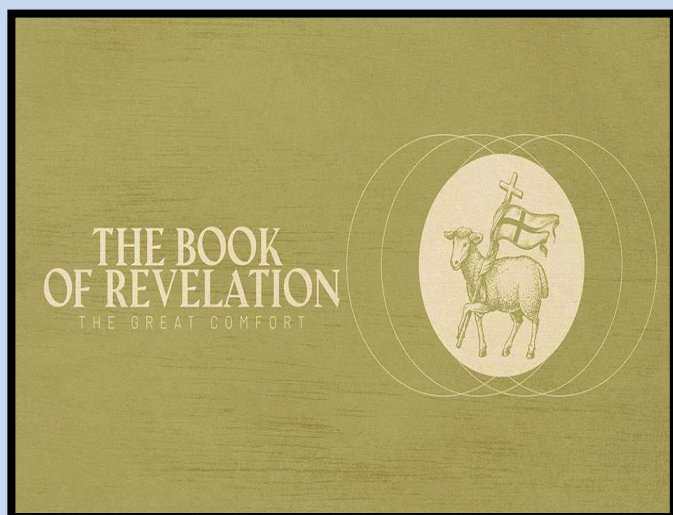




WCC UPDATE

AUGUST 2023

PERSONALLY FROM THE PASTOR



If someone asked you to describe the book of Revelation, what adjectives would you use?

**Weird? Enigmatic? Difficult?
Frustrating? *Frightening*?**

I'll never forget the first time I read Revelation. It was a few days after 9/11. Like so many other Americans, I was worried that the unprecedented attacks heralded that the end of the world was imminent. So I picked up a Bible that I had received as a gift and turned to Revelation for answers, to see if John's prophecy matched up with what was happening in the world. I remember that as I read, I felt *afraid* that the worst was yet to come.

As I said this past Sunday, one of the major hurdles in studying Revelation is that we tend to bring interpretive baggage to the text. In my case, I had been taught somewhere along the line that Revelation essentially functions as a guidebook for the end times. That it explicitly predicts that a series of specific events will occur before Christ returns. If you know what these events entail, then you can prepare yourself for what's to come.

But what if I told you that this isn't how John intended Revelation to be read? What if I told you that John's focus isn't primarily on future (or past) events, but rather on living faithfully in the present *in light of past and future events*? What if I told you that Revelation isn't meant to scare us, but offer us encouragement and hope as we live our lives as dissident disciples in the midst of Babylon—in the midst of a culture that constantly calls us to conform to it?

To be sure, when we read Revelation well, we'll find that we might best describe it as pertinent and important. Eugene Peterson says it well:

"Revelation is a gift—a work of intense imagination that pulls its reader into a world of sky battles between angels and beasts, lurid punishments and glorious salvations, kaleidoscopic vision and cosmic song. It is a world in which children are instinctively at home and in which adults, by becoming as little children, recapture an elemental involvement in the basic conflicts and struggles that permeate moral existence, and then go on to discover again the soaring adoration and primal affirmations for which God made us."

I hope that you will read Revelation chapter-by-chapter each week as we make our way through it in worship. Here's our preaching schedule for this month:

August 6: Revelation 2
August 13: Revelation 3
August 20: Revelation 4
August 27: Revelation 5

MUSIC AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

Time has been flying so fast lately. I cannot believe it is already back-to-school time for the kids and back to choir time for the BIG kids! I am really excited to start all of the Wednesday night activities again.

We are working on the final plans for our yearly **AUGUST ADVENTURES** for the kids. This is a great time for us to invite the neighborhood kids to join us as we kick off our regular fall activities. **We will be having a BBQ at the church on Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 pm. On Thursday, August 10, we will be going to *Into the Fire* in Arvada to paint pottery at 5:30 pm.** We always have so much fun and love seeing how artistic everyone can be with their creations.

Our adult choir rehearsals will begin once again on Wednesday evening, August 23rd at 7:30 pm. I have all of our music picked out, and we are even going to start working on the Christmas Cantata! I'm really excited to have fun and to laugh with everyone again as we prepare music that I hope will be a blessing to the congregation on Sunday mornings.

God bless all of you, and I hope to see you very soon!

Dr. Teresa Crane, D.M.A.

JOIN OUR NEW WOMEN'S GROUP

Some of the ladies in the church are starting a group for women—to share life and faith and to get to know one another better. **The first meeting will take place on Saturday, August 26 from 10 am - 1 pm.** Light refreshments will be served and there will even be a raffle for prizes! Please join these ladies to share ideas about the direction the group takes.

PICK UP A NEW DIRECTORY

The 2023 edition of the directory will be available for pick-up in the narthex beginning on August 6th!

BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR SUNSET

We are collecting backpacks and school supplies for low-income students at Sunset Ridge Elementary until Sunday, August 13. Supply lists can be found in the narthex. In lieu of purchasing supplies, you can also make a cash donation to the church, either on our online giving platform or with a check that has Sunset on the memo line.

Thank you for your continual commitment to serving the least among us!

THANK YOU!

- * To all who assisted with and participated in our Fifth Sunday Fellowship on July 30!
- * To all who have recently donated to our food pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
- * To all who have or will donate to our school supply drive for Sunset Ridge Elementary Students!
- * To all of our worship service volunteers



A YEAR WITH JESUS DEVOTIONAL READINGS AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27

Sunday, August 6		We collect Pocket Change offerings on the first Sunday of every month and use the money given to this program to promote and purchase materials for the church.
	9:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Elders' Meeting
Tuesday mornings	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study—Book of Revelation—meeting at IHOP at 221 W. 104 th Ave., Northglenn. See Steve Cancino for more information
Wednesday evenings	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Potluck dinner (bring main, side, or dessert dish to share) Adult Bible Study, and Youth Group Choir resumes on August 23
Wednesday, August 9	6:30 pm	KIDS AUGUST ADVENTURES Kids Backyard Barbeque and Games
Thursday, August 10	5:30 pm	KIDS AUGUST ADVENTURES Into the Fire pottery painting in Arvada
Sunday, August 13	9:30 am	Worship Service
Saturday, August 19	12:00 – 2:00 pm	Lessons in Grief Group—please bring a sack lunch with you. Contact Judy Clay, Sharon Keel, or Kay Stevens for more information.
Sunday, August 20	9:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Safety and Security Ministry Team Meeting
Saturday, August 26	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Women's Group Meet and Greet The ladies in our church community are interested in getting to know one another better, and to share life and faith
Sunday, August 27	9:30 am	Worship
	11:30 pm	Evangelism and Missions, and Worship Ministry Team Meetings
Tuesday, August 29	9:30 am	Church Women United—join the ladies of our church and other local churches as they create items to give to local care centers