

# CONNECT



NEWSLETTER

September 2024

## Doing More in 2024



### **Back to School: What Are You Thinking?**

by Sheryl Phillips

It's September, and back-to-school is on everyone's mind. So, what are some of the things we are thinking about? Large companies have launched marketing campaigns targeting kids and parents, trying to maximize their profits by selling uniforms, shoes, and various school supplies.

Some kids are entering Pre-K or Kindergarten, some are going to new schools, some are starting Middle School or High School, while others are heading off to colleges close to

home or going out of town. What are some of our thoughts and concerns? We all have different concerns, but we must not allow ourselves to become overwhelmed.

Recently, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on parenting. In it, he stated that the traditional challenges of parenting have been exacerbated by "technological and economic forces." According to the report, 41% of parents report that some days they are so stressed they are unable to function, and 48% of parents reported that most days their stress is "completely overwhelming." So, what are parents worried about as they prepare to send their children back to school?

Are we concerned about the expense of the new uniforms and school supplies?

*(cont'd on next page)*



**Church of the Evangel, UCC**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Church of the Evangel, UCC**

- *The Dining Room Table*  
September 28, 2024 @ 3:30 pm
- *Women's Ministry*  
*Tea Party & Fashion Show*  
October 26, 2024 @ 4:00 pm
- *Faith & Wellness Ministry*  
*Faith & Wellness Seminar*  
November 12, 2024 @ 4:30 pm
- *Thanksgiving Dinner*  
November 23, 2024, 12:00 pm

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## ***Back to School: What Are You Thinking?***

*(cont'd)*

Are we worried about passing on the responsibility of caring for our kids to the teachers? Are those among our concerns?

In this troubled world, we have many things on our minds as we prepare our children for going back to school.



School is no longer the safe haven it was in the past. Shootings and other forms of violence in our schools have promoted the need for safety drills and mental health counseling.

Wouldn't you like to know what's on our kids' minds? You should! Are they emotionally prepared to go back to school? Are they concerned or have safety fears about moving to a new learning environment? Are they concerned about bullying, making new friends, or encountering old friends or classmates who were not friendly? Are they concerned about traveling without you on the bus or the train? Recently, children have been attacked on the subway, run over, or shot in our streets. Children are showing up to school with weapons, which heightens the need for metal detectors in schools. That

is a lot to be concerned about for parents and children.

We need to know what our kids think and are concerned about. By taking the time to speak with them, we can provide the emotional support they need.

As parents, we need to pray for and with our kids. As we send them off to school daily, we need to commit them to God's hands, praying for guidance and protection.

Our mental health and that of our kids are important, but we must understand that there are challenges in life that are out of our control. Challenges are a natural part of life's journey, so we must be ready to make the necessary adjustments. We must pray and trust God to help us develop a healthy mental attitude. We must be careful about what we allow to populate our minds.

The Bible tells us that our God is big enough to help us overcome whatever we face. It may not be easy, but He will be with us always. Whether we are a 12-year-old child concerned about the challenges of going back to school or an adult concerned about the safety of our children, we must remind ourselves that God is in control and continues to be our strength in every situation.



So, as we navigate the challenges of returning to school, let us trust God for His guidance and protection. We have the promise that God will never leave us nor forsake us.



## ***Running Your Race: Here Comes Encouragement and Enthusiasm***

by Brian Ward

Remember, we are not alone in this Christian journey! God, in His infinite wisdom, understands our struggles. When we find it challenging to fulfill our calling, He graciously provides someone, whether near or far, to uplift and inspire us for the path ahead.

When I feel challenged, burdened, and sometimes dismayed, I turn to 1 Timothy 4 in the Scriptures. This chapter tells a story of leadership, camaraderie, responsibility, caring, and love that constantly reminds us that we are never abandoned and always held in God's enduring love.

You, too, may have your flame refueled as you lean into this chapter and encounter the *(cont'd on next page)*

## ***Running Your Race: Here Comes Encouragement and Enthusiasm***

*(cont'd)*

apostle Paul in another one of his roles as an encourager.

