



TIDINGS

It Takes Grace...

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them."

[Acts 8:5]

The current rise of racism, bigotry, and hatred in so many hearts around country and our world is truly a sickening thing - white extremists, Muslim terrorists, gang violence, Black Lives Matter... It's really easy to jump on the bandwagon and declare all we see on the news as a world full of racism, bigotry, and hatred. Have you considered, though, a different approach...dare I say Christ's approach? Yes, we should stand up and speak out every chance we get against people who treat others in ungodly ways wherever it occurs. It doesn't matter if the evil is across the street or across the globe, God's intention for each of us is to love all the others...period, and to effectively share the gospel with everyone...period. We don't get to choose who is worthy of being loved or hearing good news specifically because God

loved us and shared His Son with us - and who among us deserved that?! Loving others and effectively sharing the gospel requires a willingness to reach out to people who are different from us. We tend to want to hang out with folks who look like us, who talk like us, and who are just like us. But, how willing are we to leave our comfort zone and go to a person completely different from us with the message of the gospel? To put it another way, are we willing to acknowledge that *all prejudice is wrong*? Everyone needs Jesus, and we need to go without reservation and share the gospel with them. We can talk all day about how to do evangelism effectively. We can read the books and go to the classes on how to share our faith. All these things are good. But none of it matters if we don't care about (dare I say love?) all the others. People can tell whether or not we care. (My dog knows that I care about him.) And a person will know if we are sharing good news out of love or because we feel obligated.

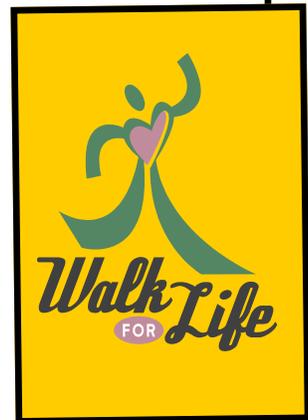
The Bible is clear in the example of Philip, who had a heart for unbelievers. Along with Stephen, he was called to be a deacon in the church. And when Stephen was martyred and Saul of Tarsus began to attack Christians, where did Philip go? To Samaria. Philip was a Jew, yet he went to Samaria. This was significant, because Jews hated Samaritans, and Samaritans hated Jews. Yet, Philip went to these people, people whom Jews would not speak to, much less want to reach for Christ, because while people find reason to hate each other...Jesus loved them all. May God give us His compassion for people who do not yet know Him. Philip had that compassion, and we should too. Blessings, RevLon

2017 WALK FOR LIFE

The 2017 Walk for Life will be Saturday, September 30, at 9:00AM, and will begin on Center Street in front of First United Methodist Church. Many of you know the Walk is a vital part of the fundraising

efforts of the ministry of Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center. Those who participate by being sponsors and soliciting sponsors help save lives, both literally and spiritually, by keeping the doors open and the

ministry continuing. If you are interested in being a walker or helping with the fundraising, simply call the church office (270.821.6429) or RevLon (270.871.0770).



AMAZING

I'm able to write this post solar eclipse because I am way past the deadline. But wow, was that amazing or what?!! That was one of the coolest experiences, physically, emotionally and spiritually. That we could exist in a time and place to see this and be so blessed to be in the path of totality is such a blessing that I hope we haven't taken for granted. Some folks I talked to about this previous to the event didn't seem too excited about it, like what's the big deal 1 minute 40 seconds of the moon in front of the sun. Post the event though it's like I wish it had lasted longer because it was like a surreal moment that I've never experienced. Even more cool was the joy that I got to experience with the love of my life, Denise! We were like kids, laughing, cheering, just really in awe of this spectacle. It was so much to take in that you didn't want it to end so quick. But it did and that's okay, to experienced it all is better than to have never seen it.

God has blessed us with an amazing planet to live on. He put the perfect amount of oxygen for us to breath. He put the perfect distance from the sun for us to experience warmth and growth without being too warm or too cold. He put us on the perfect rotation and in the perfect tilt to have everything we have. Just a little off either way and there would be chaos and life could not be sustained. But our God is an amazing creator, sustainer, redeemer and friend. He has given us much to be in awe of and a solar eclipse is just one more reminder of just how big, awesome and powerful our God is. "The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He

breathed the word, and all the stars were born." Psalms 33:6

We have every blessing before us because God has given it to us. He has not put us in a state of despair and suffering but of joyful life and abundant living. How we see our world and everything that happens is based on our world view. And that world view is either void of God and His ability to create all we see and can't see or we know that everything was created by Him for His glory and for our sustenance and enjoyment. He entrusted us to care for His creation and that includes one another, not just the planet and nature. In the wake of all that we have gone through, let's start allowing Him to guide us instead of the major news networks that seem to want more chaos than order. Let us as the ones made in His image reflect the goodness and the grace that He has given us. Let us be the peacemakers that stand for the justice and defense of all that are persecuted and down trodden. Let us stand in awe of the One who created us and everything we see and glorify Him with the lives we live.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20

"The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They

speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat. The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them. How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." Psalms 19

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12

YOUTH APPRECIATION SEPTEMBER 6, 6-7:00PM

We need 20 people to purchase \$25 gift cards to local restaurants, Wal-Mart, chamber checks, etc. to be given to middle & high school youth. Giver is asked to

attend and meet recipient as well as take part in hearing brief testimonies and hanging out with teens. Please sign your name to gift card and turn into Dawn at

church office or give to Rob. Thanks for your support of our youth!

