



FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER 8, 2024

Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott
Teens: Arpoika Daniels
4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner
1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes
Nursery: Miranda Hays

Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels
PM: Evening Bible Study - Jack Mattingly, Sr.



IN **SEARCH**
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search:

Dec 15 – Grieving

The loss of a loved one can truly be a traumatic event. The Scriptures describe many examples of grieving. Thankfully, God gives us hope when we grieve by reminding us of our resurrection and the second coming.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Esther 7-8 & 2 John

Monday

Esther 9-10 & 3 John

Tuesday

Malachi 1-4 & Revelation 1

Wednesday

Psalms 107-109 & Revelation 2

Thursday

Psalms 110-112 & Revelation 3

Friday

Psalms 113-115 & Revelation 4

Saturday

Psalms 116-118 & Revelation 5

Traveling On My Knees

Last night I took a journey
To a land across the seas
I didn't go by ship or plane -
I traveled on my knees.

I saw so many people there
In bondage to their sins,
And Jesus told me I should go,
That there were souls to win.

But I said, "Jesus, I can't go
To lands across the seas."
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can -
By traveling on your knees."

He said, "You pray, I'll meet the need,
You call, and I will hear,
It's up to you to be concerned
For lost souls far and near."

And so I did, I knelt in prayer,
Gave up some hours of ease,
And with the Savior by my side
I traveled on my knees.

As I prayed on, I saw souls saved
And twisted persons healed,
I saw God's workers' strength renewed
While laboring in the field.

I said, "yes, Lord, I'll take the job
Your heart I want to please,
I'll heed your call and swiftly go
By traveling on my knees."

- Sandra Goodwin



Holiday Schedule



Sunday, December 22nd - No 5:00 Bible Study
Wednesday, December 25th - No Midweek Bible Class
Sunday, December 29th - No Potluck Luncheon
Wednesday, January 1st - No Midweek Bible Class

In Our Hearts:

"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me." Psalm 120:1 (NIV)

Please continue to remember those on our long term prayer list.

Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin & Barbara McKinney, sisters of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones & Mary Ray, nieces of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell, Shirley Carson, the late Wayne Maxell's sister

Let's remember our shut-ins: *Peggy Jackson and Carolyn Self*

5:00 Bible Study: Meal Group 5 will be hosting the 5:00 Bible study for Sunday, December 8th.

Tipton Children's Home: Monetary donations are being collected to send to Tipton Children's Home for purchasing Christmas gifts for the children who reside there. If you would like to donate to this project, please give your donation to Betty Smith by Wednesday, December 11th. Checks should be made payable to Tipton Children's Home with "Christmas gifts" written in the memo.

Your life is a ministry. People are watching you whether you know it or not.

As Christians we can't make a difference if we're not different.

Time With Tim

The Importance of Family

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
Joshua 24:15

Family is a foundational gift from God, a blessing that shapes our lives and faith. In the Bible, we see families playing pivotal roles in God's plan, from Noah's household being saved through the ark (Genesis 7:1) to Mary and Joseph raising Jesus. God designed the family to be a unit where love, support, and spiritual growth flourish.

Strong families build strong communities and churches. When families prioritize faith, they model godly living for future generations. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Parents, grandparents, and siblings all have a role in fostering an environment where God's Word is taught and practiced.

Challenges often arise within families, but through Christ, we find guidance and reconciliation. Colossians 3:13-14 encourages us to "bear with one another and forgive one another if anyone has a grievance... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Families thrive when members show love, patience, and a willingness to forgive, reflecting God's grace.

As we honor the importance of family, let us not forget our spiritual family—the church. Jesus taught in Matthew 12:50, "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." This broader family reminds us that we are united in Christ and called to care for one another.

May we cherish our families, both physical and spiritual, as gifts from God, striving to reflect His love in all we do.

