

## After the Election...Then What?

In the days leading up to today (Election Day), we have witnessed how our faith in Christ, and all the ethical teaching he gives us, has run into spiritual forces that attempt subvert civic virtue. Worse, those same evil forces use Christianity as a weapon against others (which, by the way, is a form of idolatry). Among those forces are a desire for power, temptation, lies, misinformation, fear, intimidation, and violence. The concept that captures that struggle between faith in Christ and evil forces is called *spiritual warfare*, and intuition and history tell me that the battle will continue well after today.

With that in mind, I recently shared some theological advice with a Christian men's group of which I'm a part for the days before, during, and after this election, and I'll share it with you as well because, as those in Christ, our partisan affiliation has no place in the kingdom of heaven (hence the idolatry I mention above).

I used to picture spiritual warfare as in one army in battle with another. That is how the conflict between good and evil, or between God and Satan, is often, but mistakenly, portrayed. After I read ***Mere Christianity*** many times and wrote a study guide on it, I have changed my perception of what spiritual warfare looks like.

Chapter 2 in Book II of ***Mere Christianity*** is titled "The Invasion." That title is a bit misleading because it, too, suggests that evil is in direct confrontation with good. But that is not the case. Instead, C.S. Lewis describes the struggle between good and evil as an *insurrection* (a rebellion or an attack from within) rather than a battle between two opposing and roughly equal forces. The reason is simple. *Satan is not equal to God*, although we may feel at times that Satan is as powerful as our loving God. As Job 1-2 reminds us, Satan was a member of the heavenly court and a lesser being than God (the King in Job). Just as darkness always gives way to the light, so too does the darkness of Satan give way to the Light of our risen Lord and Savior. Perhaps the most striking part of Lewis' thought is his comment that, because it is a civil war or a rebellion led by Satan, "*we are living in a part of the universe occupied by the rebel.*"

In another chapter of ***Mere Christianity***, Lewis describes Pride as the greatest sin, and he reminds the reader that it was Pride that led Satan to rebel against God. The earthly domain or "the universe occupied by the rebel" is where Satan fights his guerilla war against God, and, because it is an insurrection with no "rules of engagement," he uses any and all means possible, including you and me. (Satan does not fight a just war. Another book by Lewis, ***The Screwtape Letters***, gives strong clues as to just how insidious Satan can be as his tempters infiltrate our homes, businesses, institutions, and yes, even our churches looking for recruits.)

That is where we have to be careful. We know about temptation, or at least I hope we do. Anyone, especially those who believe in God, are available as a weapon, or outright recruit, for Satan when faced with temptation. We are the ones Satan fears the most, so we are the ones under attack with Satan's weapons, primarily that of Pride as the foundation for all other sins. He doesn't have to worry about those who do not believe in a loving God and a risen Savior because they are already in Satan's arsenal.

Today, and in the days after this election, I encourage you to read Chapters Two and Three of the Letter of James which we are studying in the joint adult Sunday school class here at LLCUMC at 9:00 on Sunday mornings. Chapter Two (which we discussed last week) is subtitled "Faith without Works Is Dead" in the New Revised Standard Version, and there you will find his admonition to link faith with deeds. In doing so, we must make sure to link them in that order.

Putting deeds before faith, or doing stuff in order to show or prove one's faith, is a perverted doctrine of works-righteousness. (*Perversion* is taking an otherwise good thing but using it for the wrong reason.) Instead, we put our trust in God's grace, receive peace, hope and love, and then act in accordance with the gospel teaching of Jesus Christ as led by the Holy Spirit today, tomorrow, and in the days ahead.

In Chapter Three, sub-titled "Taming the Tongue" (which we discussed this past Sunday), James talks about being careful about what you say, because the tongue, a poetic way of capturing our ability to put thoughts together and express them verbally, can be a source of blessing or of evil (more of the latter, he suggests). If our speech (and speech in written form) *is* evil—that is, if it doesn't "*Show...that your works are done with gentleness born of [heavenly] wisdom*" (James 3:13-18)—then we have inadvertently become part of the insurrection, and that is a spiritual condition that is not pleasant for me, you, and those around us.

Christ gives us a better way to act after the election. In the days ahead, I encourage us to humble ourselves, feel the grace of God in which we stand (Romans 5), and then be moved by the Holy Spirit to be civil—show intellectual humility and emotional intelligence—in our actions and our speech, regardless of today's results. That is a prayer for myself as well as for you.

