



The Gathering

"My dear friends, we always have a good reason to thank God for you, because your faith in God and your love for each other keeps growing all the time." Thessalonians 2: 1-3).

June, 2024

Finding Peace

We read in Mark 6: verses 30-32

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

When the disciples had returned from their mission, Jesus took them away to rest. Doing God's work is very important, but Jesus recognized that to do it effectively we need periodic rest and renewal. In several places in the Gospels we read where Jesus sought out quiet places to rest and pray; most prominently on the night he was to be betrayed He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

In Isaiah 26: verse 3 "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." We can never avoid strife in the world around us but with God we can know perfect peace even in turmoil. When we take ourselves away from the hustle and bustle and we read His word and pray we calm our minds and draw near to God and God draws near to us. "...I in you and you in me...says John 17:23.

In Philippians 4 starting in verse 6 we read...

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Do you want peace? Keep your thoughts on and your trust in God.

This is our last Gathering until September. We are taking two months to rest and regroup. That being said; you all will be in our thoughts and prayers throughout the summer. We will be looking forward to putting out a Gathering again in the Fall.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Amen



Take My Hand Precious Lord by Thomas A. Dorsey

Precious Lord, take my hand Lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak,
I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, When my life is almost
gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall: Take my hand,
precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears And the night draws near, And the day is past
and gone, At the river I stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand: Take my hand,
precious Lord, lead me home.



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Liz's Corner!

by Liz Ferguson

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

June is finally here! Hopefully you are getting the chance to enjoy the extended hours of God's evening light. What a blessing this light brings to our lives. It warms and cheers and gives us extra safety as we navigate the garden after supper to experience that one last burst of sunset through the trees. God's handiwork is everywhere we look. For this time of sowing and planting and watching the farm fields green up with crops; for the fishing boats making their time honoured trips to the deep for food and survival; for these miracles and so many more, Oh God, we give thanks. You are our light and life. Hallelujah!

Last month we celebrated 177 years of worshiping God and serving our community at our beloved Zion church. During my years at Zion I remember, in particular, the following ministers: Rev. Dr. Donald A. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Gordon Matheson, Rev. Bill Dean, and Rev. Dr. Douglas Rollwage. These devoted and gifted Christian leaders served up the treasures of faith to this starving soul every Sunday year after year. I thank God for their service to me and to everyone who were touched by the Holy Spirit through their work. I'm thankful for all the memories that make our life at Zion special. I know it is a wonderful future the Lord has in store for our dear Rev. Will as he follows his own destiny. Such a blessing he will be to his new church!

We welcome this month the Rev. Alison MacLeod and the Rev. Kirk MacLeod to our Zion family. As God's plan unfolds for us with the Rev. MacLeods at the helm, I know the people of Zion will be blessed beyond measure. With His help, we are given the strength to use the power of words to influence those around us for the better. Romans 10:15 - 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace with God and bring glad tidings of good things. In other words, how welcome are those who come preaching God's Good News!' As God guides us, being light in the world is a group effort. We are not alone. The work of the church requires all our God given gifts. Ephesians 5:19,20 - 'Talk with each other much about the Lord, quoting psalms and hymns and singing sacred songs, making music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Summer is before us. Keep the faith my dear friends. Pray unceasingly for our church family and look forward to Christ's return. James encouraged believers in Jesus not to abandon Him while they were waiting for His second coming. James 5:7- 'Now as for you, dear brothers who are waiting for the Lord's return, be patient, like a farmer who waits until the autumn for his precious harvest to ripen.' Jesus, we wait for You. Though the world is often dark and filled with pain, suffering, injustice, and uncertainty, we wait for You. Though we don't know the day or the time, we will wait for you.

Philippians 4:6,7 - Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.' Thanks be to God for His tender mercies each hour, each day. My friends, look after each other and be kind!

Shalom and Godspeed!

