



Why Do We "Go to Church"?

Have you ever asked yourself why you go to church? Is it for the fellowship? ...for the feeling of belonging somewhere? ...to learn more about Christ? ...to serve God? ...to worship the Lord? ...because God told you to go? ...or for some other reason?

I have noticed some interesting reasons that people have had for going to church in the past. My mom would make sure that we went to Sunday School every Sunday while I was growing up, but we rarely stayed for church. I asked my mom once why she kept going to Sunday School, but didn't stay for church services. The only answer I remember her giving was that she received attendance pins for Sunday School when she didn't miss a Sunday.

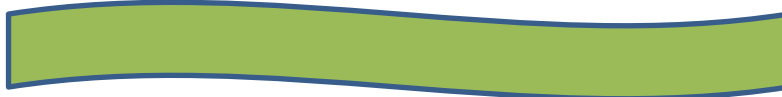
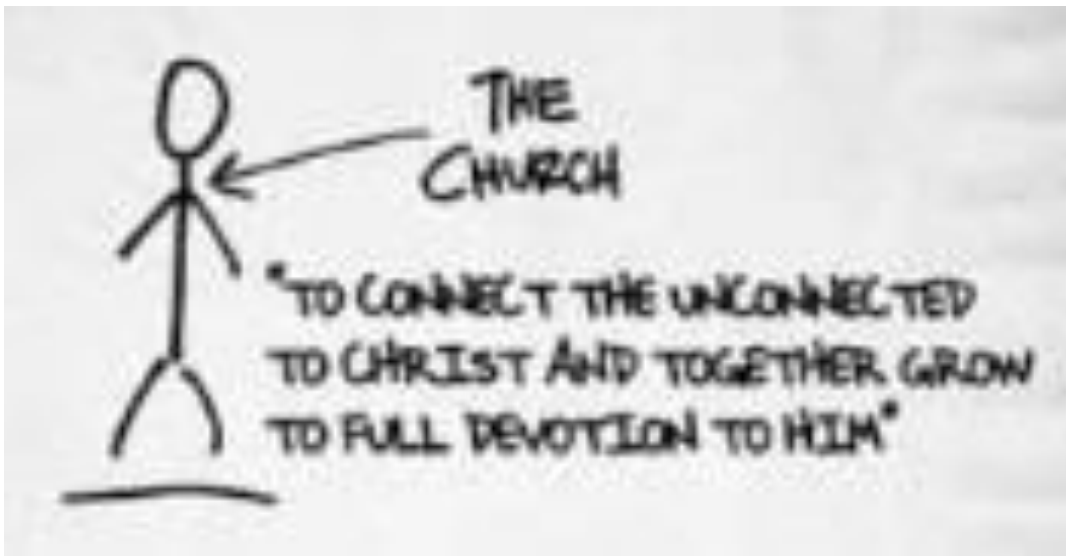
Going to church used to be a status symbol in society. People were looked up to if they belonged to a church. In fact membership in church and memberships in many other social groups were considered important. Some people have even collected church memberships. We really are only supposed to be a member of one church. If we decide to leave a church and attend another church, whether because of a residential move or any other reason, we should notify the appropriate person of both churches of our desire to change memberships. The membership of a church is a commitment to attending that church and serving in the ministry of that church. God tells us in Hebrews 10:25 to "not give up meeting together."

When I was getting old enough to decide for myself whether I was going to continue "going to church," I stayed for worship services to see what it was like. When I finished 6th grade, my parents gave me the choice of whether to attend our church. I decided to go to a few others to see what they were teaching and doing. And through that time, I wasn't always treated very nicely. I eventually decided not to go to church anymore. For several years I didn't, but finally realized that I was missing out on something very important. It just took me time to figure out what it was.

When checking on what others said about this subject I found an article that listed 100 reasons we should go to church. This is the website <https://www.questionsgod.com/church-why-go.htm> in case you are interested in reading the entire list. The reasons were all pretty good. Some caused me to chuckle. Here are 4 of the good reasons. "Being there is a sign of your discipleship. Being there will encourage your Pastors and leaders. You'll be encouraged in your walk with God. You'll likely encourage other people in their walk with God."

Going to church is always gives me a good feeling. But more than just being in the church building, it's being in the worship services; praying, singing, hearing The Word, and sharing with and hearing from others. What are your reasons for "going to church"?

Blessings,
Pastor Ruthie



Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00pm - SPPRC Consultation with the District Superintendent at our church. We are also hosting Johnson UMC SPPRC at 7:00pm and Wadsworth UMC SPPRC at 8:00pm
Sunday, October 31st at 2:00pm - Our Charge Conference at our church.