Yours in Christ our Lord,

*Pastor Tom*

**Sign Up for Tarsney Lake Thanksgiving Dinner**  
**Church will provide a TURKEY & ROLLS**

- 4) 28 oz can green beans
- 4) 28 oz can green beans
- 4) boxes instant mashed potatoes
- 4) boxes instant mashed potatoes
- 4) 28 oz can Yams
- 4) 28 oz can Yams
- 4) chocolate cake mix
- 4) chocolate cake mix
- 4) chocolate frosting
- 4) chocolate frosting



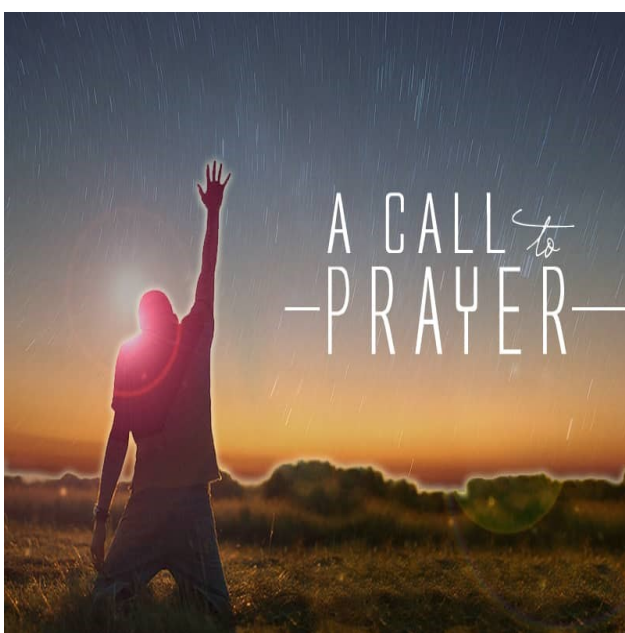
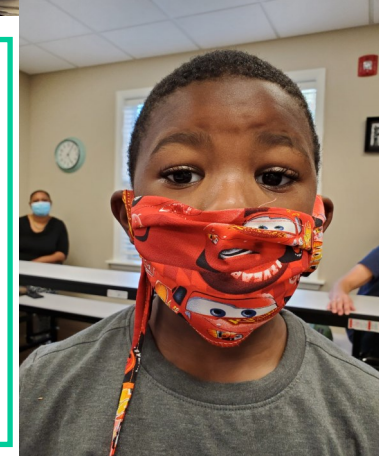
***There is a sign up sheet in the CONNECT area and you can also  
call the church office or email Tonia to sign up virtually.  
Church office 816-578-4544 or email: secretaryllcumc@gmail.com  
We will be collecting until Sunday the 22nd and we will  
distribute to the families on the 23rd.  
Thanks in advance for your donations.***



### **Hillcrest Missions Update**

After the Covid quarantine, then the trauma of the fire and counseling, our tenant Leticia and her 4 year old son Eithan have settled into their new home in a very nice apartment in Lee's Summit. Here are photo's of her graduation festivities!

Thank you to all the mission team volunteers for your hard work and dedication.



**On Going:** Les Case, Wade Davis, Roger Grable, Richard Fuerst, Winnie Fuerst, Harvey Geary, Michael Hatfield, Linda Koleiny, Shane Miley, Nancy Rowe

**Depression and Mental Health:** Robby Sherrod

**Strength and Healing:** Gene Crist, Graves family, Mike McMillin, Kirk Morehead and family, DJ Petty, Andrew White

**Missions:** Kenyan G-Marc Project (Chics for Chicks), Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Harvester's Food Bank, Lazarus Ministries, Tarsney Lake Families, Congregation de Mellier, Heart and Soul Children's Learning Center

**Please contact the office to update or add prayer requests**





***Women of LLCUMC please  
join us for a Meet and Greet  
for Jennifer!***

It will be an open house November 5th from 4:30-6:30 at Patty Ford's to welcome Jennifer to our church family. Please bring a chair to get comfy in, sack meal and drink and we promise to keep social distance and keep everyone safe.

Patty will put a big metal pumpkin out by the small gravel driveway to alert you where to turn. When you put her address in the GPS it will take you a mile south of her house on Purdue (wrong) so, please know her home is approximately 1/2 mile from the church on the south side of the road. I will include her cell phone number in case you get lost.

Patty's home address: 29605 E Colbern Rd. G.V. Mo 64029

Cell: 816-665-6175

Everyone welcome!



***We would like to wishes a very  
happy birthday month to the following:  
Lauren Kelley, Don Leven, Debbie May  
& Derek Smith  
Hope you all have a wonderful birthday!***



#### **OUR WORSHIP TEAM IS EXPANDING!**

As we improve our ability to live stream our worship services with better equipment within the next month, we will need one other person in the back to run the equipment for the high-definition camera at our 10:00 Sunday morning service. This is in addition to those who run the slides on Sunday.

If you or someone you know is tech savvy and can help us, let Pastor Tom know (831-333-6893 or [pastorllcumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorllcumc@gmail.com)).

# November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00</b>	2	3	<b>4 Missions</b> <b>Meeting 7:00</b>	5	6	7
<b>8 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>15 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00</b>	16	17	18	<b>19 PPRC</b> <b>Meeting 7:00</b>	20	21
<b>22 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00</b>	23	<b>24 Church</b> <b>Council Meeting</b> <b>7:00</b>	25	<b>26 Happy</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	27	28
<b>29 Services</b> <b>8:00 &amp; 10:00</b>	30					