

Church of Christ

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

January 6, 2019

WHEN GOD TALKS BACKWARDS

My kids knew what day it was when they woke to cereal in the bathroom sink, silverware in the toothpaste drawer and pajamas dangling from the coat hooks in the hallway.

I'm not sure when the crazy tradition began or exactly when it ended, but when my children were young, we created an in-house holiday that we affectionately termed Backwards Day.

On Backwards Day, we outlawed the conventional and celebrated the crazy. We infused the humdrum with goofy gala and flipped "normal" on its head. We dined under the table instead of on it. We ate dessert before dinner. And we jumped on the bed rather than napping beneath its covers.

The laughter came naturally, but our unconventional conversations did not. On Backwards Day, we practiced the art of reverse dialogue. No meant yes, and yes meant no. Slow meant fast, and wait meant go.

It took me a while to master it, but eventually I learned to turn affirmatives into stop signs and negatives into green lights. I said sure to hard work and no way to delight.

Sadly, we haven't celebrated Backwards Day at our house for years. But when I peruse my prayer journal, I realize that God doesn't need a special holiday to practice speaking backwards. God is already the master of reverse dialogue.

I can see it in my own life through the lens of hindsight. Maybe you can spot it in your life, too - God often tucks an unexpected yes in the folds of a disappointing no.

When I was a young teacher, I applied for a position that would allow me to serve students and still meet the needs of my growing family. I interviewed and prayed, waited and hoped; but God responded with a disap-

pointing no. Yet, tucked into that no was an unexpected yes to staying home with my children and pursuing my dream of becoming a writer.

When my marriage was flailing and my pride was swelling, I asked God to change my husband. I even gave Him suggestions and timelines. But the Lord didn't follow my advice. Instead, wrapped into His no was a yes to humbling my heart and recognizing the amazing man God had created my husband to be.

I've had seasons when God said no to changing my circumstances, so He could say yes to renewing my mind, times when He whispered no to my demand for answers so He could say yes to increasing my faith.

Let's admit it. The idea of God's backwards talk may sound whimsical and fun, but it's hard to embrace His no's when we can't yet see His yeses. It's challenging to trust His motives when we are disappointed by His methods.

That's why, when we feel discouraged by His ways, we must choose to shift our gaze. Instead of staring at our confusion, we must fix our eyes on the cross.

After all, the cross is like the ultimate Backwards Day!

The Apostle Paul says it like this: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. (ESV)

Through the cross, God said no to the punishment we deserve and yes to the love we could never earn. Jesus purchased our life through His death. He bought our peace with His torment. He restored our joy with His anguish.

God's methods may be mysterious, but His mercy is unchanging. And when we anchor our hope to the resounding "yes" of the cross, we realize we don't need to make sense of His processes to hold fast to His promises.

We simply need to trust the One who filters every yes and every no through His unfathomable love.

Alicia Bruxvoort
via GodUpdates

PRAY FOR...

Bailey, Susan: Jim B's friend-struggles
Baker, Helen: Melinda's mother, health
Bennett, Jim: health
Bickford, Eddie: recovery from surgery
Boula, Pat: Chris C's friend-heart valve replacement
Brownwood, John: struggles
Burna, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy's cousin, cancer
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles
Conley, Annie May, Mary's sister in TX, health issues
Darling, Wendy: rehab and health struggles
Dashnaw, Justin: rehab following surgery
Davis, Austin: Mariah's brother, health
Doner, John: Christian's grandfather, health
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Gonyea, Louis: Patty's brother, surgery in VT
Gruezmacher, De'ann: Donna's daughter, struggles
Hagen, Robert: Carl & Cindy's brother, cancer
Kashorek, Lori: healing~non-chemo cancer treatment
Lapier, Lisa: Patty's neighbor, lung cancer
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
McCutchan, Glenda: health & recovery
Mariah: struggles
Martin, Tina: Chris' cousin, upcoming back surgery
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Croatia, Malawi, Zambia
Nelson, Barb: Alex & Nick's grandmother, cancer
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.

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 ...