Joys

Andria B. (Hopton's granddaughter) is improving from Covid-19.

Duane H. is feeling better and is thankful for all your thoughts and prayers.

Baby, April Lynn & her mommy, Megan Birow are doing well and are home from the hospital. It's been great to have them in church!

Pastor Ruthie & Pastor Don Trigg have been able to move into their new home. Pastor Ruthie's health is still continuing to improve, & Pastor Don is enjoying his new ministry in Sterling.

Concerns

Robin K. - recovery from fall

Dave R. - recovery from fall

Scott R. - tests & upcoming procedures

Rae S. - health

Lisa A. - loss of daughter

Pam H. - health

Annibale & Mohr families - healing for Mary Lynn

Butch & Nancy Mc. - health & test results

Niles & Rita B.

Irene H. - back pain

Harry & Nancy B. - health for both

Pauline R. - health

Ron L., Pat M., & Debbie (Friends of Pam H.) - health issues

Nina (Pam H's sister-in-law Susan's mother) - comfort & peace

Our sympathy to the family & friends of:

Mark Turnbow's sister

Jane Laurila



August

1st - Sally Schwab

5th - Trevor Knapic

27th - Larissa Richards

4th - Max Ullman

25th - Elizabeth Booth



August

16th - Mickey & Joanna Shankland

17th - Barry & Shirley Youmans

Mary's Meanderings - August 2021

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." Mark 1:35-37.

Prayer, Webster's dictionary definition: words spoken to God especially in order to give thanks or ask for something. Father said a prayer and then we began to eat. She told the children to say their prayers before they went to sleep.

Very basically, prayer is talking to God. It can be done anywhere, anytime, silently or vocally, peacefully or anxiously. It is communication and just like communication with people, the more you engage in it the closer you become. Trent Bushnell has said "We don't get to know a person without spending time with him or her, sharing in conversation, activities, even conflict or difficulties. God desires the same attention we give to other important relationships in our lives. Prayer is an opportunity to express ourselves to the Creator, with whom we are building a personal relationship."

And as in any meaningful conversation there is a back and forth, talking and listening. We speak, God listens, God speaks, we listen. There is no such thing as an insignificant prayer. If it is important enough to be on our minds, it is important enough to God. And the opposite is also true, no prayer is too big for God.

The Bible in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to pray without ceasing. Pastor Rick Warren in his devotional Open Doors that I am reading daily this year says: "1. Persistent prayers focus your attention...It's to remind you that God is the source of your answer. God wants you to focus on the Blessor. 2. Persistent prayers clarify your request. God wants to answer your prayers, but He want you to be certain it's what you really want. 3. Persistent prayers test your faith. When God delays your answer, you are at a crossroad. Will you wait for God to act, or will you take it upon yourself to come up with a solution? God is always working in our hearts to be more dependent on Him."

God answers all prayers that are asked in faith and align with Scripture. We may not get the answer we hope for because God in His infinite wisdom answers our prayers in His divine love and intention for us.

Billy Graham said that "Prayer to God is like a child's conversation with his father. It is natural for a child to ask a father for the things he needs." We are to pray not only asking for ourselves but also for others.

In the month of August many teachers, parents and students are turning their attention to the beginning of a new school year. Any new season, day, decision, project or event should start with prayer. So what's holding you back? Pray a simple prayer to the God who knows and loves you. If you don't know where to begin you can pray for loved ones, for children, for parents, for our leaders, for your congregation, for the elderly, for friends, for those we dislike, for our nation, for peace, for the homeless, for the addicted, for the physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually handicapped, for the sick, for the terminally ill, for the grieving.

Here's a good one I stumbled upon: "Make my heart your dwelling place, O my Lord; give Your voice to my silence; be strength to my weakness; when I hold back from others, be my courage to meet them with love; make my selfishness generous; make me fit to serve You. Amen." Elton Wade



Fireside Chat



I'm filling in this month, because Martha has been away enjoying family time. Just a bit of info:

Regular Finances are doing well.

Also, Apportionments are being paid for in a timely manner.

It is nice to not feel rushed to get this covered!

Thank you for your giving. Keep up the good work!

Blessings,
Pastor Ruthie



Trustee's Corner



Items since last month:

East sanctuary A/C fan not working; Schar replaced capacitor, \$253.
South rear sanctuary A/C leaking, Kidron Electric replaced pump and float mechanism.

Heavy rain yielded water in church office and corner of parsonage basement, cleaned leaves and twigs clogging downspouts.

The church passed a fire inspection conducted by the Rittman Fire Department.

