

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

March, 2020

Learning Contentment

CONTENTMENT

You ever have a question about how to find something, or what something means? The most popular answer I hear people say when I've asked this question sometimes is, "Google it". So I decided to ask Google a couple questions when I started thinking about the topic of Contentment, just to see what the answer would be. My questions were: "what is contentment; and how do I find contentment in my life?" Google returned about 17,800,000 results in 0.62 seconds.

I was amazed at the number of results in just over a minute, and even more amazed, but not surprised, at some of the answers. As I quickly scanned through some of the answers, and as I suspected prior to my inquiry, the answers would mostly be that of a "worldly view." They talked of obtaining contentment through reaching a certain job status, or a status level of wealth in life by the amount of material possessions you owned.

Reading through the results, I was reminded of the biography of Howard Hughes' life I once watched, and how he died believing the "myth of more". He died a billionaire junkie, insane by all reasonable standards, and not knowing the meaning of contentment in his lifetime. So sad, I thought, because in all reality, as I thought about it, this is how lots of people think; believing in the lie "myth of more" will bring contentment to their lives.

Google also suggested things for cultivating contentment in your life, such as: stop buying stuff you don't need, show people you appreciate them, practice gratitude, learn to enjoy simple things that don't cost money, live in the moment, and so on. FINALLY though, I did find in the results suggestions referring to finding contentment through God. "YESSSS," I said to myself! Although this was an interesting approach to learning the meaning of contentment by doing a Google, it was more saddening to me

the number of questions listed that people had asked on Google pages about finding contentment in their lives.

What I would like to do now is change gears and share with you the best way I learned about finding contentment in my life personally. It started in 2002 when I recommitted my life to Christ. Here's a little history though for those that haven't known me since my early days.

My parents were Christians and I was raised in the Church of God from birth. At a very early age of about 7 years I asked Christ into my life, but not really knowing what it meant, I would have to say. During this time we were attending the Church of God in Chicago, and it wasn't until I became a sophomore in high school and my family started attending Sunny Place, that the true meaning of having Christ in my life hit home. Although I was living the best I knew how for Christ, I had my struggles like a lot of Christians do, ups and downs. (Hint: due to the lack of me trusting God and the Holy Spirit 100%.)

In the early 90s, in frustration, I walked away from Sunny Place and God - a bad decision on my part. During my lost years of not following Christ, he never left me alone. Christ stood at my heart's door and kept knocking. I ignored His knocking and my heart was hardening over the years. As time went on, I heard the knocking less.

In November 2002, our family lost my youngest sister at the age of 40 to death from a sudden illness, devastating us all. At that time I wasn't seeking the Lord, but I was broken by Tricia's death. It was in my brokenness that I heard His voice at the door of my heart again. I opened the door and surrendered my life, asking forgiveness of my past sins. I asked Him to come back into my life and made the commitment that my walk with Him was going to be different this time. I told God

(Continued on next page)

this could only happen by Him and the Holy Spirit living inside me and guiding me everyday for the rest of my life.

Here we are, 18 years later, and it's difficult for me to describe in words the fullness of Christ that I experience in my daily walk with Him. There are three words though that I would say that have brought contentment about, and they would be: commitment, faith and trust.

The COMMITMENT first came in 2002 when I surrendered my all to Christ and asking God for assistance through the Holy Spirit's guidance. This was not a onetime request. This is something I do daily, some days more times than I would like to admit. I can not deal with the flesh, much less survive it; without the help of the Holy Spirit, I'm powerless. However, I've learned as Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, **"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."** To keep my commitment I have to remember this verse regularly to survive.

Also in Romans 8:1-4, we have the assurance of being able to overcome the flesh through the help of the Holy Spirit, **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."**

Next comes FAITH. I can remember from a very early age memorizing Hebrews 11:1, **"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."** This verse was instilled in me as a child, and I've seen it come to life time and time again from childhood to the present. All I can say on this one is that there is no doubt in my mind what God can do for me, and for you, if we allow Him to work in our lives.

We now come to TRUST. One of my all time top five favorite hymns is, *Trust and Obey*. The first verse/ chorus goes:

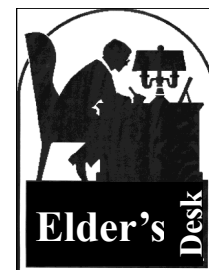
"When we walk with the Lord,
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to TRUST and OBEY."

If we have made the commitment, if we have the faith, you would think TRUST would be the easy one...NOT! Because we have free will, we must put our flesh to death daily. We must put our total trust in God for everything that comes our way. We must learn to seek Him with every choice before us, seek Him in every decision we make and trust Him that He wants nothing but the very best for us! Proverbs 3:5-6 ***"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."***

So to summarize it my own words, I can truly say I have found peace and contentment in my life and walk with Christ. I can say I understand the secret that Paul wrote about in Philippians 4:11-12: ***"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."***

But don't just take my word for it, or even if Paul's words to the Philippians wasn't convincing enough; pick up your Bible and open it to Matthew 6:25-34 and read the words that Jesus himself spoke, and allow Him to speak into your heart and fill your life with contentment.

