

Exeter Church of Christ



**God...
has appointed
a time for
every matter,
and for every
work.**

Ecclesiastes 3:17

February 9, 2020

320 East Firebaugh / 592-2909

The God of all times and seasons welcomes you, now and always. May the Word of God, heard and experienced, strengthen you this day.

- NewsletterNewsletter

FEBRUARY
9, 2020

Welcome to Worship



TODAY is *Senior Saints' Day* when we honor our seniors. Immediately after church (10:30), we will share a potluck meal in the fellowship hall. All are invited to stay.

THIS SATURDAY, the 15th, *Church of God of Exeter* (Chestnut & H) will host the men's breakfast at 8:30 am. Guest speaker from "Athletes in Action" will be **Jim Romelfeld**. That same day our *Ladies' Auxiliary* for the *Manor House* will provide a Valentine's dinner for those who've made reservations. *Hands in the Community* will feature two Christian comedians at its 2nd annual *Comedy Blast!* Additional information on the February 28 event is posted on the bulletin board. Also on the 28th **BLACKSTONE** Church of Christ in Tulare will host the area-wide singing which will resume after its winter break. Singing begins at 7:00 pm and refreshments will be served afterward.



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE for **Peggy Shackelford** has been scheduled for Saturday, March 7, in our church facility. After the 11:00 am service, we will have a time of sharing food and memories in our fellowship hall.

Jean Lillich has not been feeling well lately and she will see her doctor again Friday for test results. **Larry Thompson** is scheduled for his deep brain stimulation surgery April 21 in San Francisco. **Linette Thompson** may be seeing a pulmonologist in the area when it can be set up. **Tina Cotta's** brother-in-law, **Andreas Warner**, got the results from tests on his tumor, and it is stage III cancer.



TODAY'S Word:



"Seasons"

Seasons of Life

Eccl. 3, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven."

Iain Provan, "Everything in our lives has a season, an appropriate time, not in some random way but in a manner that's charged with purpose." Human experience as a tapestry woven of times, is a way to recognize life.



Spring is the time of beginnings, exciting opportunities, and anticipation for the future. Seeds planted in this time will then take root and mature during Summer's labor, producing a harvest in the Fall, a reaping of our efforts. Then everything draws to a close in Winter. Normally, we think of childhood and youth as springtime, while summer represents the emerging prime of life. Then fall (autumn) starts somewhere beyond middle age perhaps, and everything slows and fades to a finish in elderly wintertime. Not talking about the concept of aging, but rather our growth, our progress, our advancement. Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional. Each season is unique and adds important dimensions to life. Spring is about potential, promise and possibilities. Time of beginnings, can be invigorating. Spring offers brand new opportunities and possibilities; about beginnings.

Summer is a time of growth and maturation. The seeds we planted during summer mature into full-sized plants. Summer is a season of work, when we invest the time and effort required to become good at what we do. It's hot/humid. It's dry. Most look for the shade/air conditioner.

Autumn is the season of harvest. We see the production/reward of our labors. It's when our hard work begins to pay-off. We may not be the best in our field, but we're now our best.

Winter is the season of winding down, withdrawal, retreat, and closure. Activities, responsibilities, and relationships draw to a close in winter. This is the time of ending. It's also a period of rest, restoration, and reflection.

GOOD NEWS! Once winter passes, another spring is at the doorstep.

Isaiah 42:9, "Behold, the former things have come to pass, a new thing I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Isaiah 43:19, "Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

- Johnny Hunt

THIS Morning's Bible class (9:30), *Understanding the Seasons of Life*, will be a good introduction to the theme we'll follow today in church as we honor our *Seasoned Citizens*.

CHAPTER 5 of Hebrews for Wednesday



BibleProject.com is a good online resource to go to for a better understanding of the Bible. Copies of the reading schedule are in the foyer. Check it out.

Church of Christ

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Sunday

Bible class 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Bible class 7:00 PM

Seasons of our life

Most people have regrets of some kind; no one has an unblemished past. This can hijack our lives. We can't go back and change what we did previously. We can learn from our mistakes and enthusiastically live today.

Phil 3:13, *"Brothers, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead."* Maybe Paul agonized over his role in the murder of a righteous man, Stephen. Nothing he could do to change his former actions or their outcome. All he could do is to live his life well in the present. When we recognize that life cycles through seasons of preparation and molding (painful at times) and on to seasons of fulfillment and usefulness, we can find ourselves liberated from regret and shame as we keep moving forward.



Over the years, as we walk with God, we too often see intensification in the springtimes we experience and what they mean for us. We'll see each one building upon what has happened before, and we'll sense God's holy purpose for our lives with greater clarity as well as increased complexity. Never think of yourself as too old for a dramatic experience of opportunity and promise from the Lord.

- Johnny Hunt