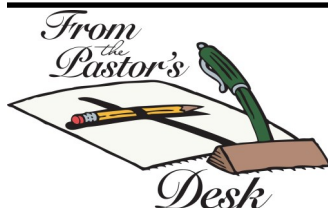


The Fountain

FEBRUARY 2021

Words from Pastor Tony...



The Covid pandemic is quickly approaching the one year mark. Over the last eleven months we have seen people's routines disrupted, there have been unsettling events like the taking over of sections of cities in Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis for long periods of time with loss of life, loss and destruction of property, fires, looting and anarchy. Then there was the storming of the U.S. Capitol building and the ugly scenes that were captured on camera. Such events have left many wondering what has happened to their country.

In many ways, eyes have been opened to just how divided our country currently seems. But the reality is we didn't get here overnight, or in the last year, or even in the last four years. There has been a constant struggle going on for the souls of people since the beginning of time. There has always been the human desire for some to seek power and rule over others. Those in power want to keep it, and those who are not in power think they can do a better job if they were running things. There has never been a shortage of opinion on how to govern.

The slow, methodical process of removing Christian morality and ethics has led to where we are today. Reading about the people of God in the Bible reveals this is exactly how it happens...a slow eroding away from God, a push for people to "replace" God or put themselves in the position of "playing" God and wielding power over others. You make efforts to do away with God and God's teachings, the morality within scripture, and you will find

yourselves in trouble.

We are reminded in scripture that ultimately, we are not of this world. Sure, we live in it, but we are called to be different...to be a beacon of God's light...to share the good news with others. We have had the blessing of being able to live in such a country where freedom of religion and freedom of speech were a part of its founding. But as that freedom is stripped away we are left to grieve and struggle with what it now means for us. All nations and ruling powers of this world will come and go. History proves this point. As great as the United States of America has been it is a worldly power. It is changing. Human nature and sin corrupt.

I realize it's taboo to talk about politics in the church. But I do think it's important to at least speak of reality and what is going on in our world. It is not my place to take the side of any political party, but rather I look at the world from a Christian/biblical point of view, which has been my training. And while I look at the world from a Christian/biblical view point I realize many others do not. I cannot expect a secularist or an agnostic or atheist to view the world as I do, that's not realistic.

Where is the hope? Our hope continues to be in the One who is not of this world, God—our creator. We are to be in this world, but not of the world because we believe in God. In every generation throughout history there has been a remnant of faithful people. Even in the days of the prophets when so many people had turned away from God, there were still small pockets of people faithfully living for the Lord. When God seemed to give up on the nation of Israel because of their rebellious ways, allowing other nations to conquer them for a time, God was still faithful to the remnant people. God watched over them and provided for them even in difficult times. Life was and is not always easy.

Friends, regardless of what is going on in the world around us we need to continue to look to Christ. We need to keep growing in our

faithfulness to God. We are ultimately not of this world, but instead we are intended to ultimately be with God forever in eternity. That's why we can live together now, regardless of the ruling power. As God's people, we are to live above the worldly standards. We are to live the golden rule, the Ten Commandments, and the ways of God.

In a way, I suppose we have been spoiled since our country's inception compared to other countries. For two and half centuries we have had the benefit of living under a democratic representative republic, while most other countries have had histories of monarchies and dictatorships where the common person's voice was not given as much consideration, and where there was either one official religion, or no religion allowed at all.

Throughout the centuries, God's people have had to endure and live under many types of earthly governmental systems. What is it that aided God's people to live on? For God's message to be passed down? It was a God who cared for them and watched over them and provided for them. And it is the same God who continues to watch over us regardless of who is in power. Our call, as God's people, has never changed...we are to be a beacon of light to the people, (even other nations), sharing the good news of the gospel, living out our faith with trust and obedience to God, serving humanity and meeting the needs of others, and in so doing experiencing the hope and joy that comes from the Lord. The message of God endures because our Lord lives!

There will always be people who disagree. Life may not seem fair, people won't act right, but God's call upon our life is for us to act right and live in a Godly manner. Praise be to God who gives us strength.