In the service of our Lord,
Phyllis



Connect

Published by:

Sunny Place Church of God
901 E Oak St, Addison IL 60101
Church Office (630) 530-1830
Editor: Lynn Drury

Senior Pastor: Peter Weber
Treasurer: Glenda Kasza
Elders: Tim Kasza, President
Phyllis Clark, Vice President
Nona Koivula, Secretary
Ted Gehman, Director
Scott Krout, Director

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?

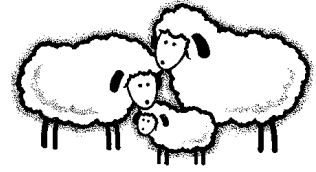
Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine

Nursery Services Provided



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 February 5, 2020

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman, Scott Krout, Glenda Kasza and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion: “To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder...Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”
1 Peter 5:1a,2-4

Election of Officers Nona Koivula moved to nominate Tim Kasza as President. Phyllis seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. Nona Koivula moved to nominate Phyllis Clark as Vice President. Tim Kasza seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. Phyllis Clark moved to nominate Nona Koivula as Secretary. Tim Kasza seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

Elder Ministry team assignments After discussion these are the Elders who agreed to serve as liaison between the Ministry and the Council of Elders. Worship & Prayer Nona; Christian Education & Fellowship Tim Kasza; Pastoral care & Encouragement Scott; Outreach & Missions Phyllis; Stewardship & Support Ted.

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$720.56 Giving \$6,385 Expenses \$11,947.04

Worship & Prayer: The bulletin board in the hallway is designed and crafted by the Worship team to highlight the monthly theme, to introduce team members to our congregation and it will be updated monthly. There is a new opportunity for people to worship in small groups at homes. It will be Worship Wednesday occurring on the last Wednesday of every month. The first Home Worship will be Feb. 26 at the Jacob home in South Elgin at 6:30 to 8:30. The Home Worship will continue monthly at different homes. Contact Effie for more information.

Christian Education & Fellowship : There is a family outing on Sunday Feb. 23 after church at Fitz’s Spare Key Bowling in Elmhurst.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Cards of encouragement are being sent to Sunny Place youth. Pastoral Care continues as needed.

Outreach & Missions: Second Saturday Senior Luncheon will be Feb 8 and have been well attended. The Missions Festival will be the first weekend in May.

Stewardship & Support Services: There will be a workday Saturday Feb. 29 and all interested people are invited to help maintain our church. There are always projects to fit any person’s skill set.

New and Old Business

Faithlife Equip is a communications platform to bring our Sunny Place congregation together around God’s Word. Since our families live so far apart, Faithlife offers the opportunity for learning about events, sharing prayer needs and growing a sense of community. There are many resources such as Bible study tools, Christian movies and TV, digital books, video courses and online giving such as tithes. Using Faithlife is an opportunity for all Sunny Place people. There will be instructional classes in the near future for all who are eager to learn.

Next Elders meeting, March 4th



Kid's

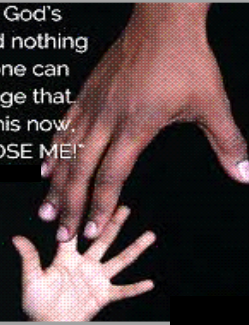
Connection



You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in his sight. Before God made you, he knew you. There is no one else like you.

Contentment is an attitude that says, "I will be satisfied with what God has given me."

You are God's choice and nothing and no one can ever change that. Repeat this now, "GOD CHOSE ME!"



"Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you."
— Lao Tzu

Contentment comes from being fully convinced that God is God, that you belong to Him, that He loves you madly, and that He is always with you.

