

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

November, 2020

God's Abundance

ABUNDANCE

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the anticipation that leads to Thanksgiving and I love the bountiful Thanksgiving feast that we share with our loved ones. I love the chill in the air, the shortening days and the lengthening shadows outside. I treasure the fond memories of fall deer hunting with Dad in Montana, and memories of the sound of a good football game on the television. I love the smell of pumpkin pie and harvest apple pie. I love it when Lori switches out our spring and summer scented candles for fall and winter scents. And, did I forget to mention apple cider doughnuts? Add those to the list of things I love. These delicious treats seem to arrive only during the fall, sort of like the changing leaves on the trees. And, as if all these things are not sufficient, I have the unique double blessing of a late November birthday, which means that my birthday lands from time to time on the same day as Thanksgiving. On those extra-special years, I get my cake and turkey too!

Unfortunately, not everyone is blessed—as I truly am—with an abundance of delicious things to eat, in addition to all the other physical blessings I enjoy. Yet every Christ follower, whether here in America, or in a war-torn and impoverished country across the globe, can enjoy the abundant spiritual blessings of God in this life and the next.

During World War II, a young and frail Korean Christian school teacher named Ahn Ei Sook journeyed from Pyongyang, North Korea to Tokyo, Japan to make the Japanese leaders aware of the atrocities that were being inflicted against Korean Christians. Her courageous stand for Christ landed her in a filthy Japanese prison, where she was subjected to brutal treatment. But Ahn's faith in God never failed, and when faced with starvation, she was thankful even for the worm-infested rotten apples that were her food. Ahn was released in 1945 and, along with her husband, Don Kim, toured Europe and the United States, telling of the victories wrought by Christ during her imprisonment. Ahn's story is just one of

innumerable accounts of Christians throughout history who have labored and suffered for their faith. Even today, Christians in many African and Middle Eastern nations face persecution, starvation, imprisonment and death for the cause of Jesus Christ. Are they abundantly blessed?

The answer is yes, they are abundantly blessed in Christ! Hear the words of Paul to the believers in Rome:

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." (Romans 15:13 KJV)

Through the act of believing in God we are filled, not with physical food, but spiritual: joy in the midst of severe suffering, peace in the midst of danger, chaos and confusion, and hope, even when all hope seems lost. When I consider these truths from God's word, I am challenged to consider that perhaps I have been too focused on all the physical blessings from God, and have not been living enough in the real joy of life in Christ.

And to the church in Corinth, Paul writes:

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work..." (2 Corinthians 9:8 KJV)

He has abundantly equipped us for whatever He wants us to do, and His perfect grace allows us to do even more, to abound, in every good work. Our most important work is to lead lost souls to the Savior, but, at least for me, this is difficult, and even frightening work. How much more would I rather give of my physical treasures to meet the physical need of another, than to face the possibility of rejection and ridicule in sharing the Gospel, which is the most important need that anyone has. But Paul is telling us that God's

(Continued on next page)

abundant grace can equip us for every good work, even the work of sharing the salvation message with someone who has never heard it, or who has heard it but doesn't want to believe. Or worse, wants to stop us from sharing this most important good news.

And when we, living in God's grace as mentioned above, find our sufficiency in Him, then we truly have found abundant life. As John recounts the words of Jesus:

"...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10 KJV)

These words of Jesus demonstrate the spiritual life we have in Christ, and that we can have spiritual abundance in this life. Just as food sustains us in this short and physical life, the food that Jesus offers, will sustain our souls for eternity. And, just as Jesus offered a different type of water to the woman at the well, to quench not her body, but her soul, so the spiritual bread and water that Jesus offers us will sustain our souls during this passing and brief time on earth. He is the bread of life, the eternal food for our eternal soul. As Jesus Himself said:

"I am the living bread which came down from Heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever...." (John 6:51 KJV)

So, what about physical abundance? Paul again gives us this principle to live by in his letter to the Philippian church:

"Not that I speak from want: for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need." (Philippians 4:11-12 NASB)

What was Paul's secret to contentment in "any and every" situation? In verse six of this same passage, he gives this important clue:

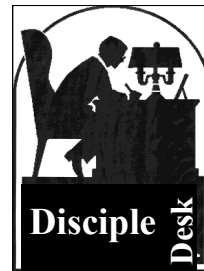
"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NASB)

What is Paul's clue to living in all circumstances: prayer and thankfulness, plain and simple.

This year, as we gather together for the celebration of Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for all that God has given us, not only the physical things He has richly and abundantly provided, but also for the spiritual, the invisible things He has bestowed upon us, because they are what really matter, both in this life, and in the life to come.

My hope and prayer this Thanksgiving, as we come together to enjoy the abundance of good food and good fellowship, is that we will let the wonderful smells in the air be but a hint of the aroma of God's love in the heavenly feast to come. That we will let the sight of our loved ones gathered around be but a glimpse of what that great and glorious reunion in Heaven will be. That we will let the sounds of laughter and cheer be but a whisper of the great rejoicing that will echo throughout the heavenly realms while we bask in the love and life we have in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scott Krout



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!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services and Thursday Night Bible Study

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 your 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 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 October 7, 2020

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

Prayer and Devotion: Matthew 13:10-13, 16-17

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand" But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$2,196.03 Giving \$10,603.34 Expenses \$13,369.70

Worship & Prayer: Effie suggested Sunny Place invite the public to our in-person Worship Service using a banner. The Elders agreed and Nona volunteered to research the banner. Effie mentioned that our Worship Service at church and on Zoom are being recorded. Phyllis explained how the recordings are made and that the only use of the Worship recordings is to place the audio of the Pastor's sermon on the church website. There will be recording reminders posted.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Bible Studies continue as planned.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Cards and flowers for the families who lost loved ones. Cards to encourage our shut-ins.

Outreach & Missions: Outreach decided to continue the Second Saturday Senior Luncheon drive by in November and December. Missions want to prepare a Christmas gift for the missionaries we are supporting around the world. There will be a list of donations for the gifts. We may donate baked goods to the Addison Fire and Police Departments if this complies with COVID regulations.

Stewardship & Support Services: Tim reported that the seal coating of the parking lot was less expensive than originally budgeted, so the coating and striping were completed in Sept. Two other big ticket items can be considered next year. God is faithful and we have been blessed with resources.

New and Old Business:

- Nov. 1st is the International Day of Prayer. Our church will embrace this worldwide event. Pastor Pete will create and distribute a prayer list to all participants. After the Worship Service at church people will be asked to remain in the sanctuary to continue praying and the Zoom participants will be asked to pray at home. There will be communion of this Sunday also.
- Note for Ministry Team Leaders:
The **2021 budgets** are due Nov. 4th
Annual Reports are due in the church office by Dec. 1st

Next Elder's Meeting will be November 4th

Sunny Place Church

November, 2020



Church Events

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"



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