We'd love for everyone to be immersed in the Word in 2019! The WVBS Interactive Bible Plan includes Spotlight on the Word (SOTW) and supplemental (SUPP) videos that start out with the life of Christ in the New Testament first. These could really enhance a straight reading of His Word. But, if you take just part of this, modify it, or do an entirely different plan, your walk with Christ will deepen with regular study.



We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John's class--Gospel of John (not him!)
Youth classes as well.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: Our 4th Sunday meal will be after service on 1/27. Bring a dish and invite a friend.
Men's Prayer Breakfast: Our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 2/3 at 8 a.m.

Let's Do Why We Gathered

To help eliminate distractions during worship, the side door will be locked at 11:00 on Sunday mornings. We would ask that you're in the building by that time ready to worship and that bathroom breaks during service be kept to a minimum. Help be a good example for those around you by restricting the use of electronic devices to Bible apps.

Doug's Devotional

"So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls" Acts 2:41.

Jesus had declared to Nicodemus that those who would enter the Kingdom of God would have to be born from above through water and the Spirit. After the work of His death and resurrection were accomplished, ten days after he ascended into heaven, the time had come. The church that was bought with His blood, that He had promised to build, was established with the second birth of three thousand souls. What a unique beginning. Nothing of this earth had ever had such a start. Earthly businesses and organizations begin and end, sometimes surrounding a dynamic person or idea. Even copycats of the Lord's church crumble and fall with the injection of the ideas of men. Because Jesus' Kingdom is from above with a heavenly start from the purpose and foreknowledge of God and the enduring Word of God, the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Men, countries, and ideologies have tried to destroy it, but they are impotent against the gospel. Have you been born of water and the Spirit? Have you been added to Jesus' blood-bought body, the church?

Sundae Toppings

Today: 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
1/13, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
1/20, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
1/27, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal



Mission Moment

•Please pray for all our mission works.



2019 WVBS Interactive Bible Reading Plan



SOTW: Mark
1/6: Matthew 16-18
1/7: Matthew 19-20
1/8: Matthew 21-22
1/9: Matthew 23-24
1/10: Matthew 25-26
1/11: Matthew 27-28
1/12: Mark 1-3
SUPP: Marriage and Divorce; Killing of Jesus; The Unpardonable Sin
website: video.wvbs.org



Mark Your Calendar

1/10, Carl's birthday
1/11, Silvia's birthday
1/12, Patty's birthday
1/20, Brant anniversary ('89)
2/10, Howard's birthday

No Wednesday Winter

In the most weather and schedule adverse time of year, we are canceling Wednesday night Bible Classes through the Winter Quarter to resume in the spring. So, until next March, spend a little extra time midweek in prayer or the Word..or perhaps serving someone in need.

Today: 1/6

Announcements: John
Opening Prayer: Alfred
Song Leader: Doug
#607 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
#613 "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand"
#350 "When My Love to Christ Grows Weak"
Talk/bread prayer: Carl
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Tyler
Pass/collection prayer: Howard
Passer: Justin
#543 "Wonderful Words of Life"
Scripture Reading: Chris - Acts 2:36-41
Lesson: Doug "And There Were Added That Day"
#679 "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
Closing Song: Garth
#874 "Walking Alone at Eve"
Closing Prayer: Jim B
Subs: JL, SS

Next Sunday 1/13

Announcements: Jim B
Opening Prayer: Garth
Song Leader: Chris
Talk/bread prayer: John
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Alfred
Pass/collection prayer: Carl
Passer: Justin
Scripture Reading: Carl - John 4:31-34
Lesson: Doug "My Food is ..."
Closing Song: Jim L
Closing Prayer: Steven

December 30

Bible Class	13
Morning Worship	39
Wed. Bible Class	-
Contribution	\$666.58
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$625.00

November→December Averages; 1 Year Ago
Sun. Bible Class Ave. 17→16; 23
Sun. AM Worship Ave. 32→30; 31
Wed. Bible Class Ave. 7→-; 14
Weekly Contribution Ave.\$717.70→\$718.27;\$835.82
Yearly Contribution Ave. (18 weeks) \$694.14
This Month's Playground: \$590.00
Total for Playground: \$1,901.50

