

The Fountain

FEBRUARY 2022



I love the scripture passage from Nehemiah 8:10, “**The joy of the Lord is my strength.**” Many songs focus on this verse, especially a more recent one by Rend Collective entitled, “Joy of the Lord.”

We like the idea of joy in the Lord. We hang onto the notion that the Lord is our strength. The Hebrew meaning of the word “strength” in Nehemiah indicates a place or means of safety, protection, refuge, or stronghold.

The context of Nehemiah 8:10 finds the Israelites once again in the midst of severe exile due to their lack of faithfulness and obedience to God. The repeated themes can be found throughout the Old Testament: though blessed tremendously by God, the people rejected the Lord, sought their own path which led to disaster, and when they were at the bottom with no other place to turn they cried out to God. The Israelites had been taken captive as a result of their rejection of God. Without their land or temple or possessions they struggled with their identity.

Finally, they realized their identity was in the Lord, Yahweh! It wasn’t in their power, their land or possessions. They repented and called upon the name of the Lord for help. God reaffirmed to them that they were still his chosen people, and he was still their God. That is a joy that could impart strength.

The joy of knowing who we are in Christ and being content with that reality is a gift. The strength we find in a relationship with

God Almighty is sufficient for all our needs. Blessed are those who realize the joy of the Lord is their strength. More blessed are those who realize and live this truth without all the rebellion and rejection of the Source.

Pastor Tony



Faith's role in love...

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. “I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more.” That “more,” she explains, involves these paradoxes: “We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand.”

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: “When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart.”

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and many thanks to those who contributed to the Pastor Appreciation Gift I received at the end of October. It was a true blessing and total surprise.

In addition, the various cards, notes, messages and forms of appreciation were humbling to receive but also deeply meaningful. Thank you all for your support. It is a true joy to be a part of ministry with you in this wonderful place.



Pastor Tony

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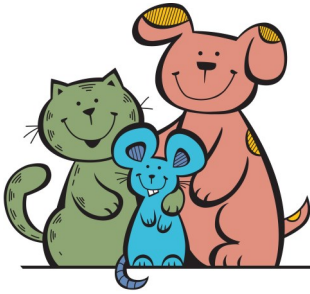
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*Pvt. Yount, Jaysten

Please continue to keep Jase in your prayers...mail is difficult as his locations continue to change. He passed along his thanks for all the prayers and support.



As a ministry to our college-age students attending college (and military), we periodically send gift cards to them to local fast-food restaurants so they can grab a "treat" on us and to let them know we are thinking and praying for them! If you would like to help support this ministry, please mark your contribution "college" and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. Your support is greatly appreciated!



The Gift of Animals

When God made the animals and gave them to the first human being in the Garden of Eden, though they weren't precisely the companion Adam needed, not all was lost. According to Genesis 2, God gave Adam the privilege of naming them all, and when you name something or someone, you bond with that being in a special way. Ever since creation, humans and animals have been connected — often for good purposes, though sometimes not; as the saying goes, "It's complicated."

But on the positive side, Trisha McCagh, a renowned animal communicator, writes: "Animals are the bridge between us and the beauty of all that is natural. They show us what's missing in our lives, and how to love ourselves more completely and unconditionally. They connect us back to who we are and to the purpose of why we're here."

I would say animals also show us how to love other people, nonhuman beings and the earth more completely and unconditionally. And they call our attention to God's creativity. Praise God for the gift of the vast variety of animals with whom we share this planet!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

If you've ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you're familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer's remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experi-

enced that. As a church sign proclaims, "When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer's remorse. And he never will!" To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2, NIV)

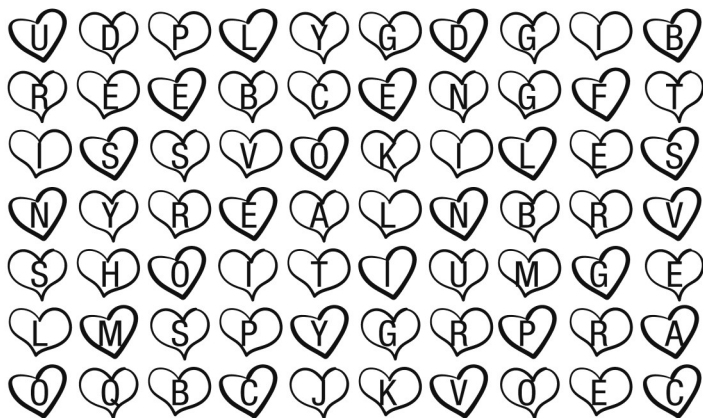
**NO
REGRETS**



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Birthdays

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



Gifts & Memorials

UMYF

By: Tom & Grace Cranmer

GIRL SCOUTS

In Honor of Pam Helms

By: Terry Bowers



Bible Quiz



In the book of Revelation, who or what is “prepared as a bride, adorned for her husband”?

