

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

March, 2021

The Gospel Really is Good News

THE GOSPEL

We hear a lot about “fake news” these days, and a good portion of the rest is often “bad news.” You have to look a little harder these days to find “good news.” I hear of those who are spending less time on Facebook, “following” and “friending” less, and those who are no longer watching the “news” anymore. There is no question the news is so often discouraging, disappointing, and dismal. This has been a challenging year in so many respects: politics, racial injustice, coronavirus, cancel culture, etc.

As consuming as all this can be, however, it is worth taking the time to finding “good news.” Yes, you have to sort through a bit more these days, and push aside the fake and bad kinds, but good news is really good for the soul. I am talking, of course, about really good news ... the greatest news: the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. There is no news greater than that. And no message and truth you can invest yourself and your time in that has greater value.

The word “gospel” actually means “good news,” or a “good message;” or “good tidings,” as we see often in the King James Version. The angel of the Lord was the first to announce it in the account of Jesus’ birth. Here is what the angel said:

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11 KJV*

We also see it in the account of the beginning

of Jesus’ ministry in the very first words of the gospel of Mark, and marked its’ start with proclamation of John the Baptist, as prophesied by Isaiah.

1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”-

3 “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” *Mark 1:1-3*

John did exactly that. His message was: “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” He completed his mission, preparing the way for Jesus, as we see in the following verses.

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Jesus was now proclaiming it. The good news was the same as what John had been preaching: That the time of the kingdom of God has come; it was now at hand, and it was time to “Repent and believe the good news!” Notice what this looked like:

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. *Matthew 9:35-36*

(Continued on next page)

But what was the message, the "news?" What did the people need to "believe?" Jesus explained it like this to Nicodemus:

13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. *John 3:13-17*

In the very next chapter, Jesus explains it further to a Samaritan woman.

10 Jesus answered her, "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."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

13 Jesus answered, "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 4:10-14*

And then finally, Jesus explains it to the unbelieving Jews who rejected Him. He said:

24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death

to life. 25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." *John 5:24-29*

The good news was that the Son of God, and Son of Man, spoken of by the prophets had come, and the kingdom of God with Him, to invite all who would believe in Him, to repent of their sins, drink of the Living Water, cross from death to life, to eternal life, and be a participant in the resurrection on the day He returns. This is for all who hear His voice, and believe His Father who sent Him.

Do you hear His voice? Do you believe in Him?... Here's what Jesus says to His disciples:

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." *Mark 16:15-16*

Repent, then, for the kingdom of God is at hand for you today, as well. Believe and receive Him as your King, and you will drink of living water, you will cross from death to life, you will enter His kingdom, today. You will experience eternal life, now, and the resurrection on that great and glorious day. It is good news to all Creation. There is no greater news than that.

Blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Pete



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 Sam Jacob, 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

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, although gathering in the Narthex, Sanctuary, and Fellowship hall will be allowed.

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 February 3, 2021

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

Prayer and Devotion

"Then he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Election of Officers

Tim Kasza was elected President of the Elders Counsel, Phyllis Clark was elected Vice President and Nona Koivula was elected Secretary.

Ministry Team Assignments

The Worship & Prayer Ministry elder remains Nona Koivula. The Christian Education & Fellowship elder is Tim Kasza. The Pastoral Care & Encouragement elder is Sam Jacob. The Outreach & Missions elder is Phyllis Clark. The Stewardship & Support Services is Ted Gehman.

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,239.16, Giving \$9,080, Expenses \$10,881.46
Faith Promise for the year \$10,637.12.

Worship & Prayer: On Sunday January 31, the snowstorm prevented several team members from getting to church. Effie thanked all the people who were able to attend; who worked together for the Glory of God, to fulfill the Worship Service flawlessly. They overcame any technical difficulties with cooperation and phone assistance. The team learned the practical application of the technology.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Pastor Pete said the Thursday evening Bible Study on Zoom only, began the study of the book of Daniel. The Bible Study on Sunday morning began studying Stewardship as a part of the Church of God Revealed in the Scriptures. This study is both in-person at church and on Zoom at 10:45am.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Grief, physical and spiritual supports are offered by Sam Jacob during a confidential counseling time together. He can be contacted for support counseling. The Encouragement ministry, mails cards of encouragement, for birthdays, anniversaries and Valentine's Day.

Outreach & Missions: The Outreach Ministry will continue the Second Saturday Senior Luncheon. The seniors who participate are so enthusiastic about driving to Sunny Place, getting the opportunity to pray with Sam or Carla and getting a home cooked meal. Phyllis is planning on a Missions Fest possibly in May.

Stewardship & Support Services: The furnace providing necessary heat to the sanctuary needs mechanical work which will be resolved soon. We can rely on the parking lot to be plowed for each Sunday service.

New Business

- As part of Holy Week, on April 1st, Maundy Thursday, the Elders decided to encourage families to embrace the Lord's Supper, Communion and foot washing in the safety of their own homes or with other invited families. To comply with the COVID protocols, the church will not offer the Lord's Supper, Communion and foot washing at church as we have in past years. More information about the Lord's Supper celebrations will be available before April. Easter will be Sunday April 4th.
- Also, the elders decided that gathering in the Narthex, Sanctuary, and Fellowship Hall will be allowed - masks and social distancing are still required, however.

Next Elders meeting, March 3, 2021



March, 2021

Sunny Place 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

2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, March 13th, 11:30 am
Pick-up at Sunny Place Church

Free for Seniors 55 & up.
Register now at 630/398-2314.

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

“Revealing Deep and Hidden Things”

A Study of the book of Daniel.

Led by Pastor Pete
On Zoom only