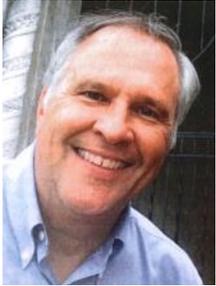


Beacon

... guiding our walk



September 2021



September. Labor Day. All signs of the end of summer. However, I doubt the temperature will be aware of that for a while yet! Usually this time of year we would be ramping up existing programs and starting new ministries. But, here we are in another wave of Covid.

As your pastor I want you to know that I love you and care about you. That is why I am asking you to please be vaccinated and wear a mask in public places. More people are dying right now in Florida than they were before there was a vaccine. I have lost a few friends this summer. I have been praying for friends whose children in their 30's and 40's are hospitalized and a few have died. This isn't a political issue for me. This is just science. Protect yourself and others.

The Pastor's Bible study has resumed. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am in the fellowship hall and on Zoom. If you wish to attend by Zoom, email me and let me know, and I will send you a link. If you wish to come in person, please wear a mask and social distance.

There is so much going on in our world right now. It sometimes seems overwhelming. Let me encourage you to think of all the things God has already brought you through in your life. May those memories give you encouragement that God will bring you through these times as well. Continue to pray for others and find ways to serve and show love to those around us, if not in person, then online or with a card or phone call. The two things that bring me hope each day is the knowledge that God is with us and God loves us.

May your past experiences of God's faithfulness and the present reality of God's love for you and presence with you, give you strength and hope for the future and peace for today.

Grace

Pastor Don



Just a note from Megan Mash

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls us from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.*

*In seasons of distress and grief;
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

This beloved hymn on personal prayer has a bit of an uncertain history attached to it. The identity of the writer has been questioned by many hymnologists. Originally the text was attributed to William W. Walford (1772-1850). Walford was a blind lay preacher who served in Coleshill, Warwickshire, England in the mid-19th century. His friend, Thomas Salmon, stopped by the trinket shop he owned one day in 1842. Walford request Salmon's assistance to write down a poem he composed about prayer. Salomon showed the poem to the editor of the *New York Observer* in which it was printed in the September 13, 1845 issue. Research conducted by William J. Reynolds could not locate a William W. Walford in Coleshill causing Reynolds to question Salmon's story. Reynolds found a Rev. William Walford who was a Congregational minister and served a the president of Homerton Academy. He wrote many books including *The Manner of Prayer* which has similarities to the hymn text. Coleshill and Homerton are about 110 miles apart which causes doubt in the story. It is possible that Salmon embellished the story and both William W. Walford and Rev. William Walford are indeed the same person.

The first hymnal "Sweet Hour of Prayer" was published in was *Church Melodies*, a Baptist hymnal in 1859. It first appeared with the tune SWEET HOUR for the first time in 1861 in the collection *Golden Chain*. The collection contained tunes by William Bradbury (1816-1868). Other well known tunes by Bradbury include those written for "Just As I Am," "The Solid Rock," and "He Leadeth Me."

As stated above, this text focuses on personal, private prayer. The first stanza reminds the singer that prayer calls us from the world to the feet of God. It is difficult or even impossible to have a conversation with someone when your mind is thinking about something else. Prayer calls us to shift away from the distractions of the world and focus on our relationship with God. The first stanza also reminds us that this relationship is one that is present in all seasons of life. The second stanza highlights the joys found in spending time in prayer. We can offer our anxieties to God and trust God will walk with us through them. Which leads into the third stanza reminds us that God is faithful when we seek God's face. The original fourth stanza has been omitted from many hymnals. It focuses on prayer as a gateway to heaven:

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
May I thy consolations share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home, and take my flight.*

Missional Concert Series
Will be returning this fall.
The first concert will be on Saturday,
September 25 at 4:00 pm
Plan to attend a wonderful
afternoon of music .
September 25
4 pm



Facebook Safety Tip: Facebook is a great way to keep in touch with people we love and build our church community. It also provides a way for people to learn about the church and become connected to our community. Unfortunately, it also becomes a place for scammers to show up. Just a friendly reminder that it is not safe to add someone as a friend unless you personally know them. Adding a welcoming comment is safe. Also if you get a strange message or additional friend request from someone who is already your friend, contact them in another way to see if it really is them. Stay safe!