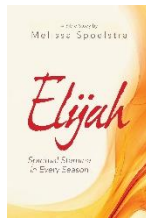
Women's Bible Study



We have some new community ladies joining us. It's always great to have more with us, and there is always room for more! Join us for a great chance to learn more about God's Word and a wonderful time of fellowship!

We meet on Thursdays with a choice of:
10:00am in person led by Pastor Ruthie,
or 6:30pm led by Sara Ullman and Betty Winchell.
Contact Pastor Ruthie or Betty, if you need books.

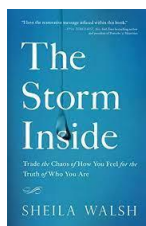
Here are the studies that are happening now and in the future:



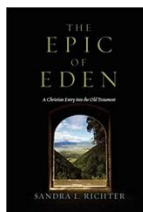
Elijah: Spiritual Stamina in Every Season by Melissa Spoelstra
Currently studying this. We are only to the 2nd week. Melissa is a wonderful, interesting teacher. You still have time to join and catch up!



Chasing Vines: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life by Beth Moore
Sept. 2nd – Oct. 21st (6 sessions)



The Storm Inside:
Trade the Chaos of How You Feel for the Truth of Who You Are
By Sheila Walsh
Nov. 3rd – Jan. 20th (8 sessions)



The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament
By Sandra L. Richter
Feb. 3rd – April 21st (12 sessions)

Consider joining the Women's Bible Study group.
It is a great opportunity to grow in your spiritual walk with the Lord, plus the fellowship.

AUGUST

The yellow goldenrod is dressed in gala-day attire;
The glowing red weed by the fence shines like a crimson fire;
And from the hot field's farthest edge, the cricket's soft refrain
with mellow accent tells the tale that August's here again.

The wild hop, from the young elm's bough, sways on the
languid breeze and here and there the autumn tints gleam
faintly through the trees.
All Nature helps to swell the song and chant the same refrain;
July and June have slipped away and August's here again.

Helen Maria Winslow



Don't Give Up!

Do you ever feel like giving up? Perhaps you're discouraged about your finances or you're facing problems with your health, your marriage, or your children. Sometimes problems seem so overwhelming that the road ahead seems too steep to climb.

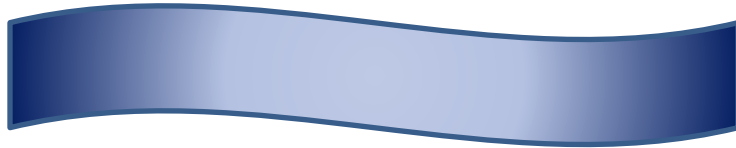
We all grow through these times. I've wanted to give up and quit many times through the years. But when I realized I had nothing interesting to go back to, I determined to keep pressing on.

Even though continuing to move forward is sometimes painful, it is far better than giving up and sliding backwards. God is doing a good work in you so He can do more for you and through you. So ask Him to fill you with holy determination today and keep moving in the right direction.

Joyce Meyer Devotions.

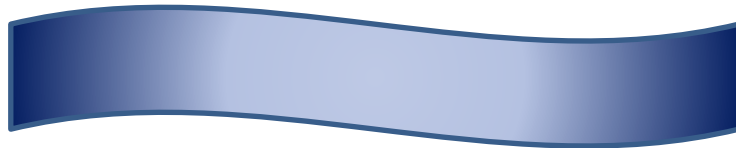


Thank you to everyone who continues to support the funding & volunteering for the food pantry. Our July Food Pantry, we had 15 families (3 new), 47 people and 22 sets of bags given out. If you hear of anyone needing food, please have them call the church office to come pick up a food supply during office hours, or they can contact Pastor Ruthie to set up a different time to pick up. Our next Food Pantry will be Wednesday, August 18th, 4 - 5:30pm. ***Starting on our September 18th, food pantry we will be having worship @ 3:30pm and Community Dinner & Food Panty @ 4 - 5:30pm.***



Beginning with the this P2P newsletter, we will be mailing the newsletters to shut-ins, those in nursing homes, and those who haven't been to worship.

If you are at the church, please pick one up in the narthex.
Thank you.



We Need Each Other

Nobody is a whole chain. Each one is a link. But take away one link and the chain is broken.

Nobody is a whole team. Each one is a player. But take away one player, and the game is forfeited.

Nobody is a whole orchestra. Each one is a musician. But take away one musician and the symphony is incomplete.

You guessed it. We need each other. You need someone and someone needs you. Isolated islands we're not.

To make this thing call life work, we gotta' lean and support. And relate and respond. And give and take. And confess and forgive. And reach out and embrace.