

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

July, 2017

Conviction - Living Your Faith Everyday

“Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” replied Peter.

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “this very night before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” Later that night – “After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them for your accent gives you away.” Peter began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, “Before the rooster crows you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly. *Matthew 26:33-35 and 73-74*

At this time, Peter had a serious case of *lack of conviction*; his words were in conflict with his deeds.

Conviction is a noun described as a firm belief, a certainty. In a spiritual context it means saying ‘no’ to the way of the world, to profess one’s spiritual commitment, to stand firm in belief; not compromising, not conforming to society or social expectations. Conviction means having the courage to live your faith each day. What we do, cannot be separated from what we believe. The Holy Spirit leads each of us to profess words of our faith and take actions that speak loudly about our commitment to our Lord and Savior.

Years ago I was in a gas station restroom; where a woman and her daughter were washing their hands. The daughter was

wearing pantaloons, like a Saudi Arabian costume. I commented about her unique ‘slacks’ and the mother began talking about Mayan culture. She said they were going to a Mayan god’s celebration and did I know that this was, the Year of the Woman, according to the Mayan calendar? Standing there, trying to process what she was saying, I said, “I believe in Jesus Christ.” “Oh yes,” she said; she did too, along with all the other Mayan gods. Wow, I was still processing this Mayan god thing when she walked out the door with her daughter. I was still in a fog wondering what just happened; but there was a stirring in my heart that something was wrong. Later the Holy Spirit convicted me about this encounter. Like Peter, I had a lack of conviction. The Holy Spirit reminded me. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” It was that simple. These words are the ones I should have said to the Mayan idolizer. I was convicted by the Holy Spirit because I was unable to find the right words to stand firm in my beliefs. I asked for forgiveness for my sin of omission. I stand forgiven.

Swimming against the cultural current

In this secularized, sanitized, politically correct and tolerant culture, as Christ followers, we have to guard ourselves against the cultural current. There is so much pressure to “achieve,” to compare, to compete, and to look in all the wrong places for love. This society offers too many distractions. The places to live our convictions are at church and in our home. Our Lord desires us to “keep the Sabbath holy,” by attending church. This requires conviction to say ‘NO’ to the thousands of other activities that occur on

(Continued on next page)

CONVICTION

Sunday mornings, and say “YES” to keep our Sunday holy with worship in our church. Careers and work schedules can pull us away from our family. Embracing our family in love, making a commitment to godly family activities, and living a God-centered family life, is our goal, saying no to pleasures that take us away from our precious family time together.

Jesus’ half brother, James, reminds us that **“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure... to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”** He is not referring to the pollution of e-coli in a water source but spiritual pollution. For example, your friends may invite you to see a movie with them and you learn the movie is X-rated with nudity. To remain in spiritual unity with Jesus, unpolluted, you decline to go to the movie and explain why. That’s conviction. Showing one’s faith is more important, than peer group pressure to go to a movie or other worldly activities.

Even in the face of death

As godly Spirit-led believers, we need to be non-conformists, able to make a conscience decision to remain pure and holy. Two of the best examples of conviction in the Old Testament are found in Daniel. When King Nebuchadnezzar issued a law to bow down and worship a golden image, Shadrach, Meshach and Abedego refused to worship an idol. They were bound and thrown into the fiery furnace. Unwilling to compromise their beliefs even in the face of death, we know God the Father spared their lives; not even a hair on their heads was singed. Daniel also stood firm in his conviction and was required by King Darius’ decree to be thrown into the lion’s den at

sundown. Overnight Daniel had the lions for companions. Strange bedfellows indeed. When King Darius learned Daniel was rescued by the living God, he wrote to all people, nations and men of every language: **“I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever.”**