In 1 Timothy, Paul leaves Timothy, his young protégé, to develop and manage the newly established church in Ephesus, but he does not leave him to fend for himself in his new assignment.

Paul, a seasoned leader in the faith, understands the challenges of leading others to Christ. He writes to Timothy not just to give advice but to strengthen him and set an example for the brothers in the church. This guidance is for Timothy and all of us who are called to lead in our faith.

As you read verse 5, it's clear that Paul wants Timothy to understand the importance of steadfast faith and purpose. He wants him to be prepared for the challenges that may come, to stand firm when others stray, and to remain resolute in his belief and purpose. Paul's message to Timothy is a call to determination, a reminder that we must stay focused and unwavering in our faith and purpose.

He wants to reassure Timothy that when he points out certain things to the brothers, he will do so confidently and firmly. They will see him as a good minister of Christ Jesus, staying true to the faith and encouraging others to do the same (4:6). Paul knows that

encouragement flows downhill. By reassuring Timothy, he will remain focused on his purpose and reject the distractions, as we need to believe and stay focused on our purpose.

In verse 7, Paul gives us a powerful reminder. He encourages Timothy, and by extension, all of us, to stay away from godless myths and instead train ourselves to be godly. As Paul says, godliness has value for all things, giving us a positive outlook on our present life and the life to come.

As we see in verse 9, there is no shortage of encouragement to build Timothy's enthusiasm when Paul further reminds Timothy that their hope is entirely in the living God. How do we rate ourselves in this essential area of Christian life and belief? Are we encouraging others to grow in their belief of where to place their hope?

Are we teaching those things so that others can grow stronger, as Paul emphasizes to Timothy what he needs to do in verse 11? He tells Timothy he must be an example and set an example for the believers. How are we running our race so far

Knowing that encouragement defeats thoughts of lack and creates enthusiasm, Paul challenges Timothy to set an example for the believers through his speech and allow his life principles to be seen in how he lives his life, showing his faith. (v12)

In verse 14, Paul reminds Timothy of his calling, the gift

he was given, and his commitment to leading the people to Christ.

Verse 15 shows Paul encouraging Timothy to remain focused and be 100% attentive to his work, some of which Paul highlighted so that everyone would see his commitment and progress.

In verses 16 and 17, he reminded Timothy that eyes would always be on him, so his life, expressions, and behavior must always be exemplary. And when he may feel challenged or dismayed, he needs to persevere and stay in the Spirit, as he is responsible for the present and future lives of his congregants and himself.

There is a message in the story for each of us. Sometimes, we are like Timothy, in need of encouragement. Other times, we are like Paul. We are responsible for encouraging one person responsible for shaping many lives.

This story keeps me in my sneakers, enthusiastically running my race, gradually bringing my commitment back to the forefront.

Once you are in the race, you are an encourager.



*Sometimes we are in  
need of encouragement  
and other times we are  
responsible for  
encouraging others.*



# ? What is God Saying?

## *What Is God Saying?*

by Sheryl Phillips

God speaks to us in several ways, but are we always listening? We all have different life experiences, and if we are willing to listen, we will learn lessons from these experiences.

We experience moments of joy each day, sometimes sadness or even grief. We have those moments when things are revealed to us, and we are in awe, surprised at how God intervened, shining light on our doubt or fear and teaching us to demonstrate faith.

Our varied experiences help us realize who God is. We realize who God is when God brings us through a challenging situation. He is saying to us, I am your rescuer, protector, and your guide, trust me always. He also tells us that He is our companion. He promised never to leave us nor forsake us. He promised He would be with us always, so as we experience challenges, we should remind ourselves that God is with us, and we will be successful; we should not doubt.

Sometimes, we question whether we are on the right path, why we are going through challenges, and feel alone and forsaken, but God says to us, hang in there as the hardship will pass. This is a part of my

plan for your life. There are lessons you must learn so you can grow and blossom. Remember who I am. There is nothing too hard for me. I know the plans I have for you.



