

NEWSLETTER

Calendar

MONDAY

Martial Arts 6:00pm
Men's BSF 6:00pm
*Pastor Jason and
Pastor Jake's Day Off*

TUESDAY

Women's BSF 9:10pm
Women's Bible 9:30am

WEDNESDAY

Student Ministry 6:00pm

THURSDAY

Ministry Planning 6:00pm
Worship Practice 7:30pm

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Men's Coffee 7:00am
Women's Fellowship 9:30am
Men's Basketball 8:30am

SUNDAY

Sunday School 9:30am
Kid's Church 10:45am
Worship Gathering 10:45am
AWANA 6:00pm



ROMANIA MISSIONARIES

Welcome Home





PERFECT

Have you ever heard the saying “cleanliness is next to godliness”?

If you are wondering, it does not appear in the Bible. The expression is a proverb found in ancient Babylonian and Hebrew texts. Its debut in the English language, in a modified form, is found in the writings of philosopher and scientist Sir Francis Bacon.

In *Advancement of Learning* (1605) he wrote, “*Cleanness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence to God.*” Almost two hundred years later (1791), John Wesley made a reference to the expression in one of his sermons in the form we use it today. Wesley

wrote, “*Slovenliness is no part of religion. Cleanliness is indeed next to Godliness.*”

It is hard to say where the phrase originated, but it is not hard to see; and to feel its impact on us. Just think about how you think about church? How you think about time with God.

A few years ago someone sent me a pretty terse message after a gathering at the church to let me know how dissatisfied they were. They felt like it wasn’t polished, perfect and felt (to them) messy.

Just a few months ago someone was sharing their story with me and they kept saying, “I am just a mess, it is just such a mess”. At one point they even questioned the kind of Christian they were due to their “mess”.

First of all, let’s have a moment of honesty. We all have messes, it’s just that other people have different kinds of messes than we do.

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Second, why are we so preoccupied with the clean, pristine and perfect? Why is "messy" so offensive to us?

The reason I ask this question is because when I read the Bible I don't often see clean situations. Instead I see God meeting people in the middle of their mess and walking powerfully with them through it.

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Did Paul mention perfect, clean and pristine in that passage? Now, he does say whatever is honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise. But that doesn't imply that the house is clean. It is quite possible to have home that is honorable, just, pure,

lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise and have is be messy.

In the same way, it is possible to have a home that is clean, pristine and perfect, but in it there is nothing that is honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise. Right?

This past Sunday someone told me they tried Family Worship around the kitchen table, but it just wasn't working. Then they said they did it in bed with the kids, and while it was messy, it was also so good.

Why?

Maybe because messiness is actually next to Godliness. Meaning that in the mess we encounter God's presence. This doesn't mean that we do not try to do what we do well, but it does mean that we don't unfairly strive towards perfection (which is another way of hiding our messiness).

Let's be the kind of folks who are okay with our messiness, and trust we will encounter the presence of God, who walks with us in the mess.

MY *SERMON* NOTES

Date _____ Songs We Sang Today _____
 The Gospel of John _____
 Chapter _____
 Verses _____

Listen for the key words in John's Gospel:
(Make a check every time you hear one)

1 "I am"
 3 "World"
 4 "Love"
 5 "Know"
 6 "Life"
 7 "Truth"

What words didn't you understand today?

BLANK SPACE:

What is the BIG IDEA?

What is Jesus saying or doing?

What is Jesus saying to you?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We believe that intergenerational worship is one of the most powerful things that we can do together. Because we believe this, our long-term plan is to begin to integrate our 5th graders into the weekly worship service.

It isn't just about hearing a sermon or singing together, but seeing and learning what church they will one day inherit, is all about.

Starting February 11th we will be offering a sermon study sheet as part of this long-term plan as a place to keep thoughts, process and start conversations out of the worship service.

These will also be available for adults so that together we can begin to have conversations around the message on Sunday, which is always the overflow of the Family Worship Monday through Friday.



Our yearly ministry planning meeting was changed to February 8th, from 6:00-7:00pm, so Jan Piasecki, the church secretary, can join us. We will have pizza to munch on as we discuss ideas for 2018 and fill out the yearly ministry calendar. Everyone is invited to come and share their dreams, and ideas.