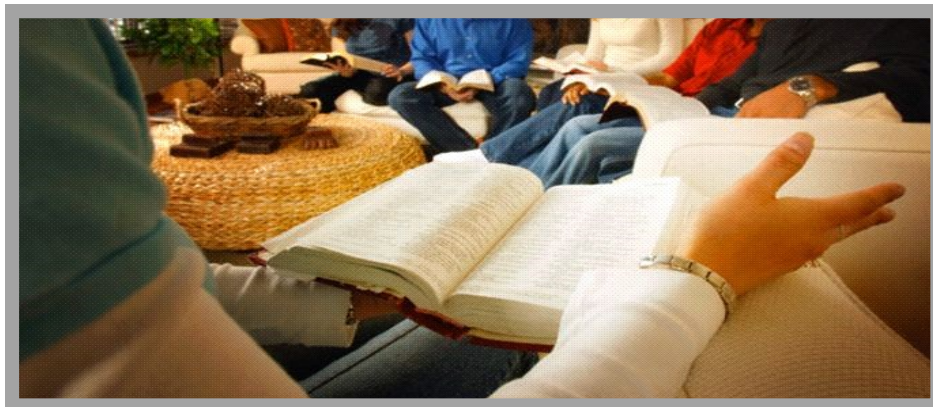
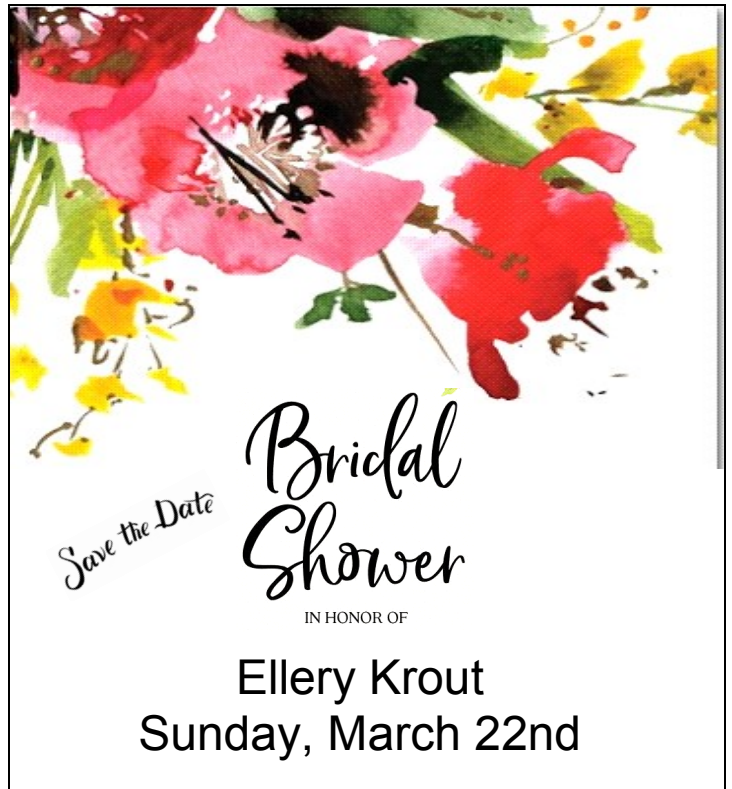
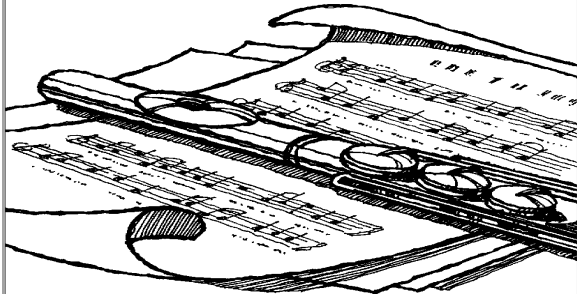
Hymn Request Sunday

Sunday, March 1st

PSALM 100:1-2

**SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD
ALL THE EARTH.**

**WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS;
COME BEFORE HIM WITH
JOYFUL SONGS.**

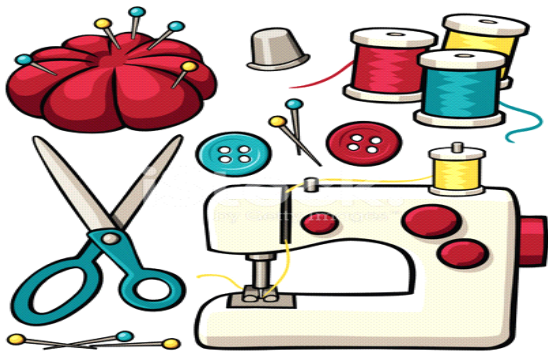


Worship Wednesday

The next Wednesday Worship meeting will be March 25th, at the Wiechering home from 6:30 until 8:30. Please contact them to let them know if you are coming.

There will be games, food brought and shared from the group, worship music, Bible study and prayer.

This is a great opportunity not only to meet in worship to our Lord, but also to get to know our Church members.



NiCE Foundation

Service Project!

Saturday, March 21st
9:30 a.m. at Sunny Place Church

We are in need of people who can trace a pattern, cut fabric, and sew on a sewing machine. These projects are ongoing and we hope to provide this service on a continual basis. Join us as we serve the Lord while enjoying fellowship together.

Please see Laura with any questions.



"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength"
Philippians 4:12,13

Afternoon of Prayer

Sunday, March 15th

After Worship Service,
light lunch following

Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

"God and the Church of God Revealed in Scripture"

What the Bible says about the nature of God and His Church.



Led by
Pastor Pete



Children's Classes

Led by Carla Weber

Nursery services are provided

Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m.

at Sunny Place



"The Lessons of the Kings"

A Study of the four books of the Kings.

Led by Pastor Pete

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 </p> <p>Communion Hymn Sing Sunday Worship Meeting After Worship Service</p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
			<p>Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>	<p>World Day of Prayer</p> <p></p>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>Spring forward Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.</p> 				<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		<p>2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Meeting Afternoon of Prayer, light lunch following</p>		 <p><i>innu & Dotsie's D</i></p>		<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		<p>Elder's Retreat At Cantigny 9:00-5:00 p.m.</p> <p>NiCE Sewing 9:30 a.m. at Sunny Place</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>Bridal Shower for Ellery Krout</p>			<p>Worship Wednesday At Erik & Effie Wiechering's home 6:30-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place</p>		
29	30	31				