In the 23rd Psalm, He reminds us that He is our Shepherd and will care for our needs. He is our provider, leader, restorer, companion, and comforter. He is ready and able to provide the support we need in any situation.

God's love is not only everlasting but all-encompassing. He loves us unconditionally, cherishing us as His children and reminding us of His unique plan for each of us. We need to be willing to step out of our comfort zones and use the unique gifts and talents He has blessed us with.

Do you feel led to serve? God is saying, I have provided you with all the necessary tools. Trust me, step out of your comfort zone. Take the risk. I am with you. Lives are waiting to be touched. He says fear will come knocking, but do not answer, let faith answer the door. He said to be strong and courageous. David killed Goliath with God's help. Do not underestimate what God can do in and through you. He will always be with you,

empowering you and ordering your steps.



So, stay connected, and always be open to hearing his instructions. He will assure you in your moments of doubt. He works in surprising and challenging ways, so trust and never doubt.

God says, I can transform your life, but you must surrender. If you are willing to listen, He will teach you all you need to know. Do not allow your thoughts to crowd out God's voice. Practice being still and develop your listening skills so God can use you in His service.

"Come boldly to the throne of Grace," God says. I will sustain you and heal your mind, body, and spirit. I will be your guide as you navigate life's challenges, but you must be willing to listen and follow.

1 Peter 4:10 tells us to use our extraordinary gifts and talents to help others. In so doing, we function as the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth, strengthening the family of believers. So, listen to God's words and share your gifts and talents with love.



## ***Shirley Chisholm and Kamala Harris Historic Runs for President***

by Rev. Christine Valentine



It was 1972 when Black Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm put her hat in the ring for the Democratic presidential bid.

This was a barrier-breaking event, but Shirley knew about breaking barriers as she broke many in her aspiring rise to becoming the first Black American woman to run for U.S. president.

Becoming a congresswoman in 1968 put her on the threshold of paving the path to the nation's highest office, which she hoped other Black women would follow.

In one of her addresses, Shirley said, "I am the candidate of the people of America, and my presence ushers in a new era in American political history."

As a newbie to the House of Representatives, Chisholm was assigned to a committee—the

one chosen for her despite her history growing up in the concrete jungle of New York: the House Agriculture Committee. "It seems that all they know here in Washington about Brooklyn is that a tree grew there," she so famously said that President Barack Obama even quoted it when he awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 2015.

As the first Black woman, Shirley Chisholm stepped up and took her shot at the presidency.



It's now 2024, 52 years later, and Vice President Kamala Harris has received the Democratic presidential vote and is the second Black American woman to run for the presidency.

A historical fact that must not be overlooked is Kamala is the sole candidate who has qualified to compete for the position of President.



President Joe Biden endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. President

Like Shirley Chisholm, Kamala Harris knows about breaking barriers. She has a career full of 'firsts' among her achievements

First Black woman District Attorney for the City of San Francisco.

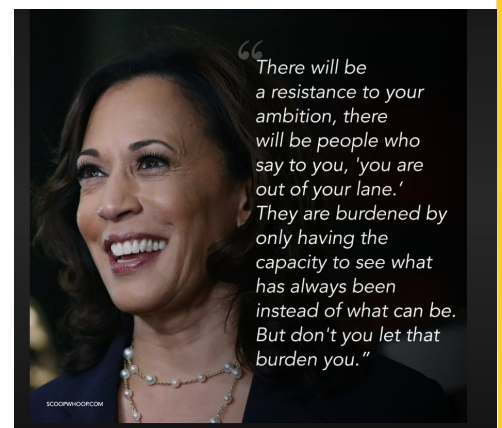
First Black woman Attorney General of California.

U.S. Senator for California.

U.S. Presidential campaign bid in 2019.

First female U.S. Vice President nominee in 2019 on the Biden/Harris ticket.

She used five words to describe her responsibility as a young District Attorney. Those words reinforced her foundation through her service and continue to be her vision and commitment, guiding her life's work: "Kamala Harris for the people."