There Is No Fence...

“How well I have learned that there is no fence to sit on between heaven and hell. There is a deep, wide gulf, a chasm, and in that chasm is no place for any man.”

- Johnny Cash

Many a man, and woman, believe they can happily occupy a place somewhere between the world and the Word. We believe we can come to church on Sunday and Wednesday, listen to the Word, and go back out there and live as if we have no obligation to the Lord. We want to get all gussied up, shake hands with all our fellow congregants, sing praises and repeat psalms, and then go out and cuss, fuss, and shush. Living large and in charge throughout the week and then humbling ourselves for an hour or two before going back out into the hustle

and bustle.

Is it because we may have developed religious patterns and behavior without really experiencing change by the power of the Holy Spirit? Have we found it socially advantageous to attend church and do church things without placing Jesus above all things?

If we conduct an inward inventory will we find that we are lovers of self, money, and pleasure rather than lovers of God? Are we holding on to a form of religion, but denying the power of it? Do we truly know rebirth and the genuine heartfelt love of Jesus?

Way too many of us want to hold on to the promise of the verse Jeremiah 29:11 believing God has a plan for us, without asking Him what it is. We want to be blessed without be-

ing a blessing. We want to bask in the ‘Son-shine’ without reflecting the Son. We want to receive without sharing. We want to reap the benefit of the harvest without laboring. And why not? God loves us, He forgives us, He created us in His image.

Oh, wait a minute, if we are created in His image, don't we have to know who He is? Don't we have to do what He does? Don't we have to sacrifice self and live like Jesus? Don't we have to speak life to the world? Yes, we do.

Johnny Cash was correct. There is no fence between Heaven and Hell. Why are we trying to sit on a non-existent fence?

On the Inside,

Pete

FROM THE MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Instead of blessing the staff at Grapevine School for this year, we are going to help with the Mahr Center's needs. Here is a list of things they need:

- Deodorant
- Shampoo/conditioner (small)
- Soap (small)
- Lotion (small)
- Chap Stick
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste (for dry mouths)
- Mouthwash (for dry mouths)
- Personal hygiene items
- Gift cards to local restaurants—in \$10.00 amounts; gas cards in \$10.00 and local grocery store gift cards in \$10.00 increments

- Blankets
- Puzzle Books
- Journals
- Pens
- Gum
- Hard candy
- Mints
- Individual snack cakes
- Individual bags of chips/pretzels

I know this is a long list. They appreciate anything we can send. There will be a basket in the narthex to collect items, or you can give them to Susie Jackson. Thank you so much for all your help and support!

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE...

Following the success of our recent Sock Hop, some folks didn't seem to get enough of the dancing. (Others probably should have known when to take a seat!) Growing out of the fun we experienced together, it was decided that the fun should not have to end. Jerry and Phyllis Klym have graciously agreed to help us all get a little better with our bounce on the floor. So, here's the lineup for a few more weeks of fun:

September 14: Foxtrot

September 21: Rumba and Waltz

September 28: East Coast Swing

October 5: Light supper and dance

*Classes will be from 6:30-8:00PM.

*Celebration Supper on October 5 will be at 6:00, with the dancing beginning at 7:00.

(Sorry to say that we have it from good sources that Dick Clark and AB crew will not be there. In his place Ben Gay has agreed to make an appearance...)

1st Jerry Klym
 2nd Jim & Ruth Hendrix (A)
 3rd Bud & Chrissy Barker (A)
 4th Ashlee Goodwin
 Sierra Walker
 8th Monty Angie Crawford (A)
 11th Carroll Steinfeld
 Stella Hoagland
 14th Sharon Davis
 Mike & Lisa Ladd (A)
 15th Aaron Taylor
 Rhonda Gordon
 16th Larry & Rita Peyton (A)

17th Lottie Walker
 18th John & Erlene Ewing (A)
 David & MaryAnn Thomas (A)
 20th Amy Taylor
 25th Matt & Laurie Sills (A)
 26th Tom & Judy McLean (A)
 27th Marge Wilkerson
 Susie Jackson
 28th Kyle Gregory
 29th Bud Barker



September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 LABOR DAY	5 6PM Session Mtg 6PM Great Banquet Meetings	6 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 W.K.C.C. #19 →	9
10 →	11 6PM Great Banquet Meetings	12	13 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30 Dance Lessons	15	16
17	18 6PM Great Banquet Meetings	19	20 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30 Dance Lessons	22 M.C.D.C. #13 →	23
24 →	25 6PM Great Banquet Meetings	26	27 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30 Dance Lessons	29 Boy's Y.E.S. →	30