

December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
2	Al Olguin		
5	Gabriel Davis		
5	Judy Taylor		
13	Larry Fulton		
14	Cybil Atha		
23	Teclia Cunningham		
25	Linda Beek		

December 24, 2023		
Greeters:	Larry Fulton	Ken Davis
Announcements:	Len Gates	
Song Leader:	Kelly Beek	
Opening Prayer:	Joe Autry	
Closing Prayer:	Ian Stewart	
Lord's Table:	Terry Reader	Larry Fulton
	Ken Davis	Kelly Beek
Coordinator:	Stacey Moss	



When you visit us... December 17, 2023

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Pulpit Minister—Stanten Sikes
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Sunday	Wednesday
10:00 amBible Class	7:00 pm.....Devotional
11:00 am.....Assembly	or Bible Class
Noon.....Fellowship Meal	
1:30 pm.....Devotional	

Mission Work Areas

Quito, Ecuador
Mazatlán, Mexico
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

New Prayer Requests

Austin Petty (Zirkle's grandson) – Still struggling with the cancer. He won't be able to continue chemo therapy and they are looking at targeted radiation for his continued treatment. It is a difficult journey for him and his family. Please continue to keep him and the family in your prayers.
Dan Greene – knee replacement surgery went well. Please keep him in your prayers for a good, quick recovery.
Rex Nowell (Margie's son) – ended up in the hospital in Idaho due to an infection that turned septic. Made it home and is doing ok. He will have a follow up with his home doctor. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Long Term Prayer List

Ron Hansen	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Beth Pedrie
Marilyn Bartlow	Norma Bartlow
Joan Lawrence	Melissa Wagle (cancer)
Dr. Dick Burt (Margo's Brother)	Betty & Danny Sidebottom
Austin Petty (Zirkle's Grandson) - cancer	Dick McClain (friend of Readers) – lung cancer – some new spots
Crystal & JJ Autry and family	Randy Stewart - Cancer
Diane Spomer – Cancer	Jane Webb (friend of Debbie) - cancer
Dewell Hardesty (Linda R's Brother) – Heart issues	

Elders

Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

Deacons

Stacey Moss (719) 207-0588
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856
Larry Fulton (719) 398-9987
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 tldr1960@yahoo.com
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 lnreader@q.com

Surpassing Knowledge

Eric Hamilton

In **Job 11:7**, a rhetorical question is asked: “Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?” It is both a statement of sober realization that as humans we will never fully understand God, and also a statement of just how magnificent and glorious God is. The thought is continued in **verses 8-9**: “It is higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.” God is simply too complex for us to fully wrap our minds around, and anything we might compare God to is insignificant in comparison.

In the ancient letter commonly called First Clement, written by a bishop of Rome in the early second century, I was struck by a statement Clement made as he was describing in his own words the extent of God’s power. He said: “The heavens, being put in motion by his appointment, are subject to him in peace; night and day accomplish the course ordered by him, in nothing hindering one another...The unsearchable things of the abyss, and the secret ordinances of the lower parts of the earth, are held together by the same command...The ocean, impassable to men, and the worlds that are beyond it, are governed by the same commandments of their Master...All these things the great Maker and Master of all things hath appointed to be in peace and harmony, doing good unto all things, but more especially unto us, who have fled for refuge to his mercies, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and majesty for ever and ever. Amen.” (First Clement 20.1-2, 5, 8, 11-12, emphasis added)

What struck me was that we live beyond “the ocean impassable to men” as Clement understood the world. Our everyday life, what is ordinary for us, life on the American continent, was “the worlds that are beyond” to Clement of Rome. For Clement, the impassable seas were a physical statement of God’s power and unknowable-ness. He had no idea what if anything might lay beyond the ocean impassable. For us, it’s just where we live, mundane and normal. What once was unknowable and mysterious is now commonplace humdrum. Does that mean that because we have explored and learned more about the world in the 1900 years since Clement that God has lost his mystery?

A more contemporary author referred to images of galaxies captured by satellite telescopes. “When I first saw those images, I had to worship... I just wanted to sit quietly and admire the Creator. It’s wild to think that most of these galaxies have been discovered only in

the past few years, thanks to the Hubble telescope. They’ve been in the universe for thousands of years without humans even knowing about them.” (Francis Chan, Crazy Love pg. 26)

It’s amazing to me that a writer from California, a land that was only in the wildest imagination of a Roman 1900 years ago, can still find things in this universe to be amazed in, and find the unmistakable, inexpressible glory of the Creator. The more we learn about this wonderful universe that God created, the more we discover, and the more we come to understand, we also find that there is even more that we do not know. Every generation that explores more of God’s creation, only finds more to praise God for. The discovery of more of this world does not diminish God, in fact, it does the opposite.

David wrote about this phenomenon in one of his psalms: “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.” (Psalm 139:6-10)

The more we discover of this universe that God created, the more we discover just how awesome and majestic our God is. Not only that, we discover the lovingkindness and mercy of God. Though his presence is exceedingly great, his love is greater still.

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **from** whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Should our descendants discover extraordinary things about this world far into the future, should they set foot on planets we can only see dimly through telescopes, should they live with extraordinary technology that to us would be science fiction, but to them is just prosaic, the love of Christ will be greater still. And through the love of Christ we (and our descendants far into the future as God may ordain) may be filled with all the fullness of God. And the fullness of God, as we have seen, is very *full* indeed.

An Evening with Santa



We invite you to stay for our **Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional!**
We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
1 st Wednesday Singing	January 3 – 7:00 PM