

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

September 9, 2018

FROM FEAR TO FAITH

I have a friend who says, “Through the years I have seen a lot of things change, and I have been against them all!” Change can be very unsettling. It interrupts the predictability and comfort of having things just the way we like them. But even for the most “I like it the way it has always been, thank you!” kind of people, we have to admit that there are some advantages to change. I can remember when you had to crank a handle to roll up a car window. Now you just push a button. Rather than waiting in line for a mumps immunization given by a stern-faced school nurse with what seemed like a foot-long needle, now all kids have to do is swallow something that tastes like bubble gum.

But as welcome as some changes may be, change can sometimes create serious problems. When our lives are impacted by sudden change that turns life upside down, it can be spiritually dangerous. Ending up in the ditch can easily make us feel a little shaky about our faith in God. That’s the kind of change the psalmist wrote about in Psalm 11:1-7—the kind of change that threatened everything he believed. How do we respond when the foundation of our faith begins to wobble, when our troubling circumstances make us question God?

The psalmist says that radical change can either foster debilitating fear or confident faith. Fear haunts our hearts when all we can ask is “What am I to do?” Faith cuts to the exclamation point: The Lord is in control! In the first half of Psalm 11:1-7, David wrings his hands as he describes the fear of losing everything—his kingdom, his reputation, his faith because of circumstances out

of his control. You may be buckling under the weight of fear because your world is falling apart. But like David, you can turn your heart to the Lord and declare, “The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord is on His heavenly throne” (Psalm 11:4). His throne is the symbol of His sovereign oversight and authority over all things. David moved from fear to faith by focusing on the exclamation point of God’s rule in his life and not on the question marks of the devastating changes in his life.

Old silent movies often included a scene where the villain tied a beautiful heroine to the train tracks. In great fear, she kicks and screams as the chugging locomotive heads straight toward her sweet little body. But we know she won’t die there. Just in the nick of time, the hero will emerge from the forest and cut the ropes delivering her to safety as he carries her away into the sunset. You can count on it: God will be there for you, even if it’s just in the nick of time!

Psalm 42:5 declares, “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.” That must be why the psalmist said, “There they were, overwhelmed with dread, where there was nothing to dread” (Psalm 53:5).

In the midst of the changing circumstances of life, we have a choice. We can live in fear of all the uncertainties, or we can cling to the reality of God’s sustaining and intervening presence in our lives. When we find our strength in the fact that our Almighty God is on the throne and has everything under control, the defeating question marks are replaced with the confidence of His exclamation points, and that’s a welcome change!

Joe Stowell
getmorestrength.org

PRAY FOR...

Baker, Helen: Melinda’s mother, health
Bennett, Jim: health struggles
Boula, Pat: Chris C’s friend-heart valve replacement
Burra, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy’s cousin, cancer
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty’s friend, struggles
Darling, Wendy: health struggles
Dashnaw, Justin: rehab following surgery
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Garrow, Donald: health
Fontenot, Michelle: Crumps’ friend, breast cancer
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer
Hemingway, David: struggles
Kashorek, Lori: strength during chemo for cancer
Lapier, Lisa: Patty’s neighbor, lung cancer
Laramy, Paul: Steven’s brother, motorcycle accident
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John’s friends, health struggles
Lermineau, Sean: Carl and Cindy’s relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L’s parents, health
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Croatia, Malawi, Zambia
Nelson, Barb: Alex & Nick’s grandmother, cancer
Page, Gary: Garth’s friend, sick
Recovery: Eddie Bickford & Jean Buskey
Richardson, Elizabeth: Eddie’s sister, health
Rice, John: Jim’s neighbor, cancer
Sinclair, Sharon: treatments for cancer
Stapleton, Katelyn: struggles and moving
Teachers and students: start of school
Warrick, Oaklyn: 1 year-old, heart surgeries
West, Larry: Melenda’s friend in CA, health
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers’ mother, health

“Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins.”

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shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509

available: by appointment

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God’s Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

“Before the snow flies!” We don’t like the phrase, but it’s September in the North Country. This means we have a lot to do at the church before ... well, you know. Amid retreats, rallies, sings, Oasis, and raking, we have some outside projects to complete. Are you able to help?



We’ve Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John’s class--study of the Gospel of John
Youth classes as well ... and don’t forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next meal will be 9/16 when Roger & Mitzi are here
Men’s Prayer Breakfast: our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 10/7 at 8 a.m.

Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- Roger & Mitzi Chambers will present their Malawi trip on 9/16
- Please pray for Mary’s readers in Varadzin, Croatia to have open hearts

Doug’s Devotional

“... . *However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth*” Luke 18:8.

“The Parable of the Persistent Widow” is one of the few that Jesus tells that does not leave us to wonder why it was recorded. We still must peel the layers back with each reading, but God’s purpose for this is so we “should always pray and not give up.” If an unjust judge who gives justice just to keep a persistent widow from bothering him, how much more so will a good God give to His people who cry out to Him day and night. God is good—always, and so the problem is not with Him wanting to answer prayer. The biggest struggle we have with prayer is a lack of faith. To pray, we must recognize that we are not control, cannot control God or His answer, and must submit to Him—no matter if His answer is ‘yes,’ ‘no,’ ‘wait,’ or ‘something better.’ In the parable, it is not the character of God that is in question, but the question of our persistence. That is why Jesus concludes with a reference to His second coming and His doubt if He will find faith on the earth. For our prayer life to increase, our faith must grow, but if our faith grows, what great things God can do through our prayers. How’s your faith to pray?

Prayer is the
key to Heaven, but
Faith
unlocks the door

Sundae Toppings

Today: 12:30 p.m. Ladies’ Time
9/16, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal
9/23, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
9/30, 5th Sunday
10/7, 8 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast



2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 253-Hosea 8-11
Day 254-Hosea 12-14; Joel 1
Day 255-Joel 2-3; Amos 1-2
Day 256-Amos 3-6
Day 257-Amos 7-9; Obadiah

What major things do you learn from these prophets?



Mark Your Calendar

9/13-15, Camp Hunt Ladies’ Retreat
9/16, Roger Chambers reports on Malawi
9/19, Garth and Lilly’s birthdays
9/20-22, Camp Hunt Men’s Retreat
9/21-10/17, Mary CI’s LST trip to Croatia
9/25, Oasis begins each Tues. & Thurs.
9/28-30, Albany Youth Rally
10/14, 3 p.m. Fall Sing in Burlington; 5 p.m. meal
11/11, Raking Day (after service)

Today: 9/9

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Chris
Song Leader: John
#453, “Love Lifted Me”
#406, “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”
#1033, “Can He Still Feel the Nails?”
Talk/bread prayer: Carl
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Alfred
Pass/collection prayer: Jim L
Passer: Justin D
#560, “Living By Faith”
Scripture Reading: Jim B - Luke 18:6-8
Lesson: Doug “Will He Find Faith on the Earth?”
#945, “Kneel at the Cross”
Closing Song: Tyler
#755 “God Be with You”
Closing Prayer: Steve
Subs: GH, HG, EB

Next Sunday 9/16

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Jim L
Song Leader: Alfred
Talk/bread prayer: Chris
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Steven
Pass/collection prayer: Howard
Passer: Justin D
Scripture Reading: Carl - 2 Timothy 3:10-17
Lesson: Roger “The Totality of Scripture”
Closing Song: John
Closing Prayer: Jim B

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning sign-up for this season is on the fridge. Taking a turn is appreciated & needed.
- the church’s blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

Week of September 2

Bible Class	22
Morning Worship	34
Wed. Bible Class	11
Contribution	\$611.00
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$625.00