

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 31, 2023		
Greeters:	Larry Fulton	Ken Davis
Announcements:	Len Gates	
Song Leader:	Dan Greene	
Opening Prayer:	Kelly Beek	
Closing Prayer:	Terry Reader	
Lord's Table:	Terry Reader	Larry Fulton
	Ken Davis	Kelly Beek
Coordinator:	Stacey Moss	



When you visit us... December 24, 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) – Had a fall/seizure and passed out on Wednesday. They did an MRI and found multiple tumors in his brain. They are going to try radiation and chemo, to stop any growth. 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 lntrader@q.com

How's Your Faith

Terry Reader

God tells us that we must have faith and believe in Him if we expect to enter into His presence. But when we consider that, what does it mean to us. I remember a time when people asked me to explain the concept of faith to them and it was something that was hard to explain. Of course, one of my "go to" scriptures was *Hebrews 11:1 – Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* As I read this and tried to explain it, it helped me understand, but I'm not sure how well it helped others. You see, I like the idea that there are things out there that God has promised and I can be sure that they are true. But, it still makes faith sound a little "mystical" for some people. So, I think it might be better to look at some examples of faith.

Later in this same chapter of Hebrews, we find examples of those that practiced acts of faith. Let's consider people like Abraham who was willing to offer his son, Isaac, on an altar as a sacrifice, because it was what God told him to do. Or how about Noah, who built the ark with no evidence of the flooding that God spoke of – not even rain. What about the children of Israel, who followed Moses into the midst of the Red Sea in order to escape the Egyptians because Moses assured them that God would protect and deliver them. All of these people are identified as those who acted on faith in God without any "proof" that He would do as He promised.

If we share these examples with people, will it help them to have a better grasp of faith? I think that in some cases, it can, but in others, they still need more to help them gain that understanding. As I've "grown" in my faith, I look to other examples, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Think about the faith that they had when they told Nebuchadnezzar they would not bow to him but would continue to follow their God. In *Daniel 3:16-18; 28 – "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."* ²⁸*Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.* To me, this is an amazing example of a true faith in God. Even as these three faced certain death, they refused to bow down to the king and forsake the one, true God. Even Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the power of the God of Israel. But still, what is this faith and where does it come from?

Let's look at a "non-biblical" explanation of faith? If we look to a dictionary definition of faith, we find the following – *something that is believed especially with strong conviction; allegiance to duty or a person; firm belief in something for which there is no proof (Webster's Online Dictionary).* These definitions don't really provide any more clarity than what we find in *Hebrews*, so let me give it a shot using my own words and another example.

I think that maybe faith is a belief in something that we might not be able to see, but we are still sure of it. We have developed the belief in our own mind based on things that we have experienced, what we've seen in our own lives, what we've studied and compared to the reality that we see. Through life experiences, we become certain of the thing in which we believe, even if it is not completely evident. So what might this look like? How can we show an example of faith?

Back in the 1980's, the football team at our kids' school had won a total of 69 games in a row. In fact, they had not lost a game in seven seasons. The only reason they didn't claim wins for all of those games was because of a tie in the state championship game the year before the winning streak began. Because of what this team had done for so many years, we had developed a "faith" that the team would win every Friday night. Based on our experience, we were sure that they couldn't be beat. This faith in the team continued for much of the time our kids attended school there, yet there was never a guarantee that they would win on Friday. In fact, on October 28, 1990, the team did lose and the streak ended. But for so many years, there was a faith that the team would win.

So, how does this demonstrate faith? It was *an assurance of things hoped for and an evidence of things unseen.* There was a faith that the team would win even though, as the saying goes, 'the proof is in the pudding.' As we compare this faith to our faith in God, it cannot even come close. Our faith in God, is not based on a few football seasons, but on ages and ages of God showing His strength and faithfulness to do what He has promised. In every example, God has shown His trustworthiness to us.

Just consider what Jesus – God in the Flesh – told us in *John 14:1-4 – "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."*

He has made a promise to us and we can be assured that His promise is true. If not, He would have told us. Do you have faith, like those of old, to trust in His promises?

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