

CHRISTIAN CENTER

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

July 2023

for the equipping of the saints
for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ
Ephesians 4:12

Galatians 6:9

Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Hello everyone. I hope that you are encouraged as you seek to follow the path the Lord has for you. I know it is easy to get discouraged at times, whether with issues in our own lives, or with the situations that plague our country and our world. Remember, we are pilgrims passing through this life. May God use us to be salt and light while we are here. Like Abraham, we desire a heavenly country, a city that has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11) So don't grow weary. He has begun a good work in your life, and He will complete it. You can be sure of that.

We are just finishing up the book of Galatians and will be heading next to the poetic books of the Old Testament, starting with Job. He is an excellent example of staying focused on the Lord when life gets hard. He lost everything, but he kept his faith in God. He exercised patience in the midst of suffering, knowing that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. (James 5:10-11)

Our family is taking a trip to Israel with Joel Rosenberg this November. It has been a desire for all of us for many years. If you are interested in going as well, you can find out more information at <https://www.inspirationcruises.com/christian-tours/joshua-fund-israel-2023>. Also, if you have an interest in going as our own church group in the future, please

let me know. It takes about 18 months to plan such a trip, and we would be thrilled to do that if there is enough interest.

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve



JULY BAPTISM

Steve, Suzie, & Ray



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."

1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

What a beautiful season of ministry we have enjoyed over the last months! The verses above remind me that we can do nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us; the Lord desires us to be strong IN (emphasis mine) Him; and our labor in Him is not in vain! Those are exciting truths!

I am grateful for the blessings we all enjoy together as we fellowship, pray, work and play together. Most recently, Vacation Bible School has been quite a delight. It was exciting for me to see each volunteer using his or her gifts to create Medieval era decorations, coordinate music, write and perform scripts (including swordplay and puppet work), teach (the Bible, science, and every element of VBS, actually), interact with children, create fun food and crafts, etc. Each part of our body certainly makes a beautiful whole that brings great glory to our King!

Thank you, everyone, for your support of the ministry at the Christian Center. We are so blessed to get to walk in the Way with you!

Blessings,

Marian 😊



VBS TEACHING

BY BILL MANLEY



The Times They Are a-Changin'

Many of us remember that phrase from Bob Dylan's famous song released in 1964 describing the social, moral, and cultural shift that was sweeping the country at that time. Fast forward nearly 60 years and we once again find ourselves caught in the middle of another huge storm of change enveloping our great country and the world at large.

This time however, the changes are happening much more quickly and with far greater impact due in large part to global connectivity, the internet, the rise and dominance of social media, and the increasing power and influence of government.

Things are moving at light speed in our day and sadly, we are headed in the wrong direction on just about every front. Rising inflation, out of control spending and financial uncertainty, political division like we haven't seen since the Civil War, corruption at the highest levels of Government, the threat of future pandemics, war, along with a complete moral meltdown leading to confusion and insanity that we've never before seen in our culture.

Truly the times have changed as we witness on a daily basis, things most of us never believed we'd see - at least not in our lifetime, but here we are, like it or not.

So what do we as Christians do? How do we respond?

A couple of thoughts come to mind.

First, remember that although we live in an ever-changing world, the God who loves and saved us never does. He is completely unaffected by change here on earth or by anything else in the universe for that matter. In fact, the Scripture reminds us that He changes not. Our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ remains the SAME - yesterday, today and forever. It's true, change is inevitable except when it comes to Him. Remember that the next time you feel yourself being pulled down into fear and anxiety by the ever-shifting sands of change.

Everything and everyone may change around us, but He'll still be there, just like always.

There's a reason He's called the ROCK of our salvation. Nothing moves Him and when He's our foundation, nothing will move us.

A second thing I would add would be this: Make sure you spend more time reading and reflecting upon the GOOD NEWS of Heaven in God's Word than you do stewing and stressing over the constant flow of bad news here on Earth.

Remember this: The world and words of men are temporal, soon forgotten. This morning's news headline will quickly be read, dismissed, and replaced just an hour or two later with something else.

But the world and words of God are eternal. They stand the test of time from generation to generation. His Kingdom and Word are as everlasting as He is and when the dust of change finally settles and all else is gone, He will remain as He's always been - the only True God, our Hope, Salvation, and Glory.

Come build your life on the Rock of our Salvation as our Men's Group meets on Saturday mornings for a fantastic breakfast, fellowship, and a faith building time in God's Word.

Bill



WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

What would summer be without VBS? It was such a joy to work together to provide an amazing Bible-based experience for the children! Watching them dance and sing about Jesus was pure delight! The theme this year was 'Keepers of the Kingdom' and the focus was on the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-19). Even though our objective was instructing the children about each piece of God's armor, we ALL can benefit by remembering to use this armor daily! God loves us and has blessed us with everything we need to be victorious over our enemy, the devil. During a teaching about prayer, one boy had a great answer to the question, "When can we pray?" In addition to 'anytime' he said, "RIGHT NOW!" 😊 May we each remember to pray 'right now' - anytime!

Our Women's Bible studies will begin a new season of study in October. The emphasis is always on encouraging one another by standing strong in the Word of God and in fostering a close relationship with our Savior, Jesus. We enjoy a sweet time of fellowship as we sing, study, and pray for one another. We all benefit from spending time together as we glean the wonderful truth in God's Word! Get ready and let's GROW!

At our fall luncheon we'll be revealing the topics for the morning and evening studies. We hope you'll be able to come!

"...Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
Hebrews 10:24,25

You are so loved,

Debie



VBS WORSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2	5:30 pm	Women's Potluck
August 13		Church Luncheon
August 23	5:30 pm	Potluck & Movie

JOEL C. ROSENBERG AND THE JOSHUA FUND

ISRAEL TOUR

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 8, 2023

WELCOME

GUESTS

ITINERARY

DESTINATION

PRICES

Join this Unforgettable Israel Tour with Joel C. Rosenberg and The Joshua Fund

JOEL C. ROSENBERG

Founder, The Joshua Fund

WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENING HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY SUSIE SIMPSON

Bonnie and I both enjoyed hosting and facilitating the amazing Bible study entitled, Finding God Faithful, on the life of Joseph, by Kelly Minter. I mean, who doesn't like the story of Joseph in Genesis? This study did not disappoint. There were so many takeaway nuggets to apply to our own lives each time we met. I think one of our greatest lessons was the familiar passage in Genesis 50:20, "But as for you, you meant evil for me; but God meant it for good..." How often has God turned a bad situation into good for us?

We had good turnouts each time, even though, let's face it, going home after work, and then going out again isn't easy, especially when it gets dark. The ladies were faithful to show up, and God did too! There is something incredibly special when women join together to learn from the Word of God. We enjoy learning from the study, but also from each other, and from our different perspectives that are shared. There is beautiful fellowship as we lift each other's needs to the Lord in prayer. Consider joining us in the fall. There's always room for more. You will be a blessing, and you will be blessed in return.



VBS SKITS

Susie



MISSIONARIES BOAZ NIYINYUMVA (April)



DEREK WEBBER (May)