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December 7, 2020

An Encouraging Word. . .

A Date Which Will Live in Infamy

Dec. 7th, 1941 the nation of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, ushering the USA into World War II. This day signaled a change in America. No longer could they avoid the war. Now they had been attacked, and they needed to respond. This date would live in infamy because of the attack on American soil, but also because it signaled the beginning of the war for most Americans. Things had changed, and not for the better.

586 B.C. the city of Jerusalem fell, including the majestic temple of Jerusalem. Babylon had done the unthinkable and conquered God's people. In the words of the psalmist, remembering the event and the subsequent exile, "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps, for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?"

It's hard to sing when we are mourning. It's hard to sing when the world doesn't seem *right*. I know this has been a difficult year for many and being unable to meet in person is difficult for us all. Yet God has not abandoned us. Amid a prophecy about the fall of Jerusalem, known at the book of Lamentations, one of the darkest and saddest books of the Bible, we find, at the very center, words of great hope in times of crisis: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'" (La 3:22-24).

Annual Meeting - Because of the Covid situation our **Annual meeting** is going to look a bit different this year. You can join us for a phone conference call **tonight** at 7:00 PM. To join us, **dial 425-436-6333**, then **enter access code 533742#** This will allow you to ask questions or participate in the meeting in the easiest way possible for the most people. The budget is attached to the Waymaker, and you can also contact any elder or John with questions about the budget or any other matters.

Please help!! We are still needing bell ringers for **TONIGHT, December 7**. We have one open spot at 7:00 and two open for the 8:00 spot. Please call Lynn at 309-335-0426 if you would like to sign up.

The **Red Cross** will be having a blood drive in our Fellowship Hall on December 9. Appointments can be made by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or by visiting their website at www.redcrossblood.org.

The boxed FCC **giving envelopes** for 2021 are available in the church office on Sunday. If you wish to give in this way, please check your name off the list and take your box (or sign your name for an unmarked box).

Christmas Greetings - We need your help to make Christmas Eve memorable. We are asking you to record yourself giving a Christmas Greeting which we will add to the service. If you need help recording this, we will send a crew to record your video for you.

Christmas Card Exchange - The boxes for Christmas cards will be available now until Christmas in the foyer Monday-Thursday from 9:00-noon. If you have Christmas cards for church members, feel free to stop by during those times. If you want, you can make a donation to the Shepherd's Fund in lieu of postage. Note: Please file the cards you bring under the recipient's last name initial. Boxes will remain until January 1.

Staff Christmas Bonus – Each year, the congregation gives to our ministers and staff a monetary bonus for their hard work at the church. This year has been especially difficult trying to produce online programs for adults and kids, plus keeping up with everyone. Please consider giving some extra funds to our staff this year! You may mail your gift to the church, drop it by the office weekday mornings, or give it to an elder. Thank you!

Angel Tree - You can make monetary donations to the church for this purpose and it will be passed on to the Salvation Army. Please designate on your donation “Angel Tree.”

Help a Child! – FCC is once again collecting **hats, scarves, and mittens/gloves** for elementary school children. Donations may be brought to the bin off the main foyer until December 10. Note: The office doors will be open during weekday mornings.

PRAYER LIST –

****Ongoing health problems** – Mike Haptonstall, Ginger Howe, Keith Johnston, Linda Homer, Brenda Muckey, Rodney Harrell, Barb Dykema, Karen German, Joni Olson, LeRoy Knox, Gary Icenogle, Shannon Martin, Kelly Neirnyck, Robin Burwell, Judy Hand, Keith Reiff, Becky Mann Johnson, Pam Gale, Duane Johnston

****Cancer** – Rick Ford, Kathi Sheets, Jack Swearingen, Grayce Cox, Teri Albertson, Dennis Reside, Everly Stoner

****Nursing Homes - (Kewanee Care)** - Jayne Forbis, Helen Haderer **(Royal Oaks)** - Judy Huggins;
(Hillcrest) - Cindy Clark, Naida VandenDooren, Gene Yarger **(Betty's Garden)** – Reva Steffen, Sandy Jones

****Courtyard Village - Rex McCormick**

****Missions** - Please see our website for a complete listing of international and local missions we support.

****Serving our country** - Zach Hardy, Benjamin Schmidt, Matt Worstell, Matt Elbus (Iraq), Thaddeus Blanks, Andy Moseley, Jarrett Davis, Collin White, Brandon Rohrig, Caleb Franklin, Isaac Frank (HI), Ryan Peed, Arrick Juarez (Iraq), Collin Johnson

Prayer Ministry...

****Pray for our church** at a regular time each day!

****Focus on Fasting**

****Prayer Chain** - Please call Shirley Brokaw (309-883-1677) or Sylvia Giese (853-2617) with requests. Note: If the request is for someone other than you, please obtain their permission before putting the need on the chain. Requests will be called out from 8:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

OFFERING	November 29, 2020
General (received)	2,045.00
(needed)	8,309.00
Year-to-date (given)	317,068.00
Budget to date	398,832.00
Mission Fund	25.00

Note: No in-person youth group in December.
No Ladies' Bible study in December.

Snow Removal -

12/7-12/13 – Jeff Giese, Noah Dir
12/14-12/20 – Jason and Alex Peed