

THE CONNECTION

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LESSONS FOR US?

The book of Galatians has just 6 chapters but we find the letters that were handwritten by Paul to the Gentiles of Galatia. As you read this book, you will discover that Paul is not really happy with the people whom he had shared with on his first missionary journey (Acts 13-16) and founded this network of small house churches.

Confusion amongst the believers happen soon after Paul left Galatia when outside teachers began casting doubts on Paul's authority and message. In Chapter 1 he immediately addresses his outrage of the gospel being "perverted" (vs. 6)

Paul reminds the believers of his journey on the road to Damascus and the call God has put on his life. He was a changed man, called to share the gospel of Jesus to the Gentile world. Today we are aware of men, such as Charles Colson who after Watergate served prison time where he met the Master. Today his ministry lives on through the Prison Fellowship International.

Paul taught that (Galatians 2:6) God does not show favoritism. He was addressing the competition between the Jews and Gentiles. In ministry today, we find collaboration generally is a stronger model than competition. We believers are not in competition with one another, but prayerfully working in collaboration.

Unity within the Body of Christ is one of the lessons Paul is teaching us in Galatians. We each receive gift(s) by grace and are requested to bring them to the table. Each of us are called to bring something to the table to share. One gift is not greater than another.

We are warned to not fall victim to legalism and hypocrisy. Oh how easy it is for us to fall into the works of the flesh. And even as we follow Christ, we are still in a spiritual war. The enemy delights in exploiting our weaknesses.

Paul continues in Chapter 5:14 for us to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Charles Spurgeon preached on this in London:

"The very essence of Christianity is trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. But mark, we are told that this is faith of a certain kind; it is 'faith which works by love'—not a faith which merely talks, much less a faith that goes to sleep, or a faith that bolsters men up in presumption, and makes them live in sin; but a faith which works by love, a practical faith, a faith which has arms and hands; not a crippled faith, but a living thing, which cannot help working; not a frozen river that is like stone in its bed, but rolling on, increasing, and swelling until it comes to the sea. It is a living thing, a working thing, My faith is no faith at all if it does not operate upon my daily life."

LOOKING AHEAD FOR FEBRUARY

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Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025

4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Family Life Center

10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Liturgist: Gene Aufderhaar

Song Leader: Pam Ditto

Pianist/Organist: Eileen Hartles

K.I.D.'s Connection: Jessica Schelb

Scriptures: Jer. 1:4-10; Psalms 71:1-6

I Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025

5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Family Life Center

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship

Liturgist: Lonnie Pedersen

Song Leader: Pam Ditto

Pianist/Organist: Eileen Hartles

K.I.D.'s Connection: Sally Leidy

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalms 138

I Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11



OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND NEWS

Church United Pantry (C.U.P.) appreciates and needs the non-perishable food items our church family shares with them. In addition each month specific items are requested.

Westside has been asked to assist in the month of:

February – Feminine Hygiene Pads & Bladder Control Products

UPDATE ON HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

- *Prayers for Vanessa and Dan Lee as they travel February 7 – 14th on a mission trip to Mexico.*
- Note: Pastor Dan will be back with us on the 16th of February and we will then share in communion.
- Find the **GRATITUDE TREE** in the Narthex and the hearts available for your use. Write on a heart(s) what you are grateful for and hang your heart on the tree. You may sign your name or leave it anonymous. We all grow as we share with each other the things for which we are thankful.
- Leadership Team approved the 2025 Budget. \$13,230 monthly is the needed amount to meet our monthly expenses. We are all encouraged to pray about our giving.
- Ribbon Cutting for the Ark@Westside will be celebrated immediately following worship on **Sunday, Feb. 16**. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, refreshments will be served.
- Plan to share in a light meal of sloppy joes, chips, fruit, cookies with the Family Promise families on **Thursday, Feb. 20 at 5:00 p.m.** Donations are appreciated----chips, fruit cups, cookies, buns. Thank you to all who participate.

Connection ♥ ⇄ ♥ Corner

(Information and opportunities to help others and to help you!)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jack & Becky Crabtree
Mildred Crawford Family
Joyce DeAngelo
Ron Farley
Nancy Kesler
Gary Rockhold
Beckett Ruiz (4 month old)
Dewey & Connie Taylor

HOME/HOSPITAL/NURSING

Kessler Estates
Pat Bunn
Springview Manor
Dewey Taylor
Home Bound
Beverly Shade
Phyllis Peters
Phyllis Snyder



Anniversaries:

Feb. 3 Lori & Dale Brookman
18 Tom & Jan Avery

Birthdays:

Feb. 1 Jeff Newland
4 Barbara Lee
20 Beverly Shade
21 Gene Aufderhaar
23 Robert Hodges
27 Linda Frueh

Greeting cards are in the Café for your use.
Help yourself to the one you need.

FUTURE DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

9 Morning Worship with LeRoy Eddy
16 Morning Worship – Communion
16 Ribbon Cutting for the Ark@Westside
20 5:00 pm Family Promise Dinner
24 7:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Upper Room
Gathering each Wednesday morning

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

JAN/FEB UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX
IN NEED OF A GREETING, GET WELL, BIRTHDAY CARD? CHECK OUT THE CARD
RACK IN THE CONNECTION CAFÉ – “TAKE A CARD – SEND A CARD”

Have a Blessed Week!