

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

July, 2020

Happy Interdependence Day!

Interdependence

Merriam Webster states: The state of being dependent upon one another:

When I was first looking at the topic words for the newsletters, I thought the word was independence. I thought that would be a good one for the month of July; but at the elders meeting, when the pastor handed out the sheet with the topic words, I realized it was interdependence. I had all the words checked that I felt led to write about and quickly took that one off my list, because I didn't even know what it meant; but after my first choice was done and by the time it was my turn to pick again, all the other words I had checked were gone.

So as Christians, do you think we should be dependent upon one another, and most importantly, God? You better believe it! I did my normal reading of Scripture about the word and realized this could take a long time, because it's everywhere. That's what most of the Scriptures tell us; we are one body in Christ, united. This is what God wanted from the very beginning (Gen 2:24). That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. We were never meant to be independent! "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Rom 6:5) "But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit." (1Cor 6:17)

Ok... there I go again; I could go on and on. As I was searching, I stumbled on some articles about interdependence and would like to share some of it with you. This is from Rev. Dennis Marquardt:

"The 4th of July always reminds us of our freedom as a people. It is a great celebration of

independence. Unfortunately, this word "independence" has come to mean something that our forefathers never meant it to mean. Today it means "no one tells me what to do, I can do whatever I want, and I'm independent. To our forefathers however, the idea of independence was more like interdependence than our modern idea of it. What makes America so strong? It is not our independence; it is our interdependence. Remember we are the United States of America! Our forefathers did not proclaim independence in terms of being alone; they declared independence from corrupt control and created a union, which by definition is interdependence! Is it any wonder then that our nation is so strong? With our forefather's strong biblical roots, they built a nation with biblical structure, thus making it strong! By the way, that is why our Country is as strong as it is, it was built as "ONE NATION under ONE GOD, INDIVISIBLE, with liberty and justice for ALL." It was all about interdependence!

"This is also true with Christianity. One of the reasons American Christianity is in trouble today is because we have a false idea of what it means to be a Christian. We think being a Christian is like being an American ... we are independent, we don't answer to anyone but God (although actually if this were true we would not be independent, we would be interdependent).

"The Bible never supports the idea that we are supposed to be independent! Actually, this is the concept of EVIL! Satan got Eve to think and act independently from God. Satan himself acted independently from God and it was his downfall ... the drive for independence is built on a foundation of sin and evil! When we see through our own eyes only, we tend to set ourselves up above others. The beauty of interdependence is that we are kept to healthy balances, because we are not

(Continued on next page)

INTERDEPENDENCE

the only thing! It is not healthy to act alone; we can never do as much alone as we can with the help of others. It is not healthy to see things alone, the picture is usually distorted. There is no independence in the Godhead. One of the biggest problems of modern Christianity in America is the obsession we have with independence. Independence focuses on: Me, Myself and I. The focus of Christianity however is 'US unified.'

"The Bible teaches interdependence, we are not alone, and we don't grow alone, we are built together as a Holy Temple, upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Nothing good happens spiritually with independent Christians ... it is a contradiction in terms! There is no power in being independent. It is easy to lose focus alone... but by being united with others we are checked, challenged, cared for, and commissioned. No Church is strong when it fails to have unity, God cannot and will not bless a congregation of independent believers. There are no 'lone rangers' in God's kingdom!

"He blesses a Church of interdependent believers. Just as a body, though one has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1Cor 12:12-14) Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Eph 4:3-6)

"An interdependent church is a wonder to behold, it is strong, powerful in witness, accomplishes great things, and reflects the very nature of the Godhead."

I would like to end with another one of my visualization's. Imagine your best sports team player. I will say Michael Jordan. What if he played all that basketball alone with no team mates? Do you think he would have been that good, or able to achieve all those records? Yes, he was a very good player, but there is no way he could have achieved even half of those records. Do you think it would have even mattered if he would have never won a single game by himself, and the only thing he would have been remembered for is the guy that lost every single game? Is that what God wants from us? ... NO! NO! and NO! ... God wants us to be a team player with Him united in Christ, so we can achieve all those MVP awards together, united, using our interdependence to do our best for His will.

