

From the Pastor

I am 99.5% sure we as a nation have elected a new President and Vice President: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. In today's world I cannot be 100% sure of that outcome until January 20th, the swearing-in-day ceremony of the 46th President. In the meantime, what are the 70 million conservative American voters to do? Do they simmer in anger? Do they revolt? Do they sling mud balls of negativity at the opposition? Let me give you two other options: we hope and we pray.

I have looked at the platform policies of Joe Biden. There are policies that I and the President-elect disagree on. The fact that the highest elected official in this country and a small town preacher can civilly disagree on divisive issues speaks volumes of the blessings of living in America. We have been blessed as a nation! Thank you to our veterans!

As I listened to Joe Biden's victory speech, one phrase caught my attention. "I pledge to be a president who seeks not to divide but to unify." Will Joe Biden and his team of advisors lead this country in a spirit of unity? I hope! Will his administration lead this country to be one nation **Under God**? I hope! Will Jesus return next week and set up His kingdom? At times I hope!

There is no doubt this country is in need of unity. At the same time I see the body of Christ in need of unity. Too many churches have divided. Too many churches are closing. I sense a longing from local churches for the Body of Christ to be built up. After the Last Supper, Jesus prayed for us, believers in the 21st century to be unified. **John 17:20, "My prayer is not for them, the 12 disciples, alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity."** I am hoping for this unity of the Body. I am praying along with Jesus for the unity of the Body.

Our country is in need of physical healing, of emotional healing, of social healing. May we pray along with King Solomon for America: **"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."** As a Christ-follower, with uncertainty hanging in the balance, all I can do is trust and obey.

Pastor Morgan

Church Service

We will continue to have one service at 9:30 am at least through the month of December.



Operation Shoe Boxes

This coming Sunday, November 15th is the deadline to turn in packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please place your boxes in the narthex by the display.



There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 22nd at 10:45am in the sanctuary to vote on Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses.

Birthday Celebration

A celebration is in order for the 95th birthday of John Greathouse. Please feel free to help him celebrate by text, email or mail. 217-276-8802, jgreat3100@yahoo.com, 3100 Western Ave. Mattoon.



The worship committee will be decorating the church on Monday, November 23rd at 5pm and would love any and all help.

Children's News

Our nursery, preschool and Sunday morning outlet will open during our service beginning this Sunday, November 15th. The K-5 students will exit at the front of the Sanctuary with Dolo after communion.

Pecans

Pecans are available for purchase at \$12/bag. Fresh pecans can also be ordered by filling out the form on the welcome center.

Board Splinters 11/09

Elders: calling on people and met with Central Community on November 6th. Dolo will check temperatures at the door for church and we highly recommend for people to wear masks and sanitize their hands.

Deaconesses: will order pecans.

Senior Minister: Attended a pro-life vigil with my family and our youth group at St. John's. Officiated Jeanne Siford's funeral service. Officiated the wedding of Gracie Forrest and Dalton Fairbanks. Discussed the partnering possibility with CCC at the elders meeting. Also discussed our long term vision as a church. We were challenged to think big because we serve a big God! We as a church have to consider the future generations while caring for the present. Attendance is hovering between 85 and 100.

Elementary Minister: Adventures with Dolo each Sunday at 4 pm on Facebook and making bags for jr. church kids.

Worship Leader: November 19th we will have our first training session with Paul Harshbarger as it pertains to mixing of voices. Choirs and Praise Team is doing well.

Worship: we will have 2 Christmas Eve services at 5:30 and 7:30 pm.

Outreach: we donated \$200 to Cops for Kids.

Evangelism: Debi Buford reported they assembled visitor gifts, submitted a budget, Marilyn and Debi sent postcards letting people know we miss them during Covid-19. If you know of someone who would appreciate a card let us know.

Christian Ed: the toddler and nursery will know be open.

Personnel: turned in the 2021 Office Holiday Schedule.

Trustees: trees were removed at the land. Tuckpointing is still going on. Denny Booker donated a drone. Some windows need replaced. Waiting for PP loan forgiveness.

World Outreach: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to be delivered November 22nd.

New Business: the 2021 budget was approved and discussed the possibly partnership with Central Community Church.

Saturday, November 14th

11-2 pm Coats 4 Kids Give-away

Sunday, November 15th

9:30 am Worship Service

1 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, November 16th

1:30 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, November 17th

7 am Prayer Meeting

6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, November 18th

5 pm Bells Practice

6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, November 19th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, November 22nd

9:30 am Worship Service

1 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, November 23rd

1:30 pm Staff Meeting

5 pm Decorate for Christmas

Tuesday, November 24th

7 am Prayer Meeting

6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, November 25th

Church Office Closes at Noon

No Bell or Choir Practice

Thursday, November 26th

No Praise Team Practice

Sunday, November 29th

9:30 am Worship Service

1 pm F/R Meeting

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Sympathy

Please keep Ernice Crawford and her family in your prayers in the passing of her niece, Shatia Brooks.