May the strength and the joy of the Lord be with you,

Tony Bell

Check out our website:

www.coldspringsumc.org



Online Ministries tab has links to



Worship live @ 10am

facebook



for online tithes & offerings



M.Y. Heart's ministry is collecting supplies to make blessing bags for the homeless. These items include such things as pocket Bibles, travel shampoos, conditioners, soap, and other necessities. A green bin is located under the mailboxes in the hallway behind the sanctuary and in the narthex. A list of other items are located on the flyer at these collection bins. If you have questions about this new outreach, email Julie Love at jaxandcb@yahoo.com. *Our current needs with fall/winter on it's way will be: cold weather items such as toboggan hats, scarfs, thick socks, thermal underwear or white undershirts for men, gloves, and "hot hands".*

Why we lament...

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up this much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

“Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

♥ Loving ♥ embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine’s Day gifts.

The Gift of Desperation



In a 2012 interview with NPR, author Anne Lamott shared: “I’ve heard people say that God is the gift of desperation, and there’s a lot to be said for having really reached a bottom where you’ve run out of anymore good ideas, or plans for everybody else’s behavior; or how to save and fix and rescue; or just get out of a huge mess, possibly of your own creation. And when you’re done, you may take a long, quavering breath and say, ‘Help.’”

Amid the pandemic and life’s other, more typical trials, have you found a silver lining — a gift that has arisen out of your desperation? Sometimes we’re more open to God during times of struggle than when all flows smoothly. As long as we think our ideas and plans for ourselves and our loved ones are pretty good, we don’t feel we need a Savior. But when life is so challenging that we call to God for help, “the gift of [that] desperation” is finding that God’s loving arms have embraced and strengthened us all along.

*Newsletternewsletter.com
February 2021*

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE SENIORS



If you will be graduating high school or college in May/June 2021, please contact Angela in the church office adminassist@coldspringsumc.org or 704-782-1811 or Kelli Moser at kmoser70@gmail.com or 704-796-8700.

Birthdays

- 1—Christine Barbee
- 3—Geri Clay
- 5—Ruthie Albertson
- 6—Ava Love
- 7—Caren Dowless
- 8—Bill Krimminger
- 13—Richard Dunmire, Fonda Carter
- 14—Larry Lefler
- 15—Ola Sells
- 19—Rene' Caldwell
- 20—Annette Hammill, Jannette Kluttz
- 24—Champ Lyerly
- 25—Boyd Lyerly
- 26—Gene Sechler, Melissa Brantley
- 27—Tom Nemeth
- 28—Ann Sechler, Cassie Overbay
- 29—Samantha Fellows

FEBRUARY



Anniversaries

- 7—Bobby & Carolyn Morgan



Bible Quiz



What was the name of Moses' wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah



Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

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Mt. Pleasant Food Ministry's Current needs:

Tuna, Canned Chicken, Luncheon Meats, Canned Fruit, Pork & Beans, Dried Milk, and Crackers



Pantry Needs

Non-food items: Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Face Soap, Toilet Tissue, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Diapers

The basket for donations to this food pantry is located in the hall behind the sanctuary beside the church mailboxes.

A Christ-centered life does not mean a life in which one sings hymns, reads Scripture and edifies his neighbors by hanging texts on the walls. One does not become a Christian by doing a good deed a day, nor by go-getting for religion, nor by engaging in economic and political reform movements, even though these things are done from the noblest of human motives. A Christian is one who, believing that Christ is the Son of God, has that Christ-life in his soul. —Fulton Sheen, Newsletternewsletter.com, February 2021

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The Power of Love



By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love’s practicality in everyday life: “Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way.” He also calls love “the WD-40 of relationships” because it “can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can’t seem to penetrate.”

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God’s help, can change hearts and lives. “Love all [people], even your enemies,” he advises. “Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother.”



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST:

Cancelled

When sending prayer requests via email, please send them to prayer@coldspringsumc.org or submit them via the prayer request form on the church website. This will allow requests to still be sent out even when the church office is closed.



**REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER**

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2550 Cold Springs Road
Concord, NC 28025

Phone: 704-782-1811
Fax: 704-793-4629

Email: adminassist@coldspringsumc.org

We're on the web
www.coldspringsumc.org

