

What's Up Weekly 9/1/2020

What's going on at the church?

Here at the church, we continue to meet outside on Sherman Street, Sunday mornings at 10:00. Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID and school starting, church leadership has decided to continue meeting outside through the month of September, weather permitting.

This Sunday we will be continuing in our "Why Not?" series, and this week we will ask the question "Why not us?" in regards to our church and how God can use us in our next season of ministry. It should be a great week, I hope everyone can make it! While we won't be having as many after-church activities, we are bringing back our Children's Ministry Moment and we might even try to have some Fall themed treats to enjoy being outside for the month.

Also keep in mind that September 20th is a big day for us!

We are starting the day with our normal worship for Back to Church Sunday. This is a really great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbors to join you for service. If you know someone that hasn't been for awhile, would you consider inviting them to come back around? God is doing some cool things and I think some folks would really be intrigued by what He's doing around here!

Then, that afternoon we will be heading to Hanging Rock Christian Camp to enjoy our annual church picnic! There's lots of cool activities for the kids to do, we will have a meal together and end the day with a Vespers service celebrating our church relationships. Everyone is welcome to come to that picnic, so invite your friends to come with you to that too!

What am I working on?

As a part of gearing up for Back to Church Sunday, I am working on ordering some yard signs and t-shirts. I hope to get those orders placed today, so keep an eye out for an opportunity to grab a t-shirt with some fresh branding on it, or even a yard sign to let your neighbors know how much you love your church.

What am I reading?

I am currently reading back through "Simple Church" by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger from Lifeway Research. It's something I try to keep on my desk and go back through a few times a year to remind myself to stay simple. This is part of what I read this morning:

"There is an interesting conversation in Matthew 16. If you jump into the conversation, you will find Jesus asking His disciples who people say that He is. It is a simple question. It is not complicated. It is straight and to the point.

And it is a question that is not asked frequently. He does not ask what people are saying about Him. He does not ask if people are saying He is a nice guy or a great speaker. His question is different. He asks, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” The disciples tell Him that some people are saying He is John the Baptist. Others are saying he is Elijah.

Jesus then asks the disciples the same question. He wants to know what they think. “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter, of course, speaks for the entire group. He replies, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

Jesus loves this response. He calls Peter blessed. The words Peter spoke came not from man, but from God. Jesus then says, “Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

The gates of Hades will not overcome it. Hell will not be able to hold back the church. Jesus says he is going to unleash a movement that will be so powerful and intense that it will be unstoppable. This movement is the church. It is not an institution, a building, a program, a creed or a doctrinal statement. This movement is alive and growing. This movement is people. Jesus started the church, and the gates of hell will not be able to contain it.

This is such a great reminder to me that the church is not something we attend. It’s not something anybody “runs” or “controls.” It’s definitely not a location or a sanctuary (something we are learning over and over again this year).

The Church is the living, breathing, active body of Christ, and the world will never be able to contain it. Let that be a reminder to you that when we show up here on Sunday’s we are doing more than checking a box or participating in a social club. We are powerfully advancing the Kingdom of God and doing war in the spiritual places. Church isn’t just something we do; it’s who we are called to be. Won’t you be the church with me?

What am I excited about?

I’m excited to see the weather turning. High 60’s up through the mid 70’s is my perfect temperature zone. Also, sweatshirts are my favorite thing to wear, so that is something I am most definitely looking forward to!

Silent Servants:

This week I’m excited to talk about my good friends Mark and Penny Shadden. Whenever the church needs someone to jump in and serve, they are both there, willing and ready. One moment that sticks out to me was when we did our first water day this summer. Penny arrived and saw

what we were doing, and offered to have her or Mark go home and get their own personal water station/slide, and they brought it and the kids absolutely loved it.

Both Mark and Penny love kids and serve passionately in our WOW program throughout the year, in addition to serving in Children's church. They are selfless people and we feel privileged to call them friends.

If you don't know who they are, you should get to know them. And you may not know it, but if you drive around during Christmas season to look at houses with lights on them, then you already know where they live. I'm excited to put that passion to good use here on Sherman street in a couple of months!