Brian, Andrea, Donald, Anthony, Terry & Sheryl. Not pictured: Darrell & Clover

## ***Evangel Celebrates September Birthdays***

On the first Sunday of each month the Church of the Evangel Congregational recognizes its members and friends celebrating a birthday.

To those celebrating a birthday this month: May you enjoy every moment. May your birthday be filled with laughter, the joy of God's presence, the peace of His promises, and your year ahead with happiness. May God's grace shine upon you abundantly on your special day, guiding your steps with love and blessing you with a year of joy and fulfilment.

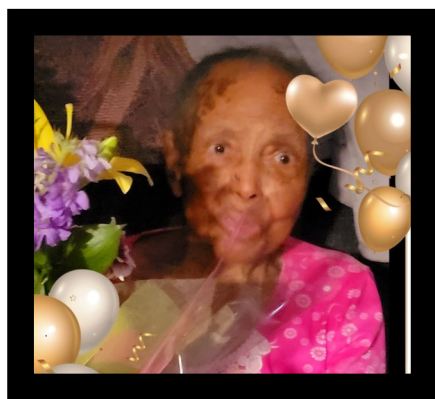
We celebrate those milestone birthdays. On September 1st, Vera Biddle celebrated her 108th birthday and on

September 8th, Anthony Paul celebrated his thirteenth birthday.

***Have a Blessed Birthday, Everyone.***



## ***Happy Birthday to a Grand Lady-Vera Biddle***



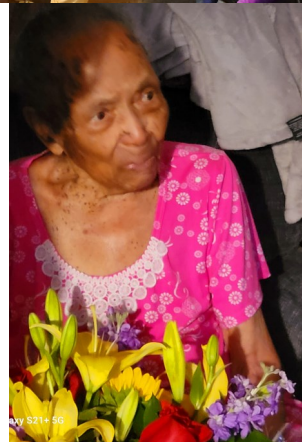
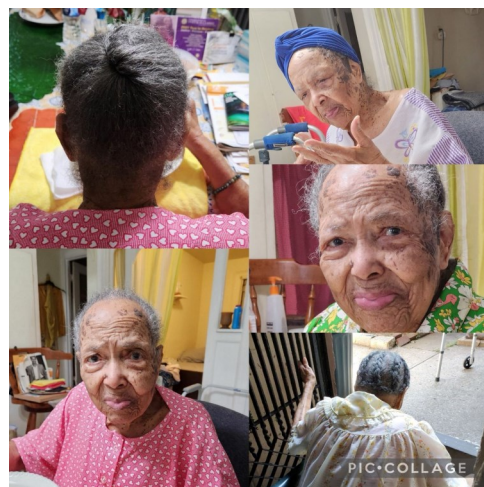
by *Stephanie Bennett*

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Vera accomplished another praise worthy milestone in her life. She celebrated her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was born in Grenada in 1916 where she lived with her father. She was educated there and became a nurse. When she migrated to New York she continued her nursing career at various hospitals. She considers herself a caregiver even to this day. Her warm and inviting smile has a way of endearing people to her. Just ask the many neighbors living on her block. They love her.

When asked about the secret to her longevity, she said it was good living, good family, and having a good relationship with

her God. She is grateful for having a loving church family here at Evangel. She misses not being able to physically be in attendance on Sundays; but the Church will always be in her thoughts and her heart.

God bless you, Vera, and may you continue to be an example of God's love. May you always glorify God in what you say and do. May the peace of God be with you all of your days.







## Why Do You Go to Church?

by Brian Ward

Former NFL and Green Bay Packers quarterback Bart Starr once said, "If you heard Coach Lombardi at practice every afternoon, you'd know why we went to church every morning."

He was referring to Vince Lombardi, the legendary National Football League (NFL) coach of the Green Bay Packers from 1959 to 1967.

What about you? What motivates you to go to church, not to the building, but to *gather* with a group of believers? Do you look forward to spending time with them in a gathering to grow in your faith and glorify God? Or is the reason traditional, such as "I've always gone to church?"

