



CHURCH CHATTER

Monthly Newsletter of Events and Information

Grace: A Four Part Series

Part 4- Sanctifying Grace

Lately, it seems there is a growing pandemic. No, I think COVID-19 is waning. But there is a “disease” that is still growing, that is called “entitlement”. Here is one definition of entitlement: “the belief that one is inherently deserving privileges or special treatment.” or this definition from the Cambridge dictionary: “the feeling that you have the right to do or have what you want without having to work for it or deserve it, just because of who you are.” In essence something of real value and you only have to be you to get it. Children nowadays think they are entitled to cell phones or computers and when they turn into teenagers they tend to think they are entitled to driver's licenses and cars. As students, they are entitled to A's. As adults, we tend to think that while driving a car we are entitled to the other lane or make a left turn when we want to, not necessarily when it is safe or legal. We are entitled to a new job just because we work for the company, not because we are necessarily qualified.

To be honest I did not see any of this coming though I must say I participated to some extent. I thought and acted like my children were entitled to a childhood untainted by the world and all the evil and bad things in it. I was proven wrong on many occasions. The traditional American philosophy is the only way to get anything, including ahead, is through hard work. We should earn anything we get.

God's way of doing things is a little different. In the beginning, God provides prevenient grace and through that grace, we choose to become One of God's children. We use the outward sign of Baptism to convey the choice. There is no entitlement here. God's gift given to us freely provides the inner vision to choose to become a follower of God. The door has now been opened to heaven - or rather the opportunity to enjoy eternal life.

If you believe that through Baptism you are entitled to heaven, have I got a couple of scriptures for you? The first is widely known from John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish.”* Then the progression seems to continue with another passage from John 14:6: *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”* Followed by Paul in Romans 10:9: *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”* Next in my thinking comes Ephesians 2:8-9: *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”* and the final piece is from Matthew 7:21-27: *“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”*

It appears that we are not entitled to anything, and most assuredly not heaven. We have to work for it, but God gives us help. In the Book of Discipline “We believe God reaches out to the repentant believer in justifying grace with accepting and pardoning love. Wesleyan theology stresses that a decisive change in the human heart can and does occur under the prompting of grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.” We talked about this in last month's column on justifying grace.

The grace that brings us into the possible realm of eternal life is sanctifying grace. Once again, in the Book of Discipline, “Sanctifying grace draws us toward the gift of Christian perfection, which Wesley described as a heart ‘habitually filled with the love of God and neighbor’ and as ‘having the mind of Christ and walking as he walked.’ This gracious gift of God's power and love, the hope and expectation of the faithful, is neither warranted by our efforts nor limited by our frailties. “ (Book of Discipline). God's gift of sanctifying grace allows us to work in the world to help our neighbors in a variety of ways limited by our imagination. Through these works, we move toward perfection in Christ.



Frank Remkiewicz
Certified Lay Minister

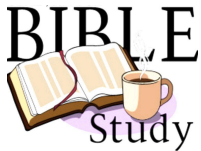


CHILI COOK OFF REPORT

Our first Chili Event for the community was well attended (150+ tickets sold) and had 3 individual “cooks” competing for prizes. Lee Merritt won the \$300 first prize AND \$100 People’s Choice Award; Taylor Machutta won \$200 second prize, and Connor McCurdy also competed and won \$100 third place!! House of Beef, Steve Medlen, was our only business entry and was runner up for People’s Choice. The Chili Committee, Frank Remkiewicz, Judy Bradley, and Nancy Podolsky, give a special thanks to Margie White, Doug Kolsters, Sue Condon, Dee, Gary Jones, Carrie White, Debra Keeler, Larry Podolsky, and Herb Williams for all their help the day of the event.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

by Pastor Jeff



Pastor Jeff is leading a Zoom Bible Study on Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Call for a Zoom link if you are interested in attending: Pastor Jeff (209) 840-7939.

VITAL SPIRITUAL POSITIONS

Please consider becoming more immersed in your spiritual journey with our Saviour and our congregation. There are positions available for: Bible Study Leader and Prayer Group/Prayer Chain Leader needed for online, at church, or in your home -your choice. An interview with Pastor Jeff is required. Please contact Pastor Jeff for more information.

MONDAY on CALL

Certified Lay Minister, Frank Remkiewicz, is now “on call” Mondays so Pastor Jeff can take a day off to “re-energize his batteries”. Frank will be available ALL DAY Mondays by phone (209 630-1882) or email (clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com) He can meet at the church or if needed at a home.

November

Victor Nickolashin 1st - Joshua Austin 2nd
 Devon Pastor Guzman 3rd ~ Michael Pastor 6th
 Leticia Guzman 9th ~ Joan Lind 12th
 Frank Remkiewicz 16th ~ Scott Friel - 21st
 Freida Landsowne 25th ~ Kirby Smith 30th

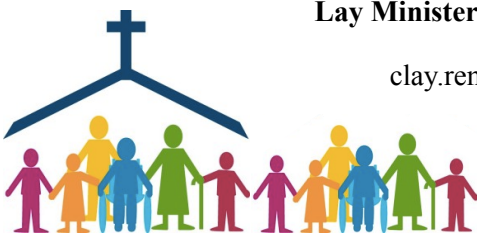


CHURCH INFORMATION

Email: cumcOakdaleAdmin@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Frank Remkiewicz
 (209) 630-1882
 clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff Holder:
 (209) 840-7939
 vjHolder@att.net



CALENDAR of EVENTS

Meetings here at the Church

Canoeing Spiritual Group	Tues Zoom Mtg 6:30pm
TOPS Weekly Classes	Mondays - 8:30 am
Scouting Nights	Mondays - 6pm
Alanon	Mon 7pm/Thurs noon/Fri 6pm
Life & Grief Support w/Pastor Jeff	Tuesdays 1pm
Addiction Ministry/Hand in Hand	Thursday 7pm
Art Classes w/Carole Earle	Tues/Thurs 9:30am/Tues 1:30
Oakdale Garden Club	3 rd Tues 10am
Market Place on Poplar	1 st Sat 8am to 4pm

Quote for the month

"You cannot do a kindness too soon
because you never know
how soon it will be too late."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Decorate for Christmas

SANCTUARY & JOHNSTON HALL

Sat - Nov 26th - 10am

THE MORE HANDS TO HELP, THE
FASTER IT WILL GO.



Office Volunteers

Still Needed

Coverage in the church office is needed for 2 hours on the day(s) of the week you can serve. This is a multi person help needed request. Duties include basic filing, answering the phone, special project, etc. Please contact Pastor Jeff.

SHARE this newsletter

with Family and Friends; they might want to
join in or know what is happening at church.



NEW CREATION COVENANT YEAR

by Pastor Jeff Holder

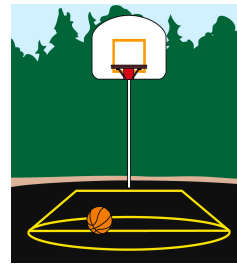
On this Sunday, November 13th, we will mark the beginning of the year of GOD's New Creation 2022-2023, as we make some bold moves to return our church and all who attend to our pre-pandemic growth mode. I am asking EVERYONE to covenant w with me by joining our church quest for spiritual transformation.

Watch for the form and the announcements. Thank you

BASKETBALL COURT UPDATE

by Nancy Podolsky

We now have a functional basketball court. The weeds were removed, the cracks were filled, a couple of coats of slurry seal applied, newly painted lines and two new back boards/hoops are ready to install.



This resurfacing is a short term fix to the BBcourt as it really needs a new asphalt base. The church was contacted by a youth group wanting and needing a place to have organized basketball games. Since we are a "community" church, we want to encourage and utilized our facility for community events. Any additional funds are appreciated for the BB court project - just note on your donation. Thanks

CALLING ALL PRAYER WARRIORS

We have a congregational prayer group. If you would like to volunteer or requesting prayers, please call Frank (209-603-1882)

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP



Coffee & treats after church is a great time for friendship/fellowship. **Hosts** are needed. If you or your church committee can be a hostess, please contact **Judy Bradley** (209 985-3590) It is less effort to prepare food if working together with someone else to share the load. After church coffee time will only happen if there is someone signed up to host/hostess.