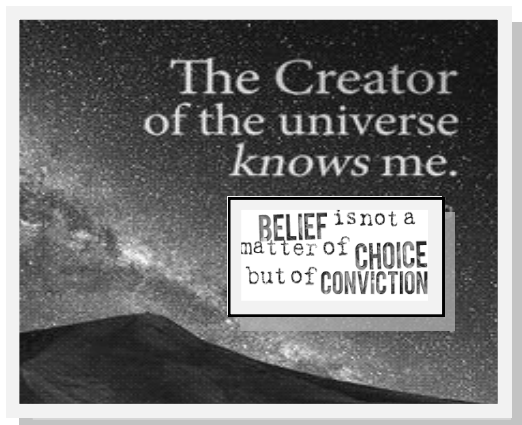
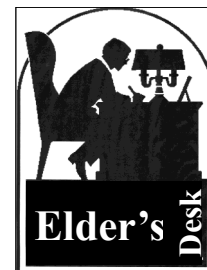
Daniel 6:26

Our God cared for these exiles in Babylon as He cares for us. Even today, Christians are faced with dire consequences, or even death, because of their beliefs. “In Egypt, attacks on Coptic Christians homes, businesses, and churches, have surged in the ensuing years, especially in the country’s south,” according to Fox News. In February, members of an ISIS affiliate released a video saying that Egyptian Christians were their “favorite prey.” We can pray for these Christians who are persecuted because of their beliefs and praise our Lord with thanksgiving that we live in a country with freedoms.

Pleasing Jesus by saying “NO” to the way of the world and saying “YES” to Him, we can cherish the Truth of God with our words and deeds being consistent.

“We need to come out from the ungodly, and be a peculiar people. He was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners; and, as he was, so we are to be nonconformists to the world, dissenting from all sin, and distinguished from the rest of mankind by our likeness to our Master.” Charles Spurgeon

In His Service, Nona



Connect

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TLC

Together Loving Christ

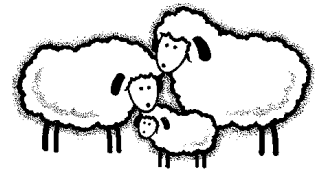
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine
Nursery Services Provided



You're Invited

*Senior
Adult
Luncheon*



Saturday, July 8th, 11:30-1:30 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church
Please phone 630/530-1830 to reserve a place.

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Minutes of the Elder's Meeting, June 7th, 2017

Attendees: Ted Gehman, Pastor Weber, Sam Jacob, Chuck Bender, Tim Kasza, Glenda Kasza and Nona Koivula.

Devotion and Prayer: Hebrews 10:19-25. In these verses Paul is telling us to draw near to God, with a sincere heart, and a clear conscience. We need to hold onto our faithfulness and the hope we have in Jesus. We are reminded of how we need to encourage others around us and push forward with our love and good deeds. We need to keep meeting with other believers and encouraging them knowing that the Day is approaching.

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer: Budgeted bank balance as of June 6, 2017 was \$750.74.

We are behind on our 2016 Faith Promise giving and the Capital Fund Campaign.

Worship: Quotes are being received for the new sanctuary projector and needed equipment.

Christian Education: The new adult study beginning in June is "God's Plan of Salvation". The Thursday evening Adult Bible study continues on "A Walk on the Roman Road".

Hospitality & Encouragement: Cards and flowers have been sent to those with birthdays and those who are ill. Father's day is quickly approaching and preparations have been made for that day.

Missions: Our funds pledged for Missions 2017 were \$20,470.00. We need to complete the remainder of the giving for 2016.

Prayer and Devotion: This month the Afternoon of Prayer will be changed to the 2nd Sunday due to Fathers Day.

Stewardship & Support Services: We have a Stewardship meeting planned for June 21, at 6:30 PM at the church; all are welcome to attend. Our past work day was a very busy day. Breakfast at the church was a great start. We cleaned storage rooms, replaced a sump pump, installed a newer stove in the parsonage, worked on flooring in the attic crawl space, and much more. We are on track for our August, Church Work Camp, the 10th, thru 12th.

Ladies Ministry There will be a Ladies outing on June 24th at Cantigny Gardens. The final donations for the NICE Foundation need to be put together and taken to the warehouse as the shipping container will be leaving in August. Vehicle and drivers are needed to deliver the donations to the NICE foundation warehouse.

