

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

January, 2021

The Shipwreck

Pastor Pete prayerfully chooses the theme for each month. When I read "Adventure" as the theme I was taken back; surprised. I couldn't relate my concept of adventure such as Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) with the Holy Bible, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I think Pastor Pete noticed the confused look on my face. He suggested I was the one to dive into this theme of Adventure. I agreed.

I'm sure each of you has a movie or personal experience that comes to mind when you hear the word, adventure. The challenge I accepted was to relate adventure to Biblical scripture and experiences. As I prayed, a voice whispered, The Whole Bible is a living Adventure. It is the **greatest adventure book** ever written. It took a while for this to sink into my spiritual awareness.

So what does adventure look like? It is defined as unusual, exciting, dangerous, experiences either chosen or occurring without notice. It is hazardous, an exploration of the unknown, bold, risky, with an uncertain outcome or conclusion. A person in an adventure may need to be rescued. With these descriptions in mind, the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation is a living truthful document of physical and spiritual adventure as we know every word written in the Bible is God-breathed.

2 Timothy 3:16

Our Bible brings many physical adventures to our spiritual awareness. Consider Abram leaving his homeland; a hazardous journey "even though he did not know where he was going." Abram was faithful and trusted God to protect him and his family on this trek. Remember Jonah and his three days and nights spent in the belly of a large fish. This was God's way to bluntly confront Jonah with his disobedience. While praying inside, I'm sure Jonah wondered what the outcome of this situation would be. God was there with Jonah and the fish provided transportation closer to God's chosen destination - Nineveh. These adventures were for His purpose.

There are so many exciting true adventures in the Bible; it was difficult to choose one for this article. While meditating on God's miraculous powers, Paul's exciting adventure while traveling to Rome came to me. I began reading in Acts 27 and knew this was the spiritual journey to share.

A Warning

When the Apostle Paul was in Jerusalem, he was persecuted for defiling the temple and was going to be killed by an angry mob. The Roman guards interceded and as a Roman citizen, he asked to appeal his case before Caesar in Rome which was his legal right. He was a prisoner under the guard of a centurion named Julius and placed on an Alexandrian ship bound for Italy. With Paul was his faithful travel companion, the physician Luke. Scholars think this journey began in October 59AD. The sailing crew, Roman soldiers and many prisoners, sailed slowly towards their first port, Fair Haven. Paul was given a warning by the Holy Spirit, who knows all things, he shouted:

"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo and to our lives also."

Neither the ship captain, nor Julius, paid heed to Paul's warning, so they set forth with the intention of reaching Phoenix, the next port. After sailing the sea, a wind of hurricane force caught the ship and they were at the mercy of the wind. The waves violently battered the ship, they began throwing cargo overboard. The skies were overcast for weeks. Ships in these ancient times had no compass for navigation. The captain used stars for navigation so when overcast they had no idea of their location. This became a very risky voyage with an uncertain outcome. It was a runaway ship with no safe harbor in sight. But Paul trusted God; he knew God ruled over the surging sea.

(Continued on next page)

ADVENTURE

Paul was visited by an Angel of the Lord who told Paul about the future. Paul told the 276 people aboard the ship, "But now I urge you to keep up your courage because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an Angel of the Lord whose "I Am" and, whom I serve, stood beside me and said," Do not be afraid Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you." So keep courage men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me."

Do you ever feel your life has become a runaway ship, without any safe harbor or ability to navigate? At times we can feel lost, doubting our connection with Jesus. Hardship like the waves violently battering our lives can take us to a dark, desolate place. This is when we need to cry out to Jesus who promises to rescue us.

"Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him for he acknowledges my name." *Psalm 91:14*

"Even in your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you, I have made you and I will carry you. I will sustain you, I will rescue you." *Isaiah 46:4*

Paul knew Jesus intimately and had no doubts that he and the shipmates would be rescued. But there is still more danger during Paul's journey (see *Acts 27:27*)

The storm continued for two more weeks; the sailing ship was driven across the Adriatic Sea. As experienced sailors, they knew they were approaching land. Some people tried to escape the ship but Paul said, "Unless these men stay with the ship you cannot be saved." He urged the men to eat; they took bread and Paul gave thanks to God in front of them all. Like Paul we are called to stand firm in our faith and be grateful for His blessings even during seemingly hopeless situations.

The Shipwreck

Imagine their joy, at dawn when they saw a bay with a sandy beach. Their joy was short lived as the ship heaved suddenly, struck a sandbar, ran aground, the stern was pounded by the force of the waves and began

to break apart. In desperate fear, the Roman soldiers considered killing all the prisoners, including Paul, because if any escaped, the soldiers would be severely punished. But the centurion Julius interceded and ordered the soldiers not to carry out their plan. It would seem that Julius understood God was in control and God would rescue all of them as Paul revealed.

The final order on the ship was for all who could swim to jump overboard and those who could not swim to hold onto the boards floating from the ship. "In this way everyone reached land in safety" *Acts 27:44*

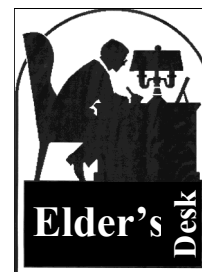
The shipwreck is an example of lives not dedicated to Jesus. Danger abounds in this world that lacks Jesus. We know "Our God is a God who saves, from the sovereign God comes escape from death." *Psalm 68:20* This verse beautifully describes Paul's harrowing escape from death.

