

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

December, 2022

God's Message of Light to a Messy World

Beautiful Christmas lights, Happy holiday posters, Seasonal greeting signs, Brightly lit streets, Decorated houses and trees, and People running after gifts - messages are everywhere! Some take messages from their family traditions, some from friendships, some from past experiences, some from favorite news media, electronic screens, or books, yet others claim that they don't take any message from anyone or anything because they know it all.

However, the true message comes from the Word, born in Bethlehem, that lived in this world, shed His blood, died for our sins, and rose again with the power of resurrection, offering abundant life in this present age.

The mess-age of this world is a mess-of-this-age. Therefore, we have a responsibility to discern the messages we receive, before accepting them into our hearts and minds.

In the first epistle of John, *"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

1 John 1: 5-7



The apostle John points to the excellency of the divine nature. He is portrayed as pure and perfect Light. He is the source of all spirituality, purity, wisdom, knowledge, holiness, and glory. In Him, there is no darkness. If we walk in the Light, the message says that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us. Remember, it is conditional and continual.

Adam Clarke says regarding the blood of Jesus Christ, *the meritorious efficacy of His passion and death has purged our consciences from dead works and cleansed us (to keep clean what has made clean), for it requires the same merit and energy to preserve holiness in the soul of man, as to produce it.*

My dear loved ones, we are not our own. We belong to Him. Our new identity is in Christ Jesus alone. Therefore, first we must walk intentionally and continuously in communion with Christ. Second, we

THE MESSAGE

(Continued on next page)

need to trust Him and be Spiritually aware all the time. Then we will have spiritual intimacy (fellowship) with one another, not