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:10

Peace and Truth

There are people I genuinely like, but with whom I have strong disagreements. There are some on opposite theological and political isles, yet I feel kindly disposed toward them. I cannot explain this. It's just something that you either get or don't. I suspect that this is true of most people. We have those in our circles, social media included, that we like even while we dislike what they stand for. On the flip side, there are those whom we might not feel so kindly disposed toward even though we agree on most issues. There are people who, as we say, rub us the wrong way, and so we struggle a bit to be kind. Again, I don't know how to explain that, but it reflects how we feel.

Feelings are often inexplicable, and it is important that we do not let those feelings cloud the truth, especially when it comes to people we like. It is also important that we don't let negative feelings keep us from acting properly toward those we might not feel so good about. Feelings do not determine truth. They do not excuse us from teaching what is right because we don't want to offend those whom we like. Nor do feelings serve as an excuse to treat people poorly.

While feelings are a God-given part of who we are, they must be tempered by truth and the determination to act properly. We choose to show compassion. We choose to be kind. We choose to be patient, to bear with each other, and to forgive. We choose to love. Hear, then, what Paul wrote to the Colossian Christians:

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful” (Col 3:12-15, ESV).

The challenge in bringing our feelings in line with what we ought to be doing is difficult, but by doing what is right consistently and willingly, we may find that our feelings follow suit. It is difficult to continue disliking people toward whom we are showing compassion and forgiveness. When we act with kindness and mercy, even toward those on opposite sides of issues, we will probably begin to like them more, which allows us to build relationships that lead to better communication and influence. If we already like them, then perhaps further communication can lead to better understanding

and building bridges across divisive lines. One thing is sure: we can't achieve peace and unity when we don't try or when we refuse to talk.

“Let love be genuine,” Paul wrote (Rom 12:9). Then in the next chapter, “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,’ and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom 12:8-10).

“Love your neighbor,” the second greatest command, comes out of Leviticus 19. In that context, Israel is told how this love is shown: leave gleaning from the harvest “for the poor and for the sojourner” (v. 10); don't steal, deal falsely or lie (vv. 11-12); don't oppress or rob others, don't curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind (vv. 13-14); do no injustices in court, don't be “partial to the poor or defer to the great,” but judge righteously (v. 15); don't slander or stand by when your neighbor's life is at stake (v. 16); reprove your neighbor as needed, but don't take vengeance or bear a grudge, “but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD” (vv. 17-18).

These actions are associated with love, and they all have to do with how we would treat others, including those against whom we might be tempted to keep grudges. How do we proceed? We do what Jesus taught: “In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you, for this fulfills the law and the prophets” (Matt 7:12, NET). This “Golden Rule” keeps us in check because we know how much we dislike being mistreated, slandered, misjudged, and unforgiven. If we want grace, we need to show grace. “Speak and act as those who will be judged by a law that gives freedom. For judgment is merciless for the one who has shown no mercy. But mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:12-13, NET).

Our interactions can be blessings or failures. As much as it depends on us, we must seek peace with all (Rom 12:18). That peace cannot be at the expense of truth, but this is not an either / or proposition. Seek peace and teach truth. This is God's way.

- Doy Moyer

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Deacons:

Ken Crane
Jim Grimes
Steve Johnson
Jerry Renner
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

Worship Workers**December 8****In Charge:** Alan Morgan (405-481-6163)**Welcome AM:** Jack Mattingly**Song Leader:** Steve Johnson**Opening Prayer:** Jack Mattingly**Closing Prayer:** Syd Morgan**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Gil Turpin**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** Jim Hardin**Scripture Reading:** Bob Swearingen**Heritage House****Thursday, December 12**

Betty Smith &
Kay Lashley

December Nursery Attendants

Dec 1 - Kay Lashley

Dec 8 - Ashley Noey

Dec 15 - Debbie Crane

Dec 22 - Ginger Posey

Dec 29 - Kay Lashley

December Worship & Bible Class Greeters**North Doors:** Nuben & Ann Barton**South Doors:** Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan