

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

January, 2019

God's Vivid Presence

Growing up in a time when radio and television were the state of the art, I understood that the sound and images we saw on the screen and heard from the speakers were traveling through the air, even though we could not see it. I, of course, didn't understand how it worked, but I knew it was happening – it was coming through the antenna – because what we were seeing and hearing was clearly real.

Today, we have far more traveling through the air waves. Wi-Fi signals, satellite transmission, microwave communication, infrared frequencies – all measured at megahertz and gigahertz speeds, and probably more. But we know it is all real – and that there is a lot of it – because we see and hear what comes flooding through our devices every day. There is a constant presence of content delivered to us through space and air that we cannot see or hear, but we know it's there.

So why is hard to believe that God, who is the Creator of all sight and sound, and light and waves, can communicate with us and relate to us in spiritual ways? He created all that makes it possible to do it in the physical world and realm; so what makes it strange that He makes it possible to do that in the spiritual realms? We are, after all, spiritual beings every bit as much as we are physical.

He made us that way – created in His own image – so we could relate to God, who is Spirit. This is why Adam and Eve were able to hear the sound of the LORD, God, walking through the garden of Eden, and able to talk to Him, and hear His voice as He spoke. We don't know if they could *physically* see and hear God, but the presence of God was very real with them in Eden. Whether it

was physical or not we don't know, but it was definitely spiritual.

After the fall, Adam and Eve were separated from God and expelled from the garden. But God continued to relate and communicate with them and others. We see that with Cain, Enoch, and Noah. But we have no evidence that any of it was physical.

And after the flood, we know Abraham, Hagar, Jacob, and Joseph, all sensed the presence of God. The LORD had a lot to say to Abraham. And when Hagar was in the desert, distraught about being cast out by Sarah, the angel of the LORD encouraged her, telling her to go back. Listen to her response:

13 She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

Genesis 16:13

Jacob told his wives that "the God of my father has been with me," in Genesis 31:5. And in Genesis 35:3 he said, "let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and who has been with me wherever I have gone."

Pharaoh said of Joseph, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" And listen to this conversation Moses had with God, in Exodus 33:

15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.
16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with

PRESENCE

(Continued on next page)

us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

17 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."
Exodus 33:15-17

God spoke to the prophets, through the Holy Spirit. He told them that the Son of God, the Christ, was being sent to a lost and dark world to free the captives, and redeem them from their sins. So when Jesus came into the world, the presence of God came to us in flesh. John tells us:

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the [Only Begotten], who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob, He said to her:

10 ... "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." He said:

13 ... "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
John 4:10, 13-14

Jeremiah said that God was the fountain of living water. Who can offer God and eternal life, but God Himself? So here she was, in the presence of God, in person.

Jesus, of course, had to purchase our redemption with His blood, and leave this world, but not without assuring us of His, and God's, continued presence. He said:

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- 17 the Spirit of truth.

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ... 23 ... If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
John 14:15-20, 23

If you love Jesus – if you have received Him, as God in your heart, and received the gift of God's Spirit – God lives in you. Jesus was sent from the Father to make it all possible, and the Holy Spirit is God's gift too. So when you receive what God has sent, the presence of God is palpable. God is with you.

Jesus said:

19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18:19-20

God's presence is real. You will know it when you open your heart to Him – when you drink the living water, when you receive the gifts of God. The patriarchs, prophets, and disciples did. You can too.

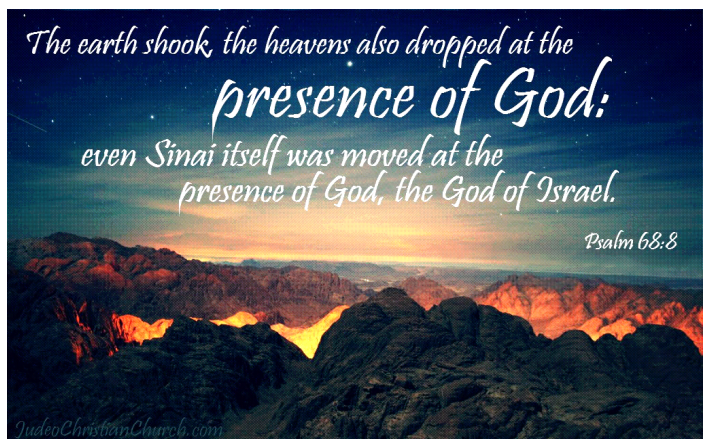
Jesus assures us, "Surely, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

