



First Christian News

*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*



THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



New Year Greetings!

As we begin another year, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some words of encouragement with you from the Word of God. So often, we "over promise" on our New Year Resolutions! At least I have found that's something that I have done in the past. We resolve to lose weight, read the Bible and pray every day, stop being so cranky, be more thankful, and the list could go on and on. Yet, it seems Paul the Apostle had an excellent approach in the Word of God as he wrote to the Philippian believers. This scripture is often shared at the beginning of the year because there is a powerful truth in it!

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV) 12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul's "main thing" was to know Christ. He was willing to go through whatever he had to go through so that he could know Christ more. He reminded the people that while he had made significant progress in Christ, he was still pressing on and learning more daily. In the process of declaring "this one thing I do", he goes on to share three things that make up that one thing, and we are going to look at them today as a reminder for all of us to stay focused on Christ! The three things he said he would do all fell under the one thing of knowing Christ.

1. FORGET THOSE THINGS BEHIND. Don't allow anything from your past to hold you back from all God has for your future! Yesterday is gone, so learn from the things you can learn from and go to point two!

2. REACH FORWARD TO WHAT IS AHEAD. Have an optimism about the "race" or "journey" God wants to take you on. There's an old statement that goes like this; "there is joy in the journey"

3. PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL. The word "press" seems to convey the idea of living life not just with the journey in mind but realizing that, indeed, there is a finish line as well. Knowing Christ in a greater way is part of that to help us now, but we need to focus on the finish line of an eternity with Jesus! Press on! Picture a runner making a final lunge toward the line!

I pray this coming year is one of a tremendous victory for you and your friends and loved ones. This past year was a challenging year without a doubt, but we have completed some tremendous things such as partnering with Feeding Family and Friends. I would encourage you to keep pressing on with this ministry as it is making a positive impact in the community! When Paul focused on "one thing," in God's amazing way, he made sure other things were taken care of as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

May your "one thing" be much like Paul's... to know Christ and serve like Christ!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Doc & Family

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School - ON HOLD
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- January 2 - Congregational confirmation of 2022 board members
- January 9 - Board meeting 9:30am
- January 9 - 2022 Officer Installation
- February 6 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- February 13 - Valentines Luncheon

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MEN'S DEVOTIONAL

Inward Remembrance, Outward Adoration

Recommended Reading

Psalms 42:1-2; Psalms 84; Hebrews 12:28

Many years ago a number of skylarks imported from England began to breed and dot the American landscape. One day, a man who studied birds sat listening with solemn interest to the song of the immigrant birds. Nearby, an Irish laborer—hearing the song of the bird he'd heard in his mother country—stopped, took off his hat, and turned his face skyward. A look of awe and joy washed across his face. His inward remembrance and love of country produced an outward response.

Although the Israelites expressed outward worship, they didn't possess an inward love of God. Sure, an observer might believe that they worshiped God inwardly. But in truth, their hearts secretly served other gods. "In their secret chambers of idolatry and imagery," said Clarence Macartney, "they bowed down before the grinning images of Baal."

Today, as we express our adoration and worship of God, we can either be like the student of birds or like the Irishman who responded emotionally to their song. The observer simply admires what takes place but experiences no feelings of love and devotion. However, the true worshiper—upon hearing songs about God and words of his heavenly home—feels his heartbeat faster, thinking of glorious hope for the future. And all of us long to feel this beat because it makes our hearts come alive.

Anyone can go through the outward motions. But we can't worship by just playing a role. We have to make it the aim of our heart. When we offer our heart to God in love and adoration, he, in return, washes awe and joy across our soul.

To Take Away

- How does "going through the motions" of worship make you feel?
- In what ways do you sincerely worship God?
- How does your worship of God affect your daily living?



LADIES LUNCH

Another Successful Ladies Lunch on December 13. Susan Mitlyng read our scripture and Brenda Lambert led our devotional and then we ended with a fun gift exchange of tea towels.



BAPTISM

We baptized five young men and women on December 5th during our service! So wonderful to see these young people choose to grow their faith and walk with God throughout their life! Each one was presented with a personalized Bible from the church. Gob Bless each one of them: TexieAnna Forkner, Samuel Shirley, Ava Shirley, Brandon Tisserand and Blayne Lambert.



2 CORINTHIANS
5:17
THEREFORE,
IF ANYONE IS IN
CHRIST
HE IS A NEW CREATION;
THE OLD HAS GONE.
THE NEW HAS COME!



LIVE NATIVITY

Our Live Nativity on December 10th and 11th was a wonderful gift to the Weston community! We had over 140 visitors during the two night event. It was a huge success. Thank you to all those who volunteered to make this event happen. Such an amazing celebration of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.