John's Thoughts

On the Fence

I was reading in Leviticus chapter 11:2,3. "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Say to the Israelites: 'of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: you may eat any animal that has a split hoof completely divided and that chews the cud.'" And the chapter goes on to list what is clean and what is unclean, and ends with verse 46, 47. "These are the regulations concerning animals, birds, every living thing that moves about on the ground. You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between living creatures that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten. "

And I wondered why, what is the Lord trying to tell me in this message?

Well, not being a scholar at anything, let alone the old testament, I was trying to find some meaning of this for my life, and the following is what I concluded: In our everyday lives, we are often torn between what is absolutely right, and what is absolutely wrong, and so we end up walking the fine line between right and wrong in an attempt to rationalize our position, so we can feel good about our decision or way of life.

I wonder if, among other reasonings, this message may be leading us to God's guidance in the year 2024, to be cautious about rationalizing our decisions, so that we don't walk the fine line of temptation in an effort to satisfy our own desire, especially when that desire is close to making a wrong decision. Often, we may be satisfying our own desires by telling ourselves that it is ok, simply because it seems normal to other people.

Well, in reality, the decision should be absolutely right, or absolutely wrong, no grey area, no "sitting on the fence", or rationalization in an attempt to justify the questionable decision.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves the question, "is this decision, or the way that I live my day, or my life, drawing me closer to God, or is it moving me further away from God?" Do I rationalize my decisions to make it right with me, or to do what my heart tells me to do according to the will of the Lord?

Do we sometimes try to walk too close to the line that separates right from wrong when we should clearly stay a good distance away from that line of temptation?

Well, thank God that He knows our hearts and minds, and sent His Son to fix up the gaps in our lives where we fall short. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. He has already forgiven our wrong decision when he proclaimed "it is finished", so we should trust in His mercy. So, the message may be: pay attention to the line between right and wrong, the clean and the unclean, and keep a larger gap between the two. If it has split hoof and chews the cud it is ok. If it only has split hoof and doesn't chew the cud, it is not ok. If it does not have split hoof, but chews the cud, it is not ok. It must have both to be ok. No rationalization allowed. Distinguish between the two.

Thanks be to God.

MacDougall's Pics



The Congregation of Zion Presbyterian Church marked its 177th anniversary at its Sunday morning service on April 26. Prior to the service, Rev. William Henbest held the anniversary cake with help from Maizie Wakelin, left, and Emma Stetson. There were no post service photos of the cake as it quickly disappeared!

A word from Evan

“Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

- Luke 12:27 KJV

Consider the lilies.

Or, if you would, consider the hostas that conquered our flower bed and spread into the lawn. Though they grow gorgeous flowers that Solomon’s raiment could not rival, they left little room in the flower bed for the autumn joy, peonies, and tiger lilies.

In the fall of last year, I went out with a shovel and my boots to prune the hostas back and tame their wild growth: slicing and severing roots, digging eight inches deep to turn over the soil, and cutting back the edge of the bed to stop their outward spread. The flowers didn’t give up easily though; they were already sending up green shoots as soon as the snow melted. I went after the hostas again this spring with the same tools. Out came the excess hostas, out came the surrounding soil, in went fresh soil with no root remnants of any kind, in went autumn joys to fill the empty spaces.

We find a great many references to those who plant and their plants in the Bible, exemplified in passages like the Parable of the Sower. One of my favourites comes from Paul’s first letter to the faithful in Corinth, where Paul writes of our God through whom all things are made possible.

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”

- I Corinthians 3: 6-9 KJV

The plants in the flower bed are not young plants. They’ve been in front of my family home longer than I’ve been alive, and were grown from cuttings gifted from the garden of my mother’s parents. I know them much the same as I’ve known our faith and church: a beautiful gift I was given at birth, first planted and cared for by loved ones who’ve gone before us. What a joy it has been to celebrate the 177th anniversary of our congregation with you! What great thanks we owe to those who, in their love of Jesus our sure foundation, laid the foundations for our happiness.