Has attending church become a duty or a privilege that gives you incredible joy? Do you feel the need to *gather* with others? Does the message in Ephesians 4:16 factor into your desire? *"Everyone is knit together, supporting one another, to grow the body, building up in love..."*

We *gather* with our brothers and sisters when our faith is weak and struggling. They remind us that we are Overcomers, help us fight the

temptations we face, and pick us up when we fall.

The church gathering is a place of spiritual refreshment, yet many people sing a few songs, hear a sermon, and then return to their lives without changing their demeanor.



It's the marketplace filled with the nourishing inner strength we need to focus on our given purpose.

Many claim they are satisfied with watching online or listening to a podcast, so they don't see a need to *gather* with other believers. Others don't embrace the opportunity to *gather*, even though they consider church good. They have lost sight of the fact the people are the church.

We *gather* because God has united us, and our presence testifies to God's greatness. Our gatherings position us to disciple others through life together. We are vital to each other as we serve, teach God's Word, and grow spiritually, encouraging not just one another but those who look at



us with a desire for role models.

God wants us to grow stronger in our faith, and one of the most important ways to do this is through fellowship with other believers.

Another important reason for attending church regularly is that it is where believers can and should practice their God-given spiritual gifts.

Hebrews 10:25, *"...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some..."* reminds us that church gathering must be a top priority in the lives of all believers.

Wrapped up in the gathering is our purpose of being our brother's keeper, extending our love, and connecting with other believers.

See you at the gathering.



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## Ministry Corner



### Food, Fun, & Fellowship

by the Faith & Wellness Ministry

"Deliciously mouth-watering," she said. That was just one of the high compliments from our guests commenting on their food adventures at the International Dinner. "The food at each country's table is outstanding," highlighted another guest.

They spoke of how pleased they were by the various menus on August 17, as the Church of the Evangel's International Dinner crossed the international borders of 'we' and 'them,' creating an atmosphere of 'all are one' as Evangel's church family and guests dined on the delicacies from various countries.

Delicacies from Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Liberia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Martin, Trinidad & Tobago, and the USA kept the guests returning for more...and more.



Currant Rolls

The tasty food helped to create a relaxed atmosphere, filling the community hall with fellowship and fun. It was a five-star, entertaining afternoon; everyone was "at home" and comfortable.

Some excited guests claimed several raffle prizes as their 'winnings' before the raffle draw, adding to the excitement and entertaining atmosphere.

Many led other guests to tables to taste delicacies from different countries because they 'taste wonderful.'

Our Wellness Ministry members prepared their best delicacies for us, and our taste buds appreciated them.

Who knows, maybe next year we can consider inviting someone to grade us on the outstanding quality of our delicacies and festive atmosphere.

DJ Sheryl certainly added flavor to the evening's fun.

Friends, you are again invited to taste the delicacies from the homelands of our Wellness members next year. We welcome your presence.

On behalf of the Church of the Evangel, the Wellness Ministry thanks everyone for their participation and contribution. Because of each of you, we had an evening of variety, fellowship, and fun.





**Lessons Learned from Nature: An Enlightening Journey** is an excellent compilation of fifty Nature stories. It will inspire you to appreciate God's majesty and splendor and learn the many lessons He wants to teach us.

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Available on Amazon or you can contact Sheryl Phillips, or any Wellness member to order from the church.

## Word Search

L	I	G	H	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	E	L	A	E	H
C	O	M	O	A	N	I	O	N	E	T	E	R	N	A	L
R	M	V	E	R	Y	S	A	M	P	A	T	I	E	N	T
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S	E	R	V	A	N	T	R	E	K	A	M	Y	A	W	M

## Attributes of God

Alpha	Companion
Creator	Caring
Deliverer	Eternal
Father	First
Healer	Holy
Just	Last
Love	Loyal
Light	Leader
Master	Merciful
Mercy	
Miracle Worker	
Omnipotent	Omniscient
Omega	Patient
Provider	Protector
Redeemer	Savior
Spirit	Servant
Sovereign	Shepherd
Teacher	Truth
Way Maker	Way
Word	Yahweh

## ***A Review of the June 2024 CONNECT Newsletter***

by *Pauline T. Budd*

I was commissioned to write this review to provide written feedback on the contents of the June 2024 "CONNECT" Newsletter that was published by this church, Church of the Evangel Congregational, UCC. I gladly accepted to do it because of the great pleasure it had afforded me.

