

From the Pastor

Perseverance: a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. Charles Spurgeon once jokingly wrote: "It was perseverance that got the snails into the ark!" I wonder how long it took Noah to pick up those slimy creatures and finally close the door of the ark. Let me share a story of perseverance.

20 years ago, Charles Schulz and the comic strip, *Peanuts*, died. At that time Schulz's comics appeared in 2600 newspapers worldwide, earning \$1 billion a year. During my childhood in Mattoon, my reading of the Journal Gazette consisted of the sports page and the comic page. Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, and Snoopy were never overlooked. At times I wonder if a required reading of *Peanuts* might benefit our young students. Nothing wrong with clean humor, integrity, honesty, and kindness being taught to our young ones!

In high school, Charles Schulz was a lowly student who hoped his gangly cartoons would be printed in the 1940 senior yearbook. The yearbook went to press without his drawings. He honed his drawing skills thru a correspondence school. In the class section entitled "the drawing of children", he received a C grade. Was he discouraged? Yes. Yet this young fledgling artist was determined to achieve his goal. Determination and perseverance made Charles Schulz the most widely syndicated cartoonist in the world. Perseverance pays off!

Right now we are in a season where perseverance is in desperate need. The virus has created difficulties: it is difficult to experience pure social interaction, it is difficult for our kids to enjoy a "normal" school year, it is difficult for some businesses to survive, it has become difficult to worship as a body of believers. How are you doing in this season of perseverance?

Paul spoke of perseverance. **Philippians 3:12-14**, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As a Christ-follower, what is your goal? What are you trying to achieve? For me it is simply to know Christ and to make

Him known. Is my relationship with God perfect? Have I arrived? No! Am I the perfect witness? No! But I choose to press on, to suck it up, to keep moving spiritually. There are 2 other options: to stand still in the mire and muck or to return from whence you came. For Paul, there was only one option, to press on. No matter the circumstances or difficulties, and he had many, turning back or sitting still was not an option.

During this pandemic, how is your walk with God? Are you still in a spirit of worship? We were created for worship! Your enemy the devil would love for you to sit still or take a vacation spiritually. He is using this pandemic to the best of his ability to stifle your spiritual growth. Don't let him! Resist him and he will flee! Brace yourself. Stand firm. Persevere until the end. Press on. Jesus laid hold of you. Don't let go of Jesus!

Pastor Morgan

Church Service

We will continue to have one service at 9:30 am at least through the month of September. You can attend church (bring your own mask), watch the service on *Facebook* or go to our website: www.mattoonfcc.com and click on *Live Stream*.



Rural King Gives Back

Rural King believes Christian values are at the center of our communities. By following the example and teachings of Jesus, churches truly make a difference. So, Rural King has set-up Church Week. If you drop off your RK receipt dated from August 2nd to the 15th in the church offering box or the church mail box by August 23rd Rural King will donate 10% of all the receipts to the church.

Ways you can SERVE

- Looking for a Lead Guitar Player
- Looking for someone to run the camcorder for the service
- Looking for someone to help with the Live Streaming

Email Michael at michaelfcc@mycci.net if interested in one of the listed opportunities.

Thank You Note

We want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and acts of kindness during the loss of our loved one, Aubrey Storm.

Cheryl, Steve and Lisa Ballinger

1	Dolo Wishard
3	Gabe Leach
4	Russell Camfield, Judy Hatfield
6	Dawn Albin, Carroll Gibbons
7	Kara Brand
8	Kaylyn Armer, Michael Tomlinson
9	Jim Long
12	Cindy Temple
18	Dave Wright
19	Mike Brand
23	Sid Guill
24	Logan Maninfor
28	Richard Eident, Sara Gergeni, Jenny Gergeni
29	Gabe Freeman
30	Marianna Hayes
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2	Don and Kathleen Inman
	Colin and Caley Vandeventer
6	Jason and Michelle Mathews
7	Dennis and Terri Goings
10	Matt and Stephanie Anderson
	Wayne and Sharolyn Kirby
11	Jack and Sandy Herren



Please keep Kristen O'Dell and her family in your prayers on the passing of her dad, Wayne Gage, on July 27th.

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Church Life

Sunday, August 9th

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, August 10th

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 11th

7 am Prayer Meeting

6 pm Bible Journaling

Thursday, August 13th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, August 16th

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, August 17th

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 18th

7 am Prayer Meeting

6 pm Bible Journaling

Thursday, August 20th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, August 23rd

9:30 am Worship Service

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Sunday, August 30th will be Mission Sunday. Jason and Michelle Mathews will share their stories from Honduras.

Church Attendance

July 26th: 100

August 2nd: 95

Phone: 234-2928
Email address: fchurch@consolidated.net
Website: www.mattoontcc.com

Senior Pastor: Steve Morgan

Return Service Requested

1600 WABASH AVE
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