May His vivid presence fill your heart,

Pastor Pete



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TLC

Together Loving Christ

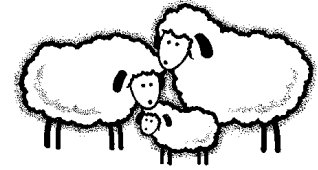
Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

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



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday,
January 12th
11:30 am

Sunny Place Church

**Come be our guest for food,
great speakers and activities.
Free event for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at 630/398-2314.**



Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held December 5, 2018

Attended by, Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion: Titus 3:1-8. Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility all men. At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.”

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$729.34 Giving for Nov. \$8,685 Expenses for Nov. \$13,425.72

Worship & Prayer: The Dec.1 Christmas service was an act of spiritual worship beginning the Advent season. There will be ministry meeting on Sunday January 6.

Christian Education:& Fellowship: Adult, youth and children Sunday classes will continue as they are now. There will be a list of volunteers to assist in the nursery during the Worship service, when we have infants. Pastor Pete will begin the adult and youth discipleship class in January.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: This ministry continues as needed.

Outreach & Missions: The Senior luncheons continue on the second Saturday of each month. There were seniors who attend these luncheons also attended the Christmas service. We are learning more about the missionaries our church supports with videos and inserts into our Sunday bulletins.

Stewardship & Support Services: We partnered with Commonwealth Edison to replace our lights and fixtures to LED lighting. There is a definite improvement in the Fellowship hall. The sanctuary lighting will be upgraded also. Com. Ed will pay over 50% of the costs for this upgrade.

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New and Old Business

- The Elders are working on the budget to present at the Annual Meeting Jan. 27, 2019
- Ministry annual reports and mission statements are due to the church office.

Next Elders meeting: January 9



Kid's

Connection



*Always, Everywhere,
God is Present*

Meet the Gilberts, Kris & Megan Elliot, Oliver & Simon Pastors to New Zealand



THEIR MINISTRY FOCUS

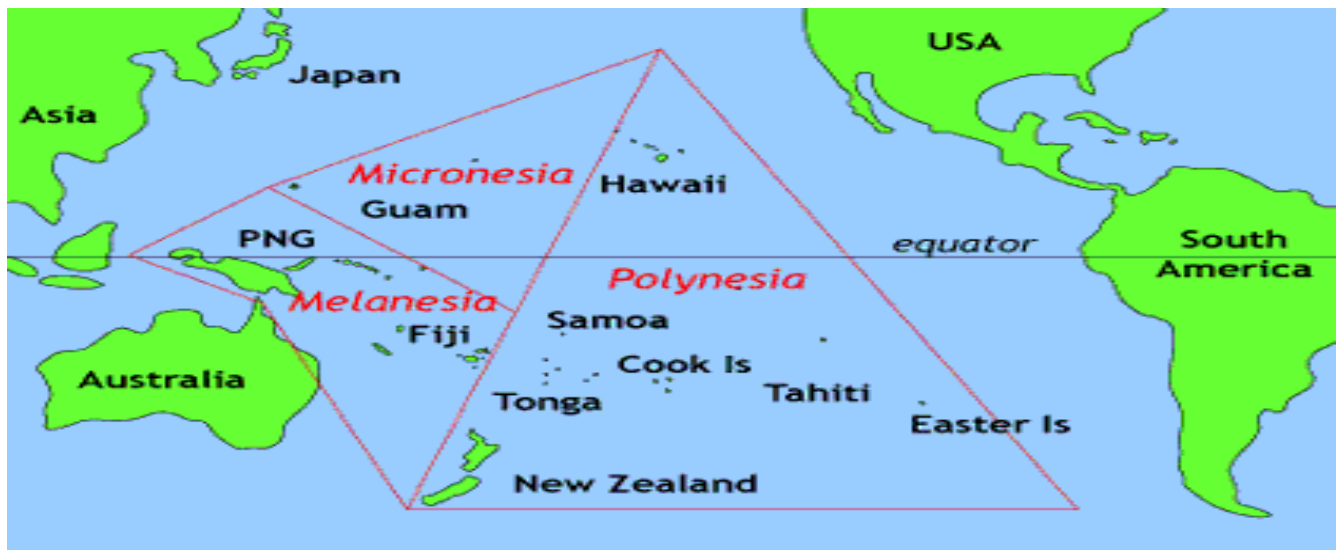
Kris is the lead pastor of Peninsula Community Church in Auckland, New Zealand, and Megan is involved in the ministry of the church. The goal is to produce a healthy, growing church that is transforming its community through Christ and expanding the Kingdom of God.