Holding the Newsletter in my hands, was like holding a good book! It was euphoric in nature! What pleasure I received from its earthy colors, clean lines, easy to read script that was well laid out and very organized. I felt a sense of urgency to turn the pages, curious to experience what was written within. I was not disappointed

It was a pleasure to see the picture of the men gathered together on the cover page. This is because they are in small numbers in our churches, and to witness the group, gave me a sense of hope for the future of the church. The first article, "Where Are You, Men? Rise!" confirmed this impression. It was full of tidbits of wisdom, encouragement, and direction for our men. There were several passages which resonated with me, and I hope with you too: On page 1, I was mesmerized by the concept, "We are the catalysts of change, starting from within and radiating outwards. Each of us has the power to shape a positive mindset. But we cannot inspire others if we are not

inspired."

Further in the article, on page 2, I was moved by words from these paragraphs: "2 Corinthians 4:7 describes us as 'fragile clay jars containing great treasure.' Indeed, I find that to be true. Our men are fragile creatures waiting to come alive.

Also on page 2, "When we move toward helping somebody, we will see how our pressure situations are reduced as we trust God and discover how much He can do in us and through us. We will see Him work in that person's life as we allow Him to work in our lives," is sound advice.

Page 3 elucidates thoughts of hope and importunity, "We must not be discouraged when our progress seems as slow as a moving turtle, but we must step out to step up." As leaders and optimists, we will see opportunity in every challenge and success in every effort."

Page 3 continues, and this is my favorite passage from the article, "When we understand that we are where we are for a reason, we will gradually embrace the purpose and meaning of our lives."

And lastly, from page 3, "God has given each of us a position in life, and with each position, He has given us the power to do what He needs to be done." As you can see from the above discourse, this article, "Where Are You, Men? Rise!" impacted me greatly.

Brian's articles, "Anointed! Appointed! (page 4) and, "Passing the Baton," (page 5) were profoundly insightful. Every bit of these articles was food for the soul! Every word,

every line, every paragraph were full of wisdom and guidance. If I were to highlight any passages from these two discourses, it would require my relaying the **entire** documents.

Look at the paragraph from "Anointed! Appointed!", in the middle of page 4: "...Patience will not be acquired in one place or season of our lives....So, we must embrace our tough times because they are preparation times when we are being anointed, leading up to being appointed." And from "Passing the Baton", "It happens to us throughout the day, every day; our Lord passes the baton to us through His wisdom so that we can run our race, the race He has prepared us to run...the race requires a team effort. It's a joint exercise....Our race is a 'relay' where we receive and pass on what our Lord placed in our hearts and hands. It's about purpose."

The last few pages (pages 8 – 12) were quite informative and endearing. "Ministry Corner" provided news updates. Honoring members of Evangel publicly, in the Newsletter, was a wonderful moment.

The "Thank You!" to Honorable Phyllis Fullerton, from all that I read, was most fitting. We thank God for her example, and for her legacy in passing the baton to others.

Recognizing Evangel's graduates must have brought tears and a sense of accomplishment and pride and appreciation to those who were so honored.

*(cont'd on next page)*



## ***A Review of the June 2024 CONNECT Newsletter*** (cont'd)

The final page was welcome as it highlighted upcoming events and those in progress, at Evangel. This was good as it allowed those of us who are friends of Evangel to plan ahead to attend these functions

And last of all, the picture of the burning candles served as a great tribute to those of your members who had passed on to glory in recent years. I know, the families of those saints must have been moved.

