

CHRISTIAN CENTER

EQUIP ~ ENGAGE ~ EDIFY

September 2023

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

Job 1:21

***"...The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away;
blessed be the name of the Lord."***

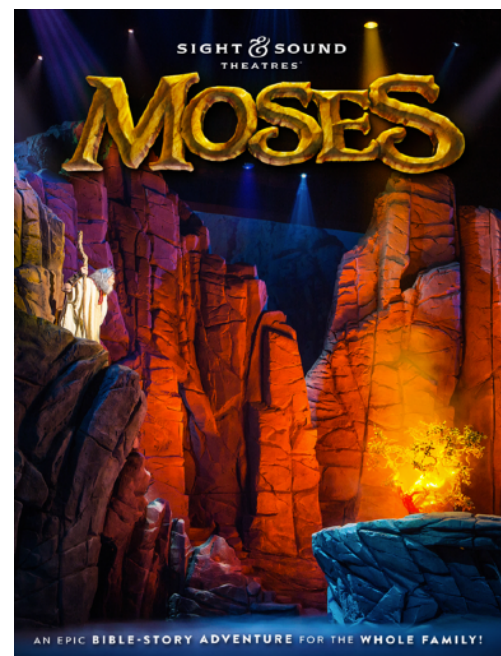
The last number of weeks have been encouraging as we have gone through the Book of Job. He lost his family, wealth, and health, and yet he still held fast to his integrity and trusted in God. He is a great example of trusting God amid suffering. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." (Job 13:15) Admittedly, Job did not understand why things were happening to him, but he trusted God, nonetheless. His three friends who came to comfort him were of little use. We got to see how NOT to comfort those who are going through trials as we watched Job's friends accuse him of suffering for his own sin. I like the phrase, the ministry of presence. Most of the time people just need a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, someone who cares and is there for them.

The book of Job helps us to look beyond this life and gain an eternal perspective. Trials have a way of refining us as gold is refined in the fire. "Shall we indeed accept good from God and shall we not accept adversity?" (Job 2:10) Remember the intended end of the Lord. "The Lord is very compassionate and merciful." (James 5:11) When we don't understand why things are happening in our lives, we need to fall back on what we do understand: God is good, and He loves us very much! "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He

shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God." (Job 19:25-26)

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve



DINNER & MOVIE

September 27th 5:30 pm



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY MARIAN MELLOR

"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

The hot summer days are abating and the windy fall days are emerging – festive feelings are in the air! It is so much fun to anticipate the return of our beloved snowbirds and to prepare for the start-up of the Bible studies, the Small Groups, and the Harvest Festival.

In the Children's Ministry, we are looking forward to a "fresh start" as well! We enjoyed using the Answers in Genesis Vacation Bible School curriculum so much that I decided to look into their children's church curriculum and found that it seems to be as rich in content as the VBS curriculum. One of the things I greatly appreciate about Answers in Genesis is the importance that is placed on the truth of the Bible and using those truths to equip students to "defend their faith, to be conformed to the image of Christ, and to apply God's Word in their everyday lives." The curriculum has been ordered and we are greatly looking forward to putting it to good use, hopefully starting the first Sunday in October!

Bless You!

Marian 😊

UPCOMING EVENTS

DINNER & MOVIE: 9/27 5:30 pm

Join us for a time of food and fellowship followed by Sight & Sounds production of MOSES.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON: 9/30 11:30 am

Join us for a time of food and fellowship and a message by Denise Schmaderer. We will also be introducing the women's Bible studies.

BAPTISM: 10/8

We are so excited to be having a baptism following the Sunday morning service. If you are interested in being baptized, please see Pastor Steve.

SMALL GROUPS: 10/18 5:30 pm

We are beginning sermon-based small group home fellowships October 18th. We meet together from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for an interactive discussion of the Bible passage we studied the previous Sunday followed by a time of fellowship with light refreshments. The Fall session is going to wrap up December 13th. Please sign up and join us.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: 10/28 4:00 pm

We are looking forward to an exciting festival this year. Harvest games, and snack bar will be open from 4:00 - 6:00 pm with and exciting youth event for teens following from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer please sign up in the foyer.



