

Church of Christ

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

August 2, 2020

WHAT IS FAITH?

What do you picture when you hear the word “faith”?

One of my mental pictures of faith in action is the memory of my two-year-old grandson shivering by the side of a swimming pool, looking eagerly at his dad in the water. His dad is calling to him from only about two inches away, “Go ahead, jump!” In that moment my grandson faced a major crisis of faith. Could he trust that his dad was powerful enough to catch him if he jumped? And did he trust that his dad’s character is good—that he will keep his promise to catch him? After a moment of contemplation, he acted on his faith and jumped into his dad’s arms! He was even eager to climb back out of the pool and do it again . . . and again . . . and again!

That’s what faith is. It’s putting your belief and trust in something or somebody outside of yourself, and then acting on that belief. Think about the examples given in Hebrews 11:1-40. Like, for instance, Abraham, venturing from his home to the unfamiliar, trusting a promise that wouldn’t materialize for decades. How about that same patriarch, placing his beloved son, Isaac, on the altar, trusting that somehow God would either provide an alternate sacrifice or raise his son from the dead? Or think about Moses, choosing to leave behind the pleasures and power of the pharaoh’s palace to shepherd a group of grumblers out of slavery into the Promised Land. Step by step, day by day, Moses acted on his faith in a promise that wouldn’t even completely materialize until after his death. The writer of Hebrews recounts these and many other examples of trust in this “Hall of Faith” chapter.

Of course, acting on faith isn’t always easy. It calls us to step away from what is comfortable and safe and, like a two-year-old at the edge of a vast swimming pool, look into unknown and unfamiliar circumstances. Maybe it’s a challenge to surrender our finances to God’s control, a career change, a move overseas, or waiting patiently on the Lord for the right spouse. It may be forgiving an offender or risking something for the sake of integrity or purity. Whatever the case, when God nudges our heart beyond what we can manage and manipulate on our own, we have an opportunity to act on the faith that we profess to believe.

The questions we face are as simple as the question in my grandson’s little heart when he’s at the edge of the pool. Can we trust that our Father is powerful enough? And do we trust that He is good? The answer to both questions, if we understand and believe the teaching of God’s Word, is a resounding “Yes!” Our all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God can handle every situation we face. He is the very essence and definition of what is good. He will always do what is right and we can trust Him to ultimately not let us fall or fail.

What I like best is that Hebrews 11:6 tells us that faith triggers a response of pleasure in God’s heart. As we demonstrate our trust in Him, He is not apathetic or indifferent, but actually delights in our belief in Him. In fact, as His children, the writer says, we cannot please Him without faith! It is impossible.

Whatever “pool” you are standing next to today, I encourage you to trust the character of the Father who is calling you to act on your faith in Him. I invite you to the pleasure of trusting Him today. Come on in! The water’s fine!

Joe Stowell
Strength for the Journey

PRAY FOR...

Alexander, Reggie: Lynn’s friend, heart problems
Bahn, Keeley: Bekah’s friend, health struggles
Bennett, Jim: health struggles and move to ME
Cech, Matthew: health concerns
Chambers, Michael: health struggles
Coronavirus victims and their families
Crumpp family: struggles
Conley, Annie May: Mary’s sister, hearing loss and memory
Coon family: Jeffrey, Courtney, Emily, and Anna, struggles
Cross, Mark: Tara’s cousin-colon cancer
Doner, John: Christian’s grandfather, health
Elders: Alfred and Doug...and their families
Hill, Fern & Thomas: cancer
Howe, Tom: father of John’s friend, cancer
Howard/Nole: health struggles
Kashorek, Lori: grant her a painless transition in God’s time
Lermineau, Kids: Carl and Cindy’s relatives, struggles
McCoy, Stephanie: Melinda and John’s relative, health struggles
Mero, Joann: Shirley’s sister, in MD, struggles with MS
Miller, Jody: struggles
Minister Search: Massena and S. Burlington
Missions: Brazil, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia
New Walks: Ralph, Rose, Aowen, Kolton and Shawmeek
St. Pierre family: struggles
Tynon, Leo: Chris’ uncle, recovering at home
Vaus, Amy: Amber’s cousin, pregnant and has lung cancer
West, Larry: Melinda’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, evangelist, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 518-645-1509

Schedule of Services
Sun. Bible Classes 10 A.M.
Sun. Worship 11 A.M.
Wed. Bible Classes 6:30 P.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 ...