In conclusion, the June 2024 Newsletter, "CONNECT", was terrific and tremendously appealing. The portrayal of each article in picture form was succinct and delineated each discourse precisely.

Well done CONNECT team members!



### ***THANK YOU***

*Thank you, Pauline T. Budd for your honest and well thought out review of our June 2024 CONNECT Newsletter.*

*It is always good to receive feedback from our readers about the topics covered.*

*Also, we welcome suggestions from all of our readers about topics in which you are interested.*

*Your feedback is invaluable.*



### ***In Jesus' Name***

by *Evangel's New Men's Fellowship*

We see God's promise in John 14:14: *"Anything you ask of me, in my name, I will do it."*

So, we close our prayer requests with the words, "In Jesus' name," and we hope God will answer and help us.

Let's delve into the significance of "In Jesus' name" in our prayer life. When we loosely attach the phrase "In Jesus' name" to our requests for help, we often don't feel connected, and not developing the connection implies we do not understand why it is essential. That relationship connection activates the flow of nourishment into our lives and fulfills our needs.

Understanding God's promise, *"Anything you ask of me, in my name, I will do it,"* is not just a suggestion but a source of enlightenment and empowerment. It promotes the reward of peace and satisfaction, with underlying stability, and does not imply that our lives should be lived like the waves of the sea, yet we should expect timely answers to our prayers.

Our understanding of "In Jesus' name" is more than a formality but a catalyst. Those are words of belief that create a change for character development that can align us with God's

efforts through the Holy Spirit to uplift us. This truth can lead us to recognize how the power of prayer can transform our character, inspiring hope and a sense of purpose.

As we strengthen our prayer lives, moving away from the weak manner and lack of belief, we can expect to feel the Holy Spirit playing a crucial role in our spiritual journey, ready, willing, and able to shed light on our lack of understanding and leading our hearts to develop a connection with God. When we are connected, we can feel the Holy Spirit helping us in every area where we experience weakness.

We are now beginning to see our 'asking' and receiving as a two-way flow in the relationship pipeline interrupted only when we stop our input.

Our prayers must be bold and filled with hope, so a relationship with God is necessary to fortify us. This prepares us to pray, knowing that it's in Jesus' name that we do, and we expect our prayers to be answered.

The answers we receive are never selfish, implying that they are for our benefit alone. They are always geared to inspiring us to do great things in our lives so that God's greatness will be seen.

So, we understand and appreciate that when we use "In Jesus' name," we are 'All in,' as we are aligned with God's character.



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Photo by Ray Raman

### **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**

[Churchoftheevangelucc.godaddysites.com](http://Churchoftheevangelucc.godaddysites.com)

### **WE APPRECIATE YOUR DONATION**



## ***Faith & Wellness Ministry***

The purpose of the Faith & Wellness Ministry is to create a Faith-Based Health and Wellness program that focuses on Education, Health, Exercise, Nutrition, Stress Management, and living a Spiritually rich life.

There is a direct relationship between Spirituality or faith and health. God made us with a spirit, soul, and a body and they work together in amazing ways. Our program is designed to teach individuals about an integrated approach to health; living a healthy life based on Christian principles, and an integration of mind, body, and spirit to achieve total wellness.

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### **AN OPEN INVITATION**

#### **Our Faith & Wellness Ministry**

#### **Welcomes You**

**Mondays and Fridays @ 8:00 pm on Zoom**

Contact Sheryl Phillips:

[sheryl.weightlossolutions@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.weightlossolutions@gmail.com)

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### **PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY**

**Thursdays @ 5:30 pm on Zoom**

Contact Darrell @ 917-689-0386

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*These candles burn in loving memory of our pastor, Rev. Cynthia Jackson and our church members who went to be with the Lord in recent years.*

*They also burn in loving memory of the thousands of lives lost to COVID-19 and for their families.*

*These candles burn in memory of the lives lost in recent natural disasters, wars, and for victims of gun violence.*

*The memory of your loved ones will continue to glow in your hearts.*