We all need to be rescued at some time in our lives. Being rescued is being saved from a life of darkness. When we are convicted by the Holy Spirit of our sins, and with a repentant heart ask for forgiveness, Jesus will save us. Yielding to Jesus and being sanctified, will bring the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Each of us will have a different, unique adventure with Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

My prayer for each of us is that our adventure with Jesus, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, will qualify us "to share in the inheritance of the saints in the Kingdom of Light. For God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin." *Colossians 1:12-14*

May this article encourage your heart to pursue the adventure of Him always.

Nona



Oh, by the way, the adventure of Paul's journey to Rome continues. Turn to Acts 28, the final chapter, to read the conclusion of this hazardous trip and learn what happens to Paul and Luke in Rome.



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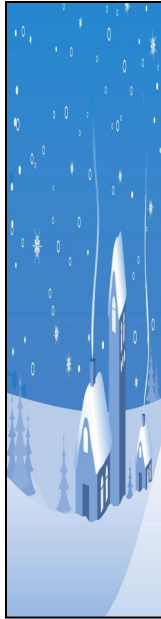
TLC

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 open for Sunday Morning Services

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 Dec. 2, 2020

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

Prayer and Devotion: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, with is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” *Ephesians 6:10-18*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$ 1,962.53 Giving \$12,237.50 Expenses \$10,838.88

Worship & Prayer: The Worship Service consists of Effie preparing and leading the Worship service, with Jacob operating the computer program, Zoom and sound board in the back of the sanctuary. This reliance on Jacob to operate the computer, camera, sound board and Zoom is detrimental to our church. Effie has prepared a plan to seek volunteers, teach people the necessary skills to operate the Worship service, Zoom and sound board. This will allow Jacob some assistance on Sunday. Effie will call upon the Worship Ministry families and others to learn the skills. Anyone called to serve this Ministry, please contact Effie. There will be a Christmas Hymn evening in December. Effie will plan this event on Zoom for our celebration of the Birth of Baby Jesus.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Adult Bible Studies continue Sunday mornings at church and on Zoom. The Thursday evening Bible Study is on Zoom only.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Cards are sent to our congregation for birthdays, anniversaries and for encouragement. This year Christmas cards will be mailed to everyone in the Body of Christ.

Outreach & Missions: There will be a second Saturday Senior Luncheon drive through on December 12. The distribution of meals will be slightly different as a response to the expected cold weather. Less time will be spent outside; meals will be delivered from the front of the church. There is a possibility of a January Senior Luncheon to be decided later. To remain connected with the seniors who are faithful to this event, Christmas cards will be sent.

Stewardship & Support Services: The hot water heater had to be replaced in November. There is an annual fire inspection scheduled for December. The fire panel and smoke sensors are inspected to insure all are working properly to safeguard our church and the Body of Christ.

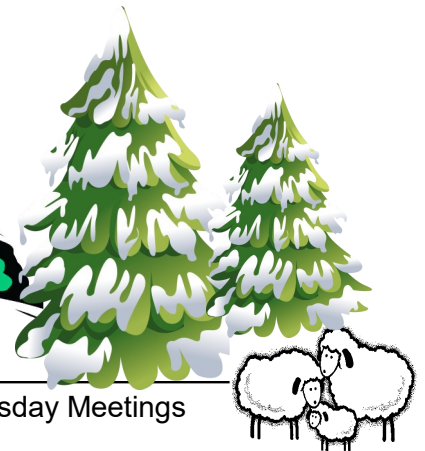
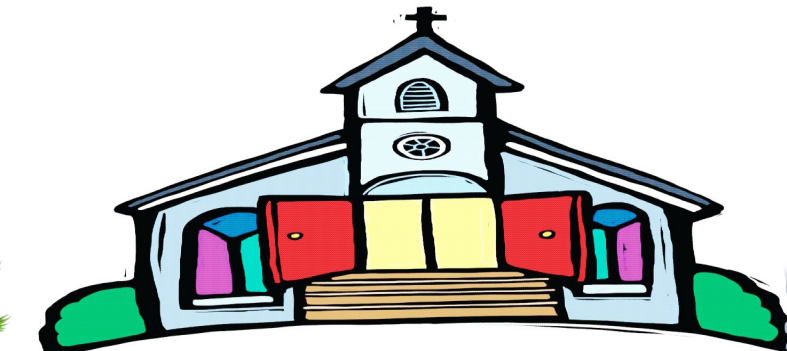
New and Old Business

Scott Krout submitted his resignation as an Elder to the Council of Elders. Elder nominations are due December 6.

Next Elders meeting: January 6, 2021

Sunny Place Church

January, 2021



Church Events

Our Sunday Worship Services, Thursday night Bible Studies and Tuesday 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, 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”

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In person and on Zoom



**Sunday, January 24th
at 12:30 p.m.**

**In the Sanctuary
In-person and on Zoom**

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.
On Zoom only

7:00 p.m.

ThursDay

“The Lessons of the Kings”

A Study of the four books of the Kings.

Led by Pastor Pete
On Zoom only