BY GENE SIMPSON



Greetings to the men of the Christian Center. As we have been on our summer schedule for the past few months, please make a note that we will be returning to our normal every Saturday schedule beginning October 7th.

A few Sundays ago, Susie and I were driving home from the morning church service, and I said, "Well, we've done it again." She replied, "We've done what again?" I said, "We have gone to church, and now we are on our way home." She replied, "Yep, we have been doing that together for almost 50 years."

We also read the Bible and pray nightly, as I am sure many of you do. Susie reads on the even numbered dates, and I on the odd ones. One reads and the other one prays. Of course, it is also important that we have our own personal prayer and reading devotional time in the morning.

When it comes to Men's Breakfast and Bible study, I never miss if I can help it. It's the same with Susie and Women's Bible study. If possible, she is very diligent in attending the Women's Bible studies every week.

It's not that we are obligated to attend church services every Sunday or read and pray together or attend breakfast or Bible studies. We have never asked each other on Saturday night, "Are we going to church tomorrow?" It has never been questioned, should I attend Men's Breakfast, or should you go to the Women's study, or should we read and pray tonight? Occasionally we miss, but we try very hard to stick to this pattern.

Together, at the beginning of our marriage, we made the decision to do these things, not if we feel like it, but because it is needed to keep our relationship with Jesus healthy, and with each other so that we are going in a positive direction. I guess you can call it a commitment we made many years ago, and then we asked the Lord to help us to honor that commitment.

The bottom line, I suppose, is that we need to be diligent in whatever we do, and I hope these ideas might be helpful to you.

Colossians 3:23-24 from the Amplified Bible says... Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you guys again and ready to continue with the summary of the whole Bible, as well as eating and fellowshiping together...See you Saturday mornings at 7:00.

Love and Blessings to all,

Gene



WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENING HOME FELLOWSHIP

BY BONNIE RETHORET

Hi everyone! I am super excited for the opportunity to share in teaching the Monday night women's Bible study with Susie Simpson again this year! The book we will be studying is *When You Pray*. It is very unique in that it is written by six very dynamic teachers who share their perspectives on prayer. Each personality and style is different but the content and message is straight from the Bible. We will be looking at six prayers ranging from the Lord's prayer to prayers of adoration, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of lament, and even prayers of intercession. I am so looking forward to learning together all there is available in this study.

As a group we have the luxury of time to share what the Lord is showing each one of us as we dig into His word. I can hardly wait to catch up with all our snowbird sisters in Christ and start a new fall season growing and learning together. "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16 So save the date Monday October 23rd see you there 😊 !!

Bonnie

WOMEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BY DEBIE DILLAHUNT

How exciting it is to start a new season of Bible study! We are looking forward to a sweet time together as we gather on October 23rd!

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity." Psalm 133:1

This reminds me so much of our church family and the blessing of gathering to praise and honor our Lord! A comment on this beautiful verse states that the Jewish people "sang Psalm 133 to express their joy in coming together for worship at the Temple, where God promised to meet them. The Psalm imparts blessing and life to God's people, and it proclaims oneness in faith."

In our morning study we will be exploring the Book of Romans in a study by Courtney Doctor, *In View of God's Mercies*. In the introduction to our study, Courtney reminds us that "Paul's hope was to exalt God and point his readers to Him. He wanted us to understand the depths of the gospel of grace and to know the hope of a transformed life."

The Book of Romans is so rich! It's filled with God's truth and His promises for us as followers of Jesus. So, whether you are a seasoned believer or newer to Bible studies, come and focus on the GOOD NEWS found in Romans! Be ready to enjoy the blessings of fellowship as we share, sing, pray, and encourage each other.

You are SO LOVED,

Debie