Evangelism and Outreach: The outreach team will be sponsoring a Senior Luncheons. This event will be hosted every 2nd Saturday of the month. Go to the website and sign up to attend. There is a need for volunteers to help with this event. There was a meeting on the 4th of June. Plans were discussed on ways to improve the Easter Eggstravaganza event. Team meetings are being scheduled for every 2nd Sunday after church. Nona is preparing a Gardening Workshop for seniors.

Fellowship: Plans are being made for a Game Day and Cookout, Cookout contest, and a trip to the Creation Museum.

Men's Ministry: There is a Men's cookout scheduled for the 17th of June at Bob's Home. 12 noon.

Pastoral Counseling: New Beginnings counseling will be on Wednesday, 5:30 PM see Laura Grafer for details.

Old & New Business:

- The Capital Funds Campaign ends in December. Jim Walters will speak at the closing service. Capital Funds Campaign work completed and budget priorities will be updated. A power point slide will be prepared for church viewing.
- Tom and Jan Sanhamel are scheduled to be baptized on July 23rd.

The next Elder's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Website: www.sunnyplacechurch.org Go to calendar, for a list of updated events



Kid's

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Hidden
 Message
 Word Search

“For the LORD loves the just, and will not forsake his faithful ones.” *Psalm 37:28*

**Calling upon the faithful in Jesus Christ.
Our campaign has reached the last six months of the
three year pledge to Sunny Place Church.**

Report on funds collected – From Dec. 2014 to May 2017 our church has received \$118,461 which is \$32,000 short of our committee goal of \$150,000.

Projects completed – The parsonage repairs including a new roof and much needed interior work was accomplished. On the grounds, the dead trees were removed for safety and improving the beauty of our landscape. Our landscape continues to be “beautified”, with flowering perennials and annuals to reach out to our community as an inviting and desirable place of worship. We all enjoyed the warmth from the new furnace last winter. We celebrated the removal and replacement of our parking lot last July with the first ever, “Tailgate party.”

The next priority is to replace the old projector with a digital projector to greatly improve our Sunday worship together. This is being researched by the Worship Ministry team.

The faithful -Years ago the Sunny Place congregation pledged monies of \$173,765. As we near the end of this campaign we ask you to pray about the original pledge. Fulfilling the pledge will enable our church to replace old windows and complete the “to do” list but more importantly our donations give God the Glory He deserves. We pray to our Lord and Savior that He will enable us to reach our goals as, “Nothing is impossible with God.”

We are blessed and so grateful for the donations we have received and know that people have given sacrificially to our campaign. Thank you and we encourage all to continue to press on towards the goal, the completion of our three year Sunny Place campaign.

Respectfully submitted by the Capitol Fundraising Campaign Committee.



Come join us on Sunday, July 23rd at 12:30 for a pot luck dinner and movie. It's a family affair so invite friends and family, all are welcome! Please contact Kim and let her know how many will be coming.



Save The Date!!!

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday
August 10th, 11th & 12th**

**Sunny Place Church 'Work Camp'
(Mission Trip Style)**

Just like a Mission Trip, without staying over.

And breakfast, lunch & dinner is included.

This will be a fun and satisfying opportunity to fellowship and serve our church. No volunteers will be turned away. Contact Chuck for details.



FREE JULY

YOU'RE INVITED

Pastor's

Open House

Tuesday, July 4th, 2:00 p.m.

Sunday School Line-Up
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult
Bible
Study

"God's Plan of Salvation"

God's plan from the foundation of the world.

Led by John Gryparis



Thursday Evenings
7:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place

Children's Classes


Grades 1-4 led by Carla Weber
Grades 5-7 led by Chuck Bender
Youth 8-12 led by Sabra Martin
Nursery services are provided

"A Walk on the Roman Road"

A Bible Study through the book of Romans.

Led by Pastor Pete



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Holy Communion	3	4 YOU'RE INVITED Pastor's Open House 2:00 p.m.	5 Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	6 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	7	8 Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
9 Outreach Meeting 12:30p.m. at Sunny Place	10	11	12	13 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	14	15 Church Workday 9:00 a.m. at Sunny Place
16 Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch to follow 12:30p.m. at Sunny Place	17	18	19 Christian Education Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	20 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	21	22
23 Dinner & a Movie 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31			Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		Worship Meeting 11:00 a.m. at Sunny Place