- A. The church
- B. The Spirit
- C. Mary Magdalene
- D. The new Jerusalem



Answer: D (See Revelation 21:2.)

Honor Thy Teachers...

When President Eisenhower invited James Michener to a White House dinner, the bestselling author replied: "Dear Mr. President, I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers." Instead of taking offense, Eisenhower answered: "In his lifetime, a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents. But a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."



Fine teachers are indeed worth cherishing, whether they hold classes in churches or public schools, on Sundays or on weekdays. Let us honor and appreciate all teachers, all year long. Thank you for preparing lessons with care, for going above and beyond to meet each student's needs, and for sparking curiosity about God and everything he created. You're a blessing!

The right words for Victory in Jesus...



My mom tells a story of me as a preschooler, swinging in our backyard and singing loudly (and off key, I'm sure): "Oh victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He socked me and bopped me with his redeeming blood." Though that isn't an example of how to effectively share Jesus with your neighbors, the mistaken words might contain a nugget of truth.

In 1939, a stroke partially paralyzed hymnwriter Eugene Bartlett. Bedridden and unable to perform anymore, he penned his final, most beloved song, "Victory in Jesus." The actual lyrics read: "O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood."

It's beautiful to realize that Jesus did indeed seek me out and pay the ultimate price for me. But sometimes I forget — and that's when he "socks me" and "bops me." Jesus loves me too much to let life's chaos and struggles distract me from him and what he's done. Let's all remember to celebrate our victory in Jesus!

—Janna Firestone

Check out our website:

www.coldspringsumc.org



Online Ministries tab has links to

 **YouTube** Worship live @ 8:45am



 **PayPal** *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 for fall/winter: cold weather items such as toboggan hats, scarfs, thick socks, thermal underwear or white undershirts for men, gloves, and "hot hands."*

Puzzle!

Answer each statement (based on Matthew's gospel)
True or False by circling the letter in the correct column.
Then write each circled letter on the appropriately
numbered line below to discover why Jesus died.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Jesus healed Peter's wife <i>(Matthew 8:14).</i>	E	N
2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with two loaves and five fish <i>(14:17).</i>	R	A
3. At Jesus' Transfiguration, Peter saw Jonah and Elijah <i>(17:3).</i>	M	S
4. The rich, young ruler decided not to follow Jesus <i>(19:22).</i>	T	C
5. Jesus said the temple had become a "den of robbers" <i>(21:13).</i>	I	G
6. Famines and earthquakes are signs of the end of the age <i>(24:7).</i>	V	D
7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise and six foolish maidens <i>(25:1-13).</i>	F	A
8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret handshake <i>(26:48).</i>	P	L
9. The Roman governor Polonius interrogated Jesus <i>(27:11-14).</i>	W	O

N

3 2 8 6 7 4 5 9 1



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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If you have an event/announcement you would like advertised in the newsletter and/or email, please provide information to the church office. The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Events/announcements may also be sent out via church wide email. The office phone #704-782-1811 and the church office email address is adminassist@coldspringsumc.org

If you would like to be added to the church email group, please provide your email address to the office via a note in the offering plate or email/phone call to the church office.

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.



the **REQUESTS**
— FOR —
PRAYER

Mt. Pleasant Food Ministry's Current needs:

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

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.



Pantry Needs

Events At Cold Springs

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
[6] Every Sunday: 8:45am Contemporary Worship Service 10:05am Sunday School for ALL ages 11:00am Worship Service 4:00pm UMYF	[1] 6:00pm Bible Study - Conf Rm #2	[2] 9:00am Bible study -Conf Rm #2	[3] 6:00pm Communal Prayer - Sanctuary	[4] KH reserved all day	[5] KH reserved all day	
[7] [13] KH reserved - Boy Scouts	[8] 6:00pm Bible Study - Conf Rm #2	[9] 9:00am Bible study -Conf Rm #2	[10] [11]	[12]	[12]	Bus - Boy Scouts
[14] Valentine's Day	[15] 6:00pm Bible Study -Conf Rm #2 FOUNTAIN NEWS DUE	[16] 9:00am Bible study -Conf Rm #2	[17]	[18]	[19]	Bus - Girl Scouts
[20]	[21] [22] 6:00pm Bible Study - Conf Rm #2	[23] 9:00am Bible study -Conf Rm #2	[24] KH reserved - Cub Scouts	[25] KH reserved - Cub Scouts	[26] KH reserved - Cub Scouts SH reserved	
Bus - Girl Scouts	Bus - Girl Scouts					
[27]	[28] 9:00am JOY - KH					

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We're on the web
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2022