

Evergreen News

A Pastor's Perception

I was sitting down for a visit with a dear friend. This friend was, as always, sharing a story of God's faithfulness. But also acknowledging they don't always get it right on the first try. The story went something like this: They had a problem. They tried to solve it themselves. It didn't work. They tried again. Still nothing.

And then - they stopped and said: "Jesus, help me." And that's when things changed. And when I heard that, I felt the nudge. Or the theological word for it—**conviction.** Because honestly - that's exactly what I do. I try to figure it out myself first. I make a plan. I work the problem. I may ask others for input. And more often than I would like to admit I fail to start with Jesus.

Why is "Jesus, help me" my last resort instead of my first response?

It makes me think of what we've been looking at in Colossians. Our need for a Rescuer. A Reconciler.

But it begins with understanding who God says we are. We're not self-sufficient. We're not in control. We're enemies who need reconciling. We're drowning people who need rescuing.

Jesus tells us plainly: **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** (John 15:5)

But how often do we go about "our" business with little to no input from Him? How often do I make my plans, set my agenda, tackle my problems, and never once stop to ask, "Jesus, what do You want me to do here?" Did I even pray? And by pray, I don't just mean "did I talk to God about my plan." I mean, did I actually ask for help? Did I invite Him into this before I decided how it should go? Or did I try it my way first, and only ask for help when my way failed?

Here's what convicted me about my friend's story: They admitted they didn't get it right the first time. They tried to handle it themselves. **But when they finally stopped and asked for help, "Jesus, help me," things changed.**

Not with condemnation. Not with "Why didn't you ask Me first?" Just with help. Because God is always present. He never leaves us.

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February
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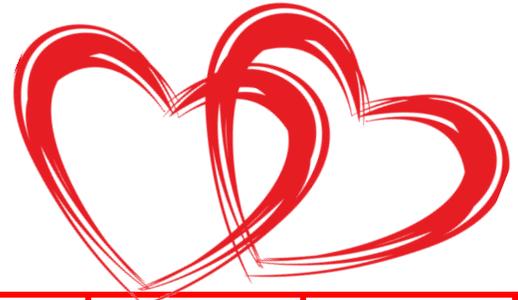
February EVENTS

- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 2/15
- Ladies Bible Study Mondays at 11 am
- Youth Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- Men's Bible Study Thursdays at 7 pm & Saturdays at 7 am
- Sisters in Christ the

Our Vision Statement:

"To Know, Love, & Follow Jesus by serving All"

February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	2 WWW 11 am	3 TT Committee Mtg. 7 pm	4 Youth 6:30pm	5 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	6	7 3M 7 am
8 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	9 WWW 11 am	10 Leadership Team Mtg. 7 pm	11 Youth 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 7 pm	12 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	13	14 3M 7 am Sisters in Christ 9 am
15 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner after LGG	16 WWW 11 am Tiny Timbers Closed 	17 Ministry Team Mtgs. 7 pm Tiny Timbers Closed	18 Youth 6:30 pm	19 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	20	21 3M 7 am
22 8:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am Large Group Gathering	23 WWW 11 am	24	25 Youth 6:30 pm	26 Men's Bible Study 7 pm	27	28 3M 7 am Juarez Trip

A Pastor's Perception Continued from Cover

The question isn't whether He's there. The question is: **Am I asking?** Even when I should have asked sooner. Even when I've already tried and failed on my own. **Am I willing to stop and say, "Jesus, help me"?**

I know I have room for improvement in this area. Actually, let me be more honest: I have a lot of room for improvement. My default is to try first, ask later. To exhaust my options before I turn to God. And even as I write these words, I'm realizing I don't need to keep doing this alone.

Jesus, help me.

So here's my question for you: **Is there somewhere in your life where you've been trying to handle things on your own?** A decision you're trying to make without Him? A problem you're trying to solve in your own strength? A burden you're carrying like it's all up to you?

What if you stopped right now -before trying one more solution, before making one more plan - and simply said: **"Jesus, help me"?**

Not as a last resort. Not after you've failed on your own. Just ask.

Because we have a Rescuer. A Reconciler. One who knows the way when we don't. And He's ready to help.

We just have to ask. Even when we should have asked sooner.

Youth Christmas Party



“His Grace is Sufficient For Me”

One of my projects over Christmas break from teaching was to organize the room behind the platform. This room often becomes cluttered with supplies and other miscellaneous items. As I was sorting through things, I found an old file of choir music titled *“His Grace Is Sufficient for Me.”* I remembered singing this song in choir when I was growing up, and when I opened the file, I recognized the handwriting of my dear friend, Ruth “Skip” Carlson.

I had to pause and reflect upon seeing that. How fitting to find her handwriting on this song. The basis of the song comes from 2 Corinthians 12:9, which reads: *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”* In this verse, Paul recalls the words that Jesus spoke to him.

The familiar lyrics of the song say: *“Oh, His grace is sufficient for me, and His love is abundant and free. Oh, what joy fills my soul just to know that His grace is sufficient for me.”*

This song reminds me of Skip. You see, Skip served as choir director at West Green Tree three different times in her life. By the time I began attending, she was no longer directing, but we became friends. She often told me how it was truly an act of God that she could direct the choir at all. She couldn’t play the piano proficiently, which made directing a choir nearly impossible. If you’re a musician, you know that directing a choir or ensemble relies heavily on the piano for learning parts and providing accompaniment. Yet, in the midst of that challenge, Skip testified that it was God who was doing the work through her. In her weakness, His strength shone through.

