

| July Birthdays |               | July Anniversaries |  |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 14             | Gene Petersen |                    |  |
| 26             | Shea Moss     |                    |  |
|                |               |                    |  |
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| July 12, 2026   |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Greeters:       | Len Gates       | Terry Reader  |
| Announcements:  | Kelly Beek      |               |
| Song Leader:    | Paul Cunningham |               |
| Opening Prayer: | Terry Reader    |               |
| Closing Prayer: | Stacey Moss     |               |
| Lord's Table:   | Ken Davis       | Terry Reader  |
|                 | Lincoln Gates   | Gene Petersen |
| Coordinator:    | Jim Richards    |               |



**When you visit us...** July 5 2026

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.

Minister of the Word – Steve Byrne  
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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>            | <b>Wednesday</b>       |
| 10:00 am ....Bible 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

**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  
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

**New Prayer Requests**

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| Stanten Sikes – has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. PET scan shows that cancer has spread into bone, spine and some lymph nodes. He will be meeting with an oncologist to determine treatment. Please keep him and Colleen in your prayers. |
| Terry Reader – will have a prostate surgery on July 7. Please keep him and Linda in your prayers   |
| Don Cox – back problems. Saw the doctor here in Colorado and has decided to wait until they go back to Amarillo for surgery. Please keep him and Glenda in your prayers.   |
| Melissa Waigle (Fulton's daughter) – her cancer has reoccurred. Not sure what is to come yet. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.  |
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**Long Term Prayer List**

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| Stanten Sikes                                 | Richard Pedrie   |
| Linda & Ian Stewart                           | Greg Pyle  |
| Gary Stewart                                  | Linda Reader – cancer follow-ups   |
| Marilyn Bartlow                               | Betty & Danny Sidebottom   |
| Marian Like                                   | Linda Beek – hip & back problems   |
| Patricia Bulmer (Scott's mom)                 | Teresa & John Grady – various issues   |
| Kelly Mortensen (Toni G's dad)– kidney cancer | Lola Gates (Len's mom) – recovering from her fall – will likely have surgery |
|   |  |
|   |  |

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

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 [tdr1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tdr1960@yahoo.com)
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 [lntrader@myct1.net](mailto:lntrader@myct1.net)

## The Kingdom You Were Made For: Finding Our Way Back Home

Dillon Sluss

There is a feeling that shows up at odd moments. At the end of a vacation that was genuinely good, on the drive home. After a meal with people you love, when the table is being cleared. Sometimes in the middle of something enjoyable, not at the end of it. A low-grade ache, hard to name, that the moment is not quite enough. That something is still missing. C.S. Lewis wrote about it. Augustine wrote about it. Most people feel it and assume something is wrong with them.

Nothing is wrong with you. You are homesick for a place you have never been.

Genesis 1 and 2 are not just a creation story. They are a kingdom story. The language scattered through those chapters would have been immediately recognizable to an ancient reader. God creates a garden and places his image-bearer in it with a mandate: be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it ([Genesis 1:28](#)). In the ancient Near East, when a king conquered territory, he would place an image of himself in the land as a declaration of his reign. God does something similar, except the image is not stone. It is a person. Adam is placed in the garden as God's vice-regent, to extend the order and beauty of Eden outward into a wild world.

The garden itself functions as a temple. The imagery of cherubim, the presence of God walking in the cool of the day, the tree of life at the center, all of it maps directly onto the architecture of the tabernacle and later the temple. Eden is the original place where heaven and earth overlap. Where the reign of God is visible and uncontested. It is the kingdom in its original form.

The fall in Genesis 3 is, among other things, a kingdom coup. The serpent does not tempt Eve with something obviously evil. He offers her a share in divine knowledge, the ability to decide for herself what is good and evil, independence from the reign of another. It is the same offer Israel takes God up on in 1 Samuel 8. We would prefer to be our own kings, thank you. The result is exile. Not just from the garden, but from the kind of life the garden represented. The overlap between heaven and earth is interrupted. The reign of God is contested.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" — [Matthew 5:6](#).

When Jesus sits down on the hillside in Matthew 5, he is describing people who feel that exile. The mourning of verse 4 is not generic sadness. The hunger and thirst for righteousness in verse 6 is the hunger of people who remember, dimly, that the world was supposed to be otherwise. The

meek in verse 5 are not passive. Meekness in the ancient world was controlled strength, power held in check, the opposite of the grasping that got Eden lost in the first place.

The Beatitudes are not a self-improvement list. They are a portrait of Eden-shaped people trying to live in an exile world. When He talks about "mourning," He's talking about the gut-wrenching realization that the world is fractured. "Hungering for righteousness" is the desperate longing of someone who knows the current system is a glitch in the original design. These aren't moral to-do lists; they are a portrait of people who remember Eden while living in a broken world. They refuse to settle for the status quo because they've seen a vision of what should be.

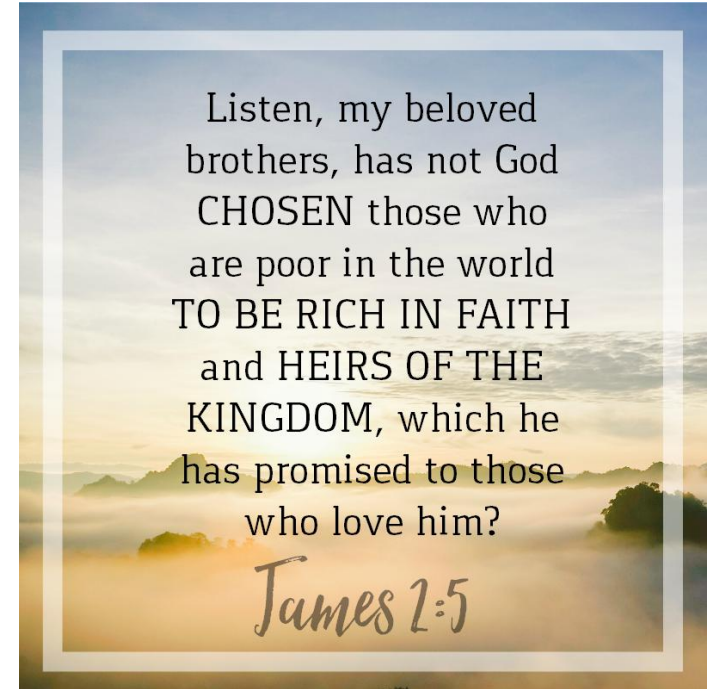
The Hebrew word for that original mandate, *tselem*, the image of God, carries the idea of representation and resemblance. To bear the image of God is to make God visible in a place he is not yet fully seen. That mandate was not revoked at the fall. It was complicated. And the whole sweep of Scripture from Genesis 3 onward is the story of God working to restore people capable of bearing it again.

The ache you feel is not a malfunction. It is a memory. It is the soul recognizing that it was made for a kind of life that exile does not offer. Eden is not just behind us. According to Revelation 21 and 22, it is ahead of us, expanded to fill the whole earth, the way God always intended.

To seek the kingdom is to live now as a citizen of a world that is coming. To hunger and thirst for the way things are supposed to be, and to let that hunger shape the way you act, give, love, and resist. The ache is pointing somewhere. Follow it.

### Deuteronomy 28:1; 10

<sup>1</sup> "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth... <sup>10</sup> "So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you."



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        |
| Singing Night                                 | July 1                     |
| Ladies Bible Study                            | July 3 – 11:00 AM          |
| July 4 <sup>th</sup> - Fire & Ice Celebration | Saturday, July 4 – 6:00 PM |
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|   |                            |