Reba McCulley (A)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Have You Found
Christmas?
Or Is It Still
Christmas Eve?

www.KathrynShirey.com

THE WONDER OF IT ALL

Mary's
Response

This Grateful Mama

Looking for a Christmas
Devotional?

Go check these out online!

Children's Christmas Activity

Christmas is an excellent time to share the Gospel. Sharing the Good News doesn't have to be hours of reading the Bible by candle light. You can tell the story of Christmas in a way that will meet your child's needs. Like through a Christmas LEGO Set. Teach your child the Christmas story with this LEGO Countdown to Christmas.

Looking for a challenge? Build an entire Christmas nativity set and read and explore the story of Christmas in the Bible story as you work. Nine days of LEGO fun. Nine days of the Gospel. Do you have a creative child? Give them 9 days of activities to create a final goal – a DIY Christmas Nativity.

Each day, your child is given a creative challenge –to build a new piece of their DIY LEGO Advent Calendar until they have a complete Nativity. Each piece of the challenge includes Christmas bible verses to tell the story of the birth of Christ.

This 9 Days of Christmas Challenge includes the following.

Day 1: The Stable (Micah 5:2)

Day 2: The Donkey (Luke 2:1-3)

Day 3: Joseph (Luke 2:4)

Day 4: Mary (Luke 2:5)

Day 5: Sheep (Luke 2:8-11)

Day 6: Cow (Luke 2:12)

Day 7: Shepherd (Luke 2:16)

Day 8: Manger (Luke 2:6-7)

Day 9: Jesus (Isaiah 9:6)

How creative can you get? Use your imagination and colors that you have on hand!



WHY READ GOD'S WORD?

I probably cannot fully and completely answer this question. But I am going to try.

Reading God's Holy Word requires discipline. It is a discipline. But why? We read it or I read it because of love. I love and appreciate what the Heavenly Father has done for me. And because of that, I want to know more about Him and His love. Reading His Word is not something I boast about but it is something I want to do daily and I hope that others will do the same. Reading His Word provides direction, provides encouragement, provides healing, promotes wisdom, stimulates thought, helps me to grow spiritually, and well, you get the idea. I could probably fill this page on what the Holy Word can do for me and you.

I personally think that it is best not to read several chapters in one setting. Don't get me wrong, it's not a bad thing to read multiple chapters and books of the Bible in a day. In order to fully absorb what the Word is trying to teach us requires an open mind, thinking, and understanding. So, we should take our time at reading God's Word. For the past year and a couple months, several of us in the church family and some outside our church have been reading a chapter a day. Reading a chapter a day requires some discipline. But after a while it simply becomes a habit. A good habit!

Starting this Friday, December 3rd, 2021, we will be reading Matthew, chapter 1. And after we read the 28 chapters of Matthew in 28 days we will then read Mark. When these two books are read, we will have the New Testament completely read over the past year or so. Then we will continue reading in the Old Testament, one book and one chapter at a time. I hope you all can join us.

Sincerely,

Randall Shively



From the Desk of the Pastor

God's Timing

It's Christmas Time... It's Christmas Time!

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God, let's take a look at the right "time" for our Savior to come to this world.

We celebrate December 25th as Jesus' birth but actually with the birth and gift of Jesus, we should celebrate Christmas each and every day.

From Luke 2 we find the words..."At that time..." When Augustus was emperor, the right time when a census was to be taken, the right time when a Jewish girl was to deliver a baby, and the right time for our world to receive a Savior, God did indeed choose the right time!

God used this time to put into position all the puzzle pieces and arrange everything for this once of a lifetime birth! And while they were there (Luke 2:6) the time came for Jesus to be born.

Luke 2:12 is so important. And "you" will recognize Jesus as the baby lying in a manger. This sign is a guarantee of God's timing.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, as we worship together, and gather throughout the month to have parties and family events, know this....



God always shows up on TIME!

Are you giving Jesus your time?