Welcome back as we physically gather while still filming via Facebook Live. 10 a.m. Sunday classes have resumed. Alfred and John will preach the next two Sundays. We'll have a modified VBS at Point Au Roche during the week between.



Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: Our next 4th Sunday meal is on 8/23.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: Our next breakfast & prayer time will be on 9/6 at 8 a.m.

How Are You Staying Fed?

Are you finding ways to stay spiritually fed? This is a great time to pray, study God's Word, or serve. Yes, serve God--just in different ways! Even if you aren't online, you can encourage or check on others via the phone. If you are online, check out the WVBS studies listed here or the 'Other Resources' that are maintained by our members.

VBS/M.A.G.I. Project

We are asking for items to be included in M.A.G.I. boxes for the next 2 weeks. If you can't purchase items we will also accept donations to be used to buy missing items. Mary will have a list of items for the boxes. The number of boxes being sent has been affected by COVID. We usually send about 16 boxes. Let's work together to get these done by VBS time which is just 2 weeks away.

Doug's Devotional

"... So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing" 2 Samuel 6:12.

It took some attempts for David to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. It wasn't about his desire alone that made God accept his tries; he had to inquire and do it right! But, finally God's presence was in the place that God had promised to come to long ago when His people had first come into the promised land. There was much rejoicing by all ... except one. As Michal, Saul's daughter and one of David's wives, saw him leaping and dancing before the Lord with all his might in only a linen ephod in the midst of the great celebration, Scripture says that she despised the one who was after God's own heart in her heart. David rightly tells her, when confronted, that he was doing this for God and not for his own dignity. Where Michal saw that her husband ought to conduct himself with honor for his own glory, David said he was willing to be even more abased. Isn't this how it is with Christians out in the world? The world expects us to seek its approval, but those who strive to have a heart like God's seek only His. Whose approval are you living for?



We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: Gospel of John
Youth classes as well ...

Sundae Toppings

Today: 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast; after--playground!
8/9, Alfred preaches
8/16, John preaches
12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
8/23, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal



Mission Moment

•Please pray for all our mission works.



2020 WVBS Interactive Bible Reading Plan



SOTW: none
8/2: 1 Samuel 16-18; Psalm 32
8/3: 1 Samuel 19-21; Psalm 33
8/4: 1 Samuel 22-24; Psalm 34
8/5: 1 Samuel 25-27; Psalm 35
8/6: 1 Samuel 28-31; Psalm 36
8/7: 2 Samuel 1-3; Psalm 37
8/8: 2 Samuel 4-6; Psalm 38
SUPP: Bible Land Passages 3
website: video.wvbs.org
Other Resources
theabidingword.com
sermonlines.com



Mark Your Calendar

8/2, Aowen's birthday in Christ ('19)
8/10-12, VBS!
8/11, Gracelyn's birthday
8/18, Jody's birthday
9/5, Christopher's birthday

Back to School

Teacher: "What is the chemical formula for water?"
Student: "HIJKLMNO."
Teacher: "What are you talking about?"
Student: "Yesterday you said it's H to O!"

Today: 8/2

Announcements: Chris
Opening Prayer:
Song Leader: Garth
#779 "I Love You, Lord"
#736 "To Christ Be True"
#962 "Were You There?"
Talk/Prayer-bread:
Prayer-fruit of the vine:
Prayer-collection:
#768 "Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You"
Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 6:12-15
Lesson: Doug "The Ark Came In"
#922 "Jesus Paid It All"
#759 "Shall We Gather at the River"
Closing Prayer:

Next Sunday: 8/9

Announcements: Doug
Song Leader: John
Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-12
Lesson: Alfred "Hold On to What You've Got"

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).

July 26, 2020

Bible Class	8
Morning Worship	15
Wed. N.Bible Class	-
Contribution:	\$910.00
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$700.00

June→July→Averages; 1 Year Ago
Sun. Bible Class Ave. 10→--; 23
Sun. AM Worship Ave. 17→- -; 33
Wed. Bible Class Ave. -- →--; 15
Weekly Contribution Ave.\$1089.25→\$810.56; \$625.00
Yearly Contribution Ave. (48 weeks) \$820.89
* Wed. classes did not meet in this month
^worship via internet, attendance not counted