“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

- I Corinthians 3: 10-11 KJV

The flower bed will be beautiful this year, but I could very well be out digging again next spring, finding a fresh host of hostas overtaking the autumn joy, peonies, and tiger lilies. In the same way, our mission to know Christ and to make Him known never ends; It is a joy and privilege to walk in and tend the garden of our forebears in the faith.

Around the Church

Bible Study -Monday nights at 6pm and the daytime study is on Thursday at 10 a.m. It is never too late to begin to attend. For the next several weeks we will be studying and amplifying the little green book entitled "Living Faith" which is a statement of Christian Belief. Rev. Will will be guiding us through the book. So if you have questions, comments, or just "want to knows" Monday night at 6p.m. in the Mathson Hall at Zion is the place to be!

Young Adults meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Come and bring a friend!!

Prayer Group -An opportunity to fulfill Jesus' call to gather together in prayer for our church and world is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. This is a new group that has just recently been formed. Prayer is the bedrock upon which all churches stand. The world, our country, our province, our town and indeed our church and all who attend needs our prayers. We welcome anyone who wishes to come and join in this very important aspect of church life. Should you desire prayer or know of someone who needs prayer please let us know by calling the church office or Rev. Will.. All requests are kept confidential. We have just been "gifted" a Prayer Request Box! This box has been placed at the back of the church for those who wish to write a prayer request that they would like those assembled on Tuesday mornings to pray about. These requests may be signed or may be anonymous, God knows who you are. He knows our needs before we even speak them!! A pad of paper with a pen will be beside the box but you may wish to write the request at home and just bring it in and put it in the box. Any way is fine.

Please check the calendar at the back of the Gathering for the events taking place this month. Should you wish to request a visit from the Minister, an elder or a member of the Pastoral team, you may call the church office at 902-566-5363

HERE COMES SUMMER! This is our last Gathering until September. It is important to recognize those who have given their time and talent throughout the year to the Gathering - First and foremost Kevin McRae whose name never appears anywhere in these pages but without his contribution the Gathering would never reach our readers. The commitment and faith filled contributions of Elizabeth Ferguson, John Farquharson, Gary MacDougall and just this month Evan Heckbert (our newest addition), Will Henbest (who we will try really hard not to miss terribly), Faye Barrett(with her word puzzles) and our young artists (from time to time)...What a joy it has been to work with such talented people!! Thank you all so much, Joan Carr (Editor in name only)



June 2024 at Zion Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Welcome to Rev. Allyson & Rev. Kirk MacLeod</p>						
<p>2</p> <p>8:30 am Service at Calvin 10:30 Worship, SSI 11:30 Fellowship Time 5:30 Youth Event 7 pm Induction Service for Rev. Allyson & Rev. Kirk MacLeod</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Study Social, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30 JK & Playschool Graduation 6:30 p.m. Young Adults 6:30 p.m. Marcato 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 p.m. Bible Study Social 10:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>Sunday, June 9th 10:30 a.m. We will be recognizing graduates. If you are graduating please contact the office 902-566-5363 or email admin@zionpres.org</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9 am—1 pm Spring Clothing Sale Café and BBQ</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:30 am Service at Calvin 10:30 Worship! Sunday School! 11:30 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Study Social, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Young Adults 6:30 p.m. Marcato 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 p.m. Bible Study Social, 10:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am Service at Calvin 10:30 Worship! Sunday School! 11:30 Fellowship Time</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Young Adults 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir 7:00 p.m.—Dessert Coda For the choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm Board of Trustees—Parlour</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30 am Service at Calvin 10:30 Worship! Sunday School! 11:30 Fellowship Time 7:00 pm North Tryon Hymn Sing</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting - Matheson Hall</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:30 am Service at Calvin 10:30 Worship! Sunday School! 11:30 Fellowship Time</p>		<p>Sunday, July 7, 2024 Following the worship Service we will be Having a Congregational Picnic at Brackley Commons. Plan on attending</p>		<p>June, July, August Services at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Mermaid Every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome!</p>		<p>No calendar For July and August</p>