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

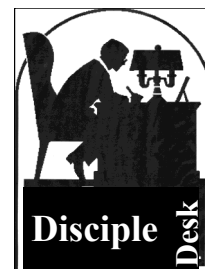
¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16

A man went to an asylum for the criminally insane. He was a bit surprised to find that there were three guards to take care of a hundred inmates. He said to one of the guards, "Aren't you afraid that the inmates will unite, overcome you, and escape?" The guard said, "Lunatics never unite." Locusts do.

"United we stand, divided we fall."

Happy Interdependence Day

Your humble servant in Christ,
Ted Gehman



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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!

Sunny Place Church is now reopening for Sunday Morning Services and Thursday Night Bible Study as of June 21st.

Some COVID safety restrictions will apply:

- A mask is required anytime you will be walking around. Once seated, in the sanctuary or at a class in the Fellowship hall, mask can be removed.
- Masks will be required if the congregation is asked to sing.
 - Sanctuary seating will be every other row
 - Please bring you own bibles.
 - Bible study classes in the fellowship hall, will have tables spread out, and can seat 4 at each table.
- Social distance will be important inside the building, so there will be no gathering in the Narthex, Sanctuary, hallways, etc.

Our Church has always been about connecting with God and one another in spirit. While many are ready to begin worship in a live setting, some are not. We will still have zoom service available.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please contact us in order to have the invitations and links sent to you. The contact information is inside on the Church Events page.

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 June 3, 2020

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

Prayer and Devotion:

“Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong;
for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:

He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.”

Psalm 37:1-6

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$3,375.11, Giving \$13,947, Expenses \$9,479.13.

Faith Promise \$19,466. Which is 108% of budget.

Worship & Prayer: There will be a zoom meeting among the Worship Ministry, Sunday, June 7.

Christian Education & Fellowship: The Christian Education Ministry will recognize the graduates from 8th grade, high school and college with a card and gift. There is a plan to celebrate with the graduates at Sunny Place Church sometime in the near future.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: There is a plan to celebrate Ellery and Daniel's wedding at Sunny Place Church in the near future.

Outreach & Missions: The Outreach Ministry prepared and delivered 25 hospitality bags to the medical staff at Amita Care on Lake St. in Addison. They greatly appreciated the recognition from Sunny Place Church. Outreach will have a drive-thru lunch for seniors on Saturday June 13. The Missions Ministry added a husband and wife team to Sunny Place Living Link Missionaries. They are John and Gwen Johnson, Regional Coordinators for Africa.

Stewardship & Support Services: The Sunny Place basement flooded twice in May due to the excessive rainfall. Tim explained he found volunteers to help clean and dry the basement twice. There is a workday scheduled this month and the Work Camp scheduled for the end of July.

New and Old Business:

Pastor Pete reminded Elders about the importance to remain in contact with the church family. There was discussion about preparing to reopen Sunny Place. Glenda will purchase hand sanitizers for the church. She has a touch free forehead thermometer. Pastor Pete asked Jacob Garcia to prepare a report on Live Streaming equipment/component requirements to live stream Bible studies and worship services at Sunny Place. He prepared a comprehensive list of the components we have and those that would need to be purchased. The Elders agreed for Jacob to pursue a separate designated internet network for the purpose live streaming. The Elders thanked Jacob for this report which included nearly all aspects of the equipment needed for live streaming. Pastor Pete asked each Elder about the circumstances to resume in-person Worship Service at Sunny Place Church. Pastor Pete said we must protect the most vulnerable, at risk population in our church family. After discussion, the Elders agreed with a sensible, reasonable, safe pathway to resume in-person worship service at Sunny Place Church of God, with live streaming for the people who would prefer to participate at home. Not everyone in the Body of Christ is at risk and those who are comfortable, healthy and longing for an in-person worship service would gladly attend the service at Sunny Place.

Next Elders meeting, July 1, 2020

Sunny Place Church



Church Events July, 2020



Our Sunday Worship Services, Thursday night Bible Studies and Meetings will be held at the scheduled times.

If you would like to join us for a service or study, via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information to sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.

You can also listen to the audio sermons, or watch the full video sessions of the services, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
"The Church of God
Revealed in Scripture"

Wednesday



7:00 p.m.

Designed especially for young adults and youths.
A Spirit led time of hanging out, sharing thoughts, prayer, encouragement, Scripture reading, and more.

7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays
TOGETHER

A time to share with others:
stories and answers
of how the Lord has
answered prayers in your life

ThursDay

7:00 p.m.

**"The Lessons of
the Kings"**

A Study of the four books of the Kings.
Led by Pastor Pete