



TIDINGS



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IT TAKES GRACE...(or "Alligators Have Big Mouths, But Short Arms")

IT'S SEPTEMBER...

...And we are back into the swing of things – especially on Wednesday nights! We're hoping for even larger crowds this year. Our cooks prepare a wonderful homemade dinner each Wednesday during the school year at 5:15pm. Following that, at 6:00pm, our children and youth groups meet for their programs. Adults also meet at 6:00 for Bible Study. From time to time, as you can read about in other articles, there will be special programming as available on some of our Wednesdays. Finally, at 7:00pm, our fine choir rehearses for the regular offerings of special music in our worship services.

SEPTEMBER 12: REMEMBERING ISRAEL!

After the fellowship meal on September 12, at about 6:00pm, our adult program for the evening will be a travelogue of the sights, sounds, and adventures of the group from our church who went to Israel.

I just came across an interesting statistic. Of the people who voted for Donald Trump in 2016, the percentage who regret their vote today is a whopping 3%. And of the people who voted for Hillary Clinton in that same election, the percentage who regret their vote is...3%. What does that tell you?

1. If the election were held again today it would have the same result, except for 3% on each side changing sides. And all the people who were shocked then would be shocked all over again.

2. It also means our country seems hopelessly divided. Historically, we have been there before, but the division right now is huge. And it's seemingly over any and every issue. The differences among us reflect that it is not about the issues, but about totally different ways of seeing things – everything.

It's as if the two sides are speaking different languages

and not only are people not listening, we don't even understand the language of "those people." And no one seems to be putting in the necessary effort to learn the other's language. We go to opposite sources for our information, listening only to talking heads we already agree with.

To be honest, it's been ages, if ever, since the concept of "reaching across the aisle" has been used for the good of our nation rather than for political gain. Reaching across the aisle is a nice idea, but it seems most everybody has alligator arms – too short to reach beyond ourselves.

So, what does all this have to do with you and me, and the lives we live here in Hopkins County? It means we have a job to do as Christians to develop some pretty long arms and do what we can to embrace everyone...regardless. It means we need to go out of our way, in practice and as examples, to try to understand and accept

others – even the others we haven't been able to understand in the past.

I have an extremely difficult time putting Jesus in the Republican or Democrat camp. Remember Joshua, as he looked out on what would be the Jericho battle (Joshua 5)? He saw a towering figure slinging a big sword. He was bold enough to ask, "Are you on our side or theirs?" And the answer? "No. I am on the Lord's side." Let's let that soak in. Then read on to see that Joshua dropped to his knees and worshiped God. (By the way, Joshua and his army defeated the enemy of Jericho...easily... without a bullet being fired... but only because they took their battle plans from God and not from those who were ready to go to war.)

Blessings,
RevLon

PALANCA PARTY—SEPTEMBER 5TH!

Our Wednesday Night Supper on September 5 will be a fundraiser for the Living Waters mission team, who will be returning to the Yucatan in October to help with the installation of a new clean water

plant. After the meal, we're hoping folks will help with the putting together of educational resources that will be taken there and distributed among the people and children of Opichen. An hour's effort

will go a long way; plus, your hands here become your help there – we all are in mission together!



“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

“WORSHIP”

The term worship is one that most of us have heard, hopefully, and a word that has significant meaning to us too. Wikipedia describes it as “the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.” Most of us may say that we spend time in worship, probably one day a week, Sunday for a about an hour to an hour and a half. And that is true but is there more to it than that?

As I prepare for a message I’m working on I’ve done a little research on the topic and using the Logos software I’ve found that early Christian worship was very similar in format to Jewish worship and early Graeco-Roman worship. There would be reading of scripture, possibly from the Torah the first 5 books of the Bible or another scripture, there would be some teaching on that scripture, prayers, singing of Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs and remembering and observing the eucharist or Lord’s supper and baptism. The difference in the early Christian church’s worship is that they no longer observed the need for animal sacrifice because Jesus had made the ultimate sacrifice that ends the need, His sacrifice

pays the full price for all sins. The early church also chose to worship on the day of Jesus’ resurrection the first day of the week which was also to remember the beginning of creation on that first day. In conclusion to the Logos notes, “The early church did not develop its worship practices in a vacuum; early Christians were influenced by traditional Jewish practices, and to a much lesser extent, Graeco-Roman practices. Nonetheless, Christian worship possessed, and still possesses, characteristics that differ significantly from Jewish or Graeco-Roman worship—specifically, the worship of Jesus.”(Benjamin Espinoza) Jesus would refer to worship in a conversation with an unlikely worshiper and a place where most Jews would argue there are none worthy of the heritage to allow them to worship. Look it up in John the 4th chapter where Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman. We are reminded in this conversation that there is more to us than just flesh and bone, we are called to worship in spirit and in truth. Each opportunity we take to step into that life giving, life shaping and life inspiring

relationship that God has offered us then we are stepping into a life of worship. Paul would inspire his readers in the Roman church to consider that there is only One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is worthy of their praise and there is no need for sacrifice other than the person’s submitting there will to God’s and receiving truth in the transforming power of the resurrection that has called us to new, born again life!

“Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2

In Christ’s Love,
Rob
Romans 12

Espinoza, B. (2016). Early Church Worship. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, . . . W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



EXPERIENCING GOD...ON PURPOSE

First Presbyterian Church

September 8, 2018 from 8:30AM to 3:30 AM

Steph and Shirley France’s journey of experiencing God on purpose began in Madisonville as they felt the support of Christ’s community during the illness and loss of their daughter, Trista. They will share that spiritual journey, plus lead everyone in music and practices for “Experiencing God...on Purpose” in your own lives. All are wel-

come! This is a day to increase your personal relationship with Jesus!

AT EXPERIENCING GOD ON PURPOSE you will:

Explore the need to live a more intentional faith.

Experience fellowship with people of faith through music and activities.

Explore spiritual practices for experiencing God’s loving presence.

REGISTRATION:

(This is an event for adults.

Childcare will not be available)

\$10/Person \$15/Couple

Lunch will be provided

Online: firstpreschurch175@gmail.com

Phone: 270-821-6420

In Person: 260 West McLaughlin Avenue, Madisonville, Kentucky

LEMON PEPPER CATFISH

I've been reading the book "The End of Me" by Kyle Idleman. In the first half he speaks about being a pharisee in these modern times, about how Pharisees love and admire themselves, and about how they buy their own hype and miss the message. The main message is we need to die to self, and live for Christ. So, I've been thinking about Pharisees, testimony, and humblebragging. It's a good book, especially pages 66&67. With these things bouncing around in my head I

went to the Western Kentucky Presbytery meeting in Mayfield last Saturday and apparently was distracted in thought. I'm not sure if it was some state of transcendentalism or the lemon pepper fried catfish, but, I got the impression that some of the attendees have failed to read the Book of John, especially Jn 6:44 and 14:6, and that some in attendance are Unitarian Universalists. When the GA eliminated the ordination barriers I sat uncomfortably by, when the GA blessed same

gender marriage I became a bit disturbed, and now I find it hard to believe that Christians think they can reason their way around the truth that Jesus is the only way to the Father and the kingdom of Heaven. When the Israelites left God behind and followed the gods of other nations, God withheld His Grace and Mercy. Could this be why our nation and the world are in such chaos, today?

On the Inside, Pete



Presbytery Meeting Report

The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its quarterly meeting on August 11 at First Church in Mayfield. Among the highlights...

* The Guatemala

Mission Trip for 2018 had to be postponed due to the volcano eruptions in the country early this year. Tentatively, a re-scheduled trip to San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala is scheduled for March 16-23,

2019. If you are interested in getting more information or possibly being a part of this mission team, you can find out more by calling Lon (270.871.0770).

* Our presbytery's diploma school has been running very well for a number of years now with many successes of great graduates, i.e. Rob Wilson, Mike Bourland, Pete Phelan, Joe Cates, and

Dale Davis. We are now about to embark on a new format which will allow all interested parties to be on-line students of Dubuque Seminary. The flexibility of scheduling classes and joining with the Seminary's already established Christian Leadership Program should make what we offer potential lay pastors and leaders even better than before.

"If you are interested in getting more information or possibly being a part of this mission team, ..."

July 2018 Finances

		YTD		
Income	\$22,781.34		YTD Income	\$176,287.49
Expense	<u>-\$28,455.58</u>		YTD Expense	<u>-\$185,311.84</u>
Net	-\$5,674.24		YTD Net	-\$9,024.35
<u>Undesignated</u>		<u>YTD Undesignated</u>		
Income	\$17,368.82		Income	\$151,389.26
Expense	<u>-\$23,253.62</u>		Expense	<u>-\$147,031.50</u>
Net	-\$5,884.40		Net	\$4,357.76
<u>Designated</u>		<u>YTD Designated</u>		
Income	\$5,412.52		Income	\$24,898.23
Expense	<u>-\$5,201.96</u>		Expense	<u>-\$38,280.34</u>



1st Jerry Klym
 2nd Jim & Ruth Hendrix (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
 17th Lottie Walker
 18th John & Erlene Ewing (A)
 David & Mary Ann Thomas (A)
 20th Amy Taylor

25th Matt & Laurie Sills (A)
 26th Tom & Judy McLean (A)
 27th Marge Wilkerson
 Susie Jackson



We're on the Web!
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September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 6PM Session Mtg 6PM Great Banquet Team Meetings	5 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 8:30 Experiencing God...On Purpose WKCC #21 →
9	10 6PM Great Banquet Team Meetings	11	12 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 BOYS YES
16 →	17 6PM Great Banquet Team Meetings (Orientation)	18	19 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 6PM Budget Committee Meeting	21	22 ← MCDC#15
23	24 6PM Great Banquet Team Meetings	25	26 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30						