

From the Worship Leader

In this letter, I am discussing two types of worship that are both forms of worship and that requires the same heart when we exercise them: our tithe and song. **Our giving is a form of worship, and it deeply shares the same components of when we sing our praises and lift our voices to our Lord.**

Last summer, while on vacation, I attended a church where they didn't collect the offering. They had wooden boxes near the exits at the back of the worship center; placed in inconspicuous spots, much like how we are doing it now here at FCC. It provided a worship service that did not make guests or members uncomfortable with the feeling of obligation when the offering plate was passed by.

I once heard a sermon regarding where our mindset should be when we do give. One thing from the sermon that stuck in my mind was that we should give willingly and not grudgingly. **In Exodus 25:2, it says, "Tell the children of Israel to bring Me an offering. From every man who gives willingly with the heart you shall receive My offering."** Our Heavenly Father has His own way of doing things. Anything that is not offered freely to God is not received. He wants only the heartfelt and genuine praises of His People. **He wants only affection that is freely given, gifts that are given joyfully, and hearts that are given willingly.** Jesus won't accept a gift that is grudgingly given, and that includes our hearts as well.

God doesn't just want to challenge our thinking. He also want to move our emotions. Our God is an emotional God, he is not stoic. He not only wants your heart, but He wants to know it, feel it, and embrace it. He wants an intimate relationship with your heart. **Exodus 35:21 says, "Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord."**

Jesus was human and experienced human emotions just like you and I experience. He even asked God to take this cup from Him while He was in the garden. An angel appeared before Him to give Him comfort, but still our Lord prayed even more intensely that the sweat on Him was like drops of blood. Jesus dying on the cross was more than just physical. Jesus' heart was broken in order to redeem our hearts, our emotions, and our affections.

He came to win our hearts. Jesus proved this by first giving us His heart on the cross and also giving His greatest and first command "to love the Lord your God with all your heart." (Matthew 22:27) What I am trying to say is that if God can win your heart, then He wins the whole person, and if worship is not from the heart, it isn't worship at all. **True worship comes from the heart, whether it be giving of our tithe or lifting our voices to Him in praise.**

Sometimes it takes effort to prepare our hearts for worship. Take time on Sunday morning next week, before you get in your car; put on some worship music and/or read your Bible or just be in prayer with Him. Let it be just you and our Lord—a quiet moment to ponder and think about His love for you. **Then come Sunday to worship our Lord through our giving, and our songs, and have a heart of worship.** I will be praying for you as I always do.

Michael Tomlinson

Bible Journaling

The Bible Journaling Small Group will meet on Tuesday, July 21st at 6 pm. After the 21st the group will resume weekly meetings starting August 4th.



Soil & Soul Garden

The plants have been planted at the church land. If anyone wants to help weed, water, and help with harvest please call the church at 234-2928. Thank you.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Lois Carlyle (92) who passed away July 1st. We also extend our sympathy to Cheryl Ballinger and her family on the passing of her dad, Aubrey Storm (92), on July 4th. Please keep these families in your prayers.



- 1 Keith Summers, Kathy Randolph
 - 2 Joy Eident
 - 5 Kelly Morgan, Martha Nale, Bill Olson
 - 6 Gary Olson
 - 7 Sarah Goings
 - 10 Elleree VanDeventer
 - 11 Machel Morgan, Shelly Scott, Miles Clapp
 - 13 Phil Purcell, Carol Wilson
 - 14 Steve Huckaba, Steve Morgan
 - 16 Stephanie Anderson
 - 17 Saylor Morgan
 - 18 Allison Rosine
 - 20 Randy Albin, Nancy Huckaba
 - 24 Cora Ruth Turner, Jan Booker
 - 25 Linda Dilley, Marcella Cardinal
 - 26 Ron Hatfield, Scott Wishard
 - 30 Vera Tooley
 - 31 Tammy Rentschler
-
- 1 Kenny and Mary Logan
 - 11 Jack and Sandy Herren
 - 16 Steve and Nancy Huckaba
 - 18 Steve and Raelyne Lane,
Ernie and Marlene Webb
 - 21 Mike and Linda Dilley
 - 25 Gordon and Judy Smith
 - 28 Gary and Marcella Cardinal





Building Fund balance:
\$420,122.50

Church Life

- Sunday, July 12th**
9:30 am Worship Service
- Monday, July 13th**
10 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
6 pm Trustees' Meeting
7 pm Board Meeting
- Tuesday, July 14th**
7 am Prayer Meeting
- Thursday, July 16th**
6 pm Praise Team Practice
- Sunday, July 19th**
9:30 am Worship Service
- Monday, July 20th**
10 am Staff Meeting
- Tuesday, July 21st**
7 am Prayer Meeting
6 pm Bible Journaling
- Thursday, July 23rd**
6 pm Praise Team Practice
- Sunday, July 26th**
9:30 am Worship Service
- Tuesday, July 28th**
7 am Prayer Meeting
NO Bible Journaling
- Thursday, July 30th**
6 pm Praise Team Practice



Church Attendance

June 28th: 107
July 5th: 101

We have cookbooks available for \$8 and pecans for \$12 per bag. Nancy will deliver the goodies if you contact her at 258 -6247 or email her at: nhuckaba@consolidated.net