As I write this, I find myself feeling weak, too. Ministry is challenging, and sometimes it feels impossible. But this scripture verse, the song lyrics, and the faithful example of Skip Carlson remind me that in my weakness, He is strong. Right now, I can trust that His grace, His strength, and His presence are sufficient for me.

Maybe you are there, too. Maybe, in the midst of life’s challenges, you find yourself weak and worn thin. The words of Jesus to Paul are yours today as well: in our weakness, God is strong. Praying for you today, knowing that He is at work.

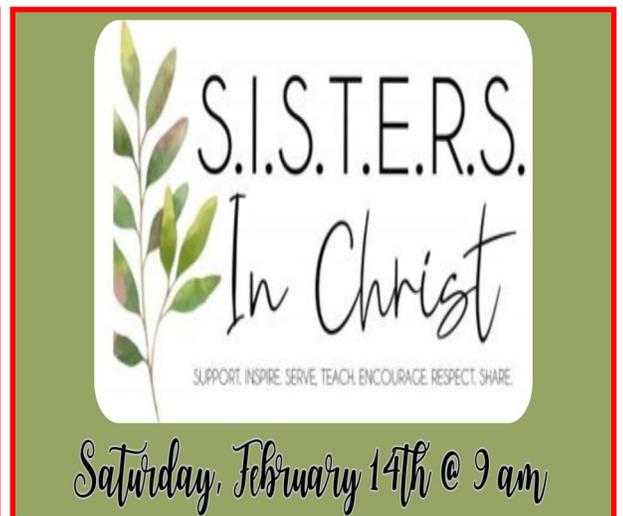
Sing’cerely,
Ryan M. Arndt
Licensed Minister / Worship Arts Coordinator



JUAREZ MISSION TRIP
SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER DINNER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

Menu:
 Spaghetti
 Caesar Salad
 Bread
 Dessert

Join us for a delicious spaghetti dinner!!
All monies raised will go to support the team heading to Juarez



S.I.S.T.E.R.S.
In Christ

SUPPORT. INSPIRE. SERVE. TEACH. ENCOURAGE. RESPECT. SHARE.

Saturday, February 14th @ 9 am

Hello from Tiny Timbers!

We are back in full swing after a restful and joyful holiday break. Before break we did have our Christmas celebrations with all of our classes and what a celebration it was. All of our Tiny Timbers friends did a great job helping us all to celebrate the reason for the season. And the cookies our families brought to share were DELICIOUS!

The start to January brought some warmer temps that allowed us to get outside to play! We all enjoyed the fresh air and the opportunity to play on our playground again!

Our MWF friends started off the month talking about snow, building a snowman with their eyes closed, and have moved into learning about dinosaurs, big and small. Our Tues/Thurs friends talked about the New Year, hibernation and will be exploring dinosaurs as well. All of our friends continue to work on numbers and letters and are enjoying our themed crafts for all we are learning.

We are looking forward to exchanging valentines with our friends next month, remembering that *We love because he first loved us*



WGT Winter Delay/ Cancellations

For activities that take place Monday - Friday, the leader of each meeting/activity will determine cancellations.

Please ensure you have the contact information to contact the appropriate person regarding cancellation concerns.

For weekend activities/gatherings, please check local tv stations, WJTL (fm90.3) or the church website (click the *Worship* tab & then click *Updates & Changes*) for information on delays/cancellations.

Prayer Requests

If you need prayer, contact our Prayer Warriors!

Send prayer requests to:
prayer@westgreentree.org



February Anniversaries

2/14 - Cliff & Dawn Shirk
2/16 - Donald & Billie Jo Snyder
2/25 - Mel & Brenda Geib

February Birthdays

2/2 - Sarah Clugston
- Mike Reem
2/4 - Jim Spickler
2/5 - Darlene Breneman
2/5 - Greg Wiker
2/9 - Brad Drawbaugh
2/12 - Ann Weaver
2/13 - Lance Hitz
2/14 - Donna Hollinger
2/15 - Barrett Youtz
2/19 - Clint Arndt
2/20 - Gale Forry
2/23 - Krista Dickson
2/25 - Doug Breneman
2/27 - Kenny Myer
2/28 - Jonathan Coble

TINY TIMBERS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Openings are available
for the upcoming 26/27
school year!

Contact Amy Winters for more information
director@westgreentree.org



WEST GREEN TREE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
740 Greentree Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

WEST GREEN TREE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast,
it is not proud. It does not dishonor
others, it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Sunday Service Times:

- ◆ **8:30 am Sunday School/Small Groups**
- ◆ **9:45 am Large Group Gathering**
- ◆ **9:45 am Live Stream via YouTube**
“West Green Tree Worship”

Weekday Activities:

- ◆ **Monday: Ladies Bible Study @ 11 am**
- ◆ **Wednesday: Youth @ 6:30 pm**
- ◆ **Thursday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 pm**
- ◆ **Saturday: Men’s Bible Study @ 7 am**

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