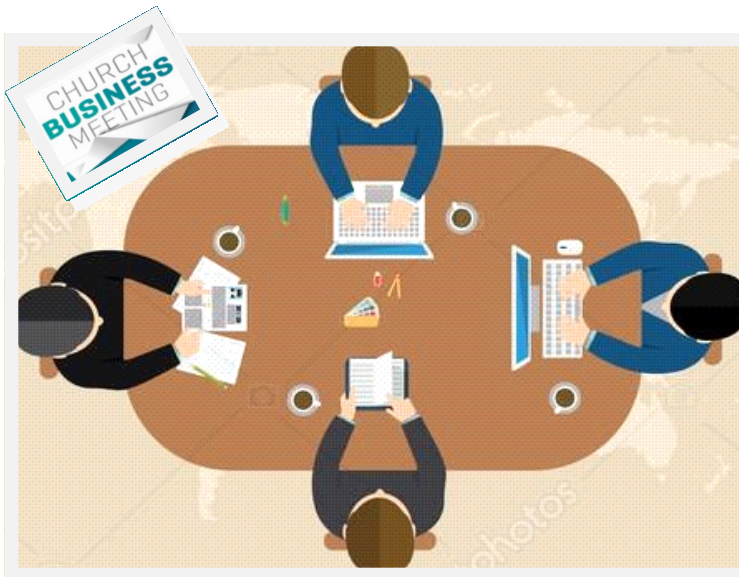
THEIR STORY

Kris and Megan have been active in the church for their entire lives, having grown up in homes committed to Christ. Kris has been in vocational ministry for more than fifteen years, and Megan is a physical therapist. Kris graduated with a bachelor's degree from Anderson University and went on to earn MATS and MDiv degrees from Liberty University. Megan graduated from Rocky Mountain College with a degree in exercise science and then earned a doctor of physical therapy degree from the University of Montana.

When the Gilberts returned to the States after nearly three years of service at a church in New Zealand in the Wellington area, they weren't expecting to return. They settled in Billings, Montana, where Kris took a position as a discipleship pastor. But then in 2014 God called them back to New Zealand, and they were amazed at the work that God was doing and the doors he was opening for a return to ministry in a country and to a people that they both passionately love. The Gilberts' assignment in New Zealand is a partnership between Peninsula Community Church, Indiana Ministries of the Church of God, and Global Strategy.

The Gilbert family arrived back in New Zealand in July of 2014, and after spending about six months in the culture along with listening and praying, they, along with their board, decided to replant Westside Christian Fellowship as Peninsula Community Church. Today, the church is thriving, growing, and expanding in outreach into their community.





Sunny Place Church Annual Business Meeting

**Sunday, January 27th
1:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Following a pot luck dinner at 12:30

Please use the signup sheet on
The Narthex window



Afternoon of Prayer Light Lunch following

**Sunday, January 20th
12:30 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church**

Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

“Disciplemaker’s Living Guide”

Part II of teaching on
discipleship,
Starting the 2nd
Sunday in January

Led by
Pastor Pete

Adult
Bible
Study



Children’s Classes

Led by Carla Weber

Nursery services are provided

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



“Power to be Witnesses”

A Bible Study
Through Luke’s letter of
the Book of Acts

Led by Pastor Pete



January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> 2019	2	3 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	4	5
6  Holy Communion Worship & Prayer Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	7	8	9 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	10 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	11	12 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
13 Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	14	15	16	17 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	18	19
20 Afternoon of Prayer, Light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	21  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. <i>Day</i>	22	23	24 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	25	26
27 Annual Business Meeting & Potluck Dinner starting at 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	28	29	30	31 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		