A Call For Help for Haiti

The LOL youth group has been involved in mission work for Haiti Clinic for some time now, and the clinic has shared some needs. Recently the Haiti Clinic posted 2 ways to help.

They have an Amazon Smile list where you can purchase items that they are requesting and will be directly given to those in need by Haiti.

They are also in need of things like knit/crocheted baby blankets and hats and onesies. If you knit or crochet let us know if you can help. I have had several non-knitters say they would help supply yarn.

Amazon Smile link: https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/VF2DSC4T40F1/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl?fbclid=IwAR0oFY8bH0QMo-A7bhVg_6sh5SAezGLvRmMcK4E_O171JFXzqrlbZLQxLU

There may be a onesie drive in the near future, details are coming.



Mark the date! 10 AM Monday, November 1, 2021 the Women's Bible Study will resume its studies. We will be using another study by Liz Curtis Higgs, entitled "The Women of Christmas." Liz is also the author of Bad Girls of the Bible that we enjoyed so much.

We will explore the biblical stories of Elizabeth, Mary and Anna, unwrapping each verse to introduce us afresh to The Women of Christmas. We will celebrate the opening of the Christmas season by examining these three ladies whose hearts belonged to God.

Happy Birthday September

Mary Wilson	2
Foster Crippen	8
Betty Stull	9
Don Davis	11
George Decker	11
June Crain	14
Kathy Jackson	14
Tom Flanigan	15

Brad Marx	18
Becky Crippen	24
Kathy Casey	25
Mary Jo Barton	26
Jane Cypher	26
Loretta Scardino	27
Phil Molina	28
Charlee Albert	30

Happy Anniversary September

Richard & Jeanette Schumacher	1
Roby & Jeane Bievins	17
Richard & Vicky Hay	20



Open

*hearts.
minds.
doors.*

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 2021			1	2 Ben A Adult Bible Study 10 am ZOOM	3	4
5 Worship 10 am Fellowship Café 11 am FH 3 pm LOL	6 Labor Day Church Office Closed	7 Pastor's bible Study 10 am FH & Zoom UMM Roadside Rest. 12 pm	8 Joyful Ringers 3 pm S	9 ML SG 9:30 am SGR Ben A Adult Bible Study	10	11
12 Worship 10 am Fellowship Café 11 am FH 3 pm LOL	13 Soul Café FH Feeding 12—1 pm 7 pm Trustee Trustee 7 pm	14 Pastor's bible Study 10 am FH & Zoom UMM Roadside	15 Joyful Ringers 3 pm S Handbells 7 pm S	16 Ben A Adult Bible Study 10 am ZOOM	17 Mary's Circle 11 am FH	18
19 Worship 10 am Fellowship Café 11 am FH 3 pm LOL	20 Soul Café FH Feeding 12—1 pm Finance 6 pm Admin Cnc 7 pm FH	21 Pastor's bible Study 10 am FH & Zoom UMM Roadside Rest. 12 pm	22 Joyful Ringers 3 pm S Handbells 7 pm S	23 ML SG 9:30 am SGR Ben A Adult Bible Study	24	25 Missional Concert 4 pm
26 Worship 10 am Fellowship Café 11 am FH 3 pm LOL	27 Soul Café FH Feeding 12—1 pm	28 Pastor's bible Study 10 am FH & Zoom UMM Roadside Rest. 12 pm	29 Joyful Ringers 3 pm S Handbells 7 pm S	30 Ben A Adult Bible Study 10 am ZOOM 7pm Choir		