

From the Worship Pastor

Ah Christmas, my favorite time of the year. This time of the year I become very nostalgic remembering Christmases from long ago and how we longed to open presents on Christmas morning (at 3:00am) only to hear our parents say, "go back to bed, it's too early". As kids, we would also be involved in the Christmas program at church, re-creating the Christmas story. I remember being a shepherd one year and coming before our make-shift manger, bowing before the baby in the manger and worshipping Him. Today I ask myself, what does it mean to worship and adore? So I began my quest to find the true meaning of "worship and adore".

We were made to worship our Lord Jesus. That's why he created us, to worship Him. As one of the only art forms given to us that engages three important elements (body, soul, and spirit) we are commanded to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30). This takes work and discipline. If one part is disengaged, we are not truly worshipping. If my mouth is singing worship, but my heart is not engaged, that's not worship. If I am singing God a song of love, but my spirit is dead in unbelief, that's not worship. So worship takes effort.

In my further study of the word "worship" I found that the Greek word for worship is "proskuneo", which means "to prostrate oneself before God lying flat on one's face before the Lord" and/or "to adore". We are a country that does not do a lot of bowing. We kicked out the King of England because we did not want to bow and honor him. However, when we celebrate Christmas, we do portray and reenact the shepherds and wise men bowing before the manger. Even the 24 elders in Heaven fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever (Rev. 4:9-11). These characters in the Bible and in Heaven consider it an honor to bow before the King, because He is worthy of our praise and adornment. We pray "your kingdom come thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven". If we want his Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven, then we have to do the things they are doing in Heaven. What do you think is going to happen in Heaven when we get there? We will bow.

The word "worship" comes from an old English term "worthship" and it literally means "to give something worth value". To value something, we have to put a price on it. Christ dying on the cross for us shows us how much we are worth to God, and our worship proves how much God is worth to us.

I mentioned on the FCC Facebook page about how much God wants to have an intimate relationship with us. The greater the intimacy of our relationship with God, the more passionate our worship will be.

In the near future, I hope to offer a study on worship, what it means to worship this special child name Emmanuel, "God with us".

Please join me this Christmas, and when you see the shepherds and wise men, bowing before the Christ child, may you begin to experience an intimate worship experience with our Lord this Christmas season-humbling ourselves before the throne.

Michael Tomlinson

Church Service



We will resume our in person worship service at 9:30 am this Sunday, 12/6 through the month of December. We want to re-emphasize the need for social distancing, recommended face coverings, hand washing and remaining at home if experiencing symptoms. We ask that you might consider sitting in Campbell Hall to assist with social distancing.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve to help with the number of people in the sanctuary at one time. The services will be at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm service on Thursday, December 24th.



We extend our sympathy to the family of Gwen Watts who recently passed away. Gwen sang in the church Choir for nearly 40 years.

Kitchen Aid Pans

At County Market you can earn points to help the church get some new pots and pans when using Max Rewards. All you need to do is give them Nancy's phone number (217-258-6247) when checking out to compile all the points to Nancy's account so she can purchase some needed items for the kitchen.

- 5 Amy Maninfior
 - 8 Barbara Browning, Mike Dilley
 - 10 Marilyn Purcell
 - 12 Beverly Beeler
 - 13 Mary Guill
 - 15 Aaralynn Maninfior
 - 16 Brenda Wofford
 - 20 Max Betty, Ernice Cook-Crawford
 - 21 Marlee Brand, Gene Himes
 - 24 Gene Swearingen
 - 25 Wayne Kirby
 - 27 Donica Brand
-
- 1 Brian and Lisa Ingram
 - 7 Gene and Jeanette Swearingen
 - 14 Sid and Mary Guill
 - 17 Bill and Laurie Olson
 - 27 Jeff and Amy Maninfior
 - 28 Dave and Glenda Wright
 - Gary and Sara Gergeni
 - 31 Scott and Dolo Wishard



Thank you Notes

Thank you so much for the treats. Your special ways and generous hearts made a beautiful difference in my heart. May God's love richly bless all of you for what you do.

In Christ's Love & Prayer,
Mary Roberts

Thank you for the cards, calls and concern at this difficult time. Praise God!

John and Linda Janes

Church Life

Sunday, December 6th

9:30 am Worship Service
1 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, December 7th

5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
6 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, December 8th

7 am Prayer Meeting
6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, December 9th

5 pm Bells Practice
6 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 10th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, December 13th

9:30 am Worship Service
1 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, December 14th

6 pm Trustees' Meeting
6 pm Bible Study
7 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 15th

7 am Prayer Meeting
6 pm Bible Journaling

Wednesday, December 16th

No Bell Practice
6 pm Choir Practice



Deaconess Sign-Up

The 2021 Deaconess Sign-Up sheet to prepare communion and organize funeral dinners is on the Welcome Center or call Nancy at 258-6247 to sign-up.