SPECIAL MUSIC BY MAYA & TESSA JACQUES

December 12, we had a special Christmas song performed by Maya and Tessa Jacques. They did amazing! We are so blessed that they performed for us. Great job girls!



DECEMBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We had our monthly food distribution on December 19th. Perfect timing to give food out prior to the Christmas holidays. Thank you to all the congregation members who came to help!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We had a wonderful Christmas Eve service celebrating the reason for the season, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!



HYMN OF THE MONTH - BIND US TOGETHER

Hymns of Christian unity are essential to the life of the church. “Bind Us Together” is a story of seeking unity amidst theological and liturgical diversity. Those who are old enough may have had experiences like those of the composer. While the issues that seek to divide us today may be different, the message of unity is the same.

Robert (Bob) Gillman (b. 1946), raised in the East London Borough of West Ham. He received his education in the borough, including the local Catholic junior school followed by South West Ham Technical School, finishing his education at Abbs Cross Technical School in Hornchurch. His career has been as a performer, composer, and manager of a printing company. Bob Gillman was encouraged by his parents to attend nearby Central Baptist Church in West Ham, where he made a profession of faith at age thirteen. He has had a sustained interest in music, including guitar and banjo playing as well as composition.

“Bind Us Together” was the result of a revelation in the early 1970s. Bob describes the larger context for the song: Back in the late 1960s and early 70s, great changes were taking place in churches across Great Britain. Many Christians were experiencing the new spiritual awakening sweeping the land. This became known as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and was evidenced by the presence of the gifts of the Spirit, as listed in the New Testament. Believers were experiencing such gifts as prophesy, healing powers and speaking in tongues, to name but a few. A smaller group was meeting on Tuesday evenings in a home to which Bob Gillman was invited. As he notes, “I was hungry to learn more about what God was doing through this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I was immediately struck by the warmth and vibrancy of the people who came from various churches in the area.” Their unity was solidified by the joy they experienced because of their profound encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Bob Gillman describes the story behind the song:

I was in my 20s and one evening in 1974 at Ken and Maureen’s house, I remember a group of us were all praying together; I had such an emotional feeling come over me, and I felt a real need to do something concerning the unity of God’s people. It was then that the words “Bind Us Together” dropped into my mind; they were immediately followed by “With cords that cannot be broken,” and “Bind us together with love.” Also, a tune popped straight into my head, and I stood up and sang it out to share it with everybody. Afterward, Ken said, “Bob, I think there’s more to come.” He was right, but it seemed the Lord wasn’t going to do everything for me, and it took a few weeks of meditation before the verses came to me as well. Around this time, I was also involved in a multichurch Christian musical, which was on tour in the London area. After one performance, when the choir was sitting around relaxing, I sang “Bind Us Together;” to my surprise, they all joined in. It kind of took off after that, and thenceforth was passed from person to person and church to church.

Even more to his surprise, Bob received reports in subsequent years from those traveling overseas, bringing back news that his song was being sung around the world. He explains, “Although I’m listed as the composer (published by Thank You Music), I don’t really see it as my song. I was just the mouthpiece God used, and for that, I am truly grateful and blessed.”

NOVEMBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$7,134.00
 Building Fund Offerings: \$0.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$2.13

Monthly Total:
\$7,136.13

Expenses

Salaries: \$4,300.00
 Utilities: \$232.47
 Supplies & Food: \$12.36
 Insurance: \$1,888.56
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$195.00
 Miscellaneous: \$200.00

Monthly Total:
\$6,828.39

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

01/09 Tralyn Tadlock
 01/12 Daniel Mitlyng
 01/13 Scott Franklin
 01/18 Danielle Chamberlin
 01/20 Paul Zimmerebner
 01/23 Nancy Neill
 01/26 Emma Dimock



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Children's Sunday School
During Service

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**NEWSLETTER
INFORMATION NEEDED**

To make the newsletter more personal, please send pictures or information on achievements, births, awards, or anything else of interest to Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com



**May the Lord bless
our coming year
with spiritual growth,
love for people,
and many opportunities
to spread the Gospel of Life!**

Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Ginger Gardner, Margaret Marlar, Clark & Nancy Neill, Daisy Nicodemus, Ralph Gardner (Doc's father), Sandra Zimmerebner, Betty Fowler, Mary & Jerry Smith and Thelma Perry in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a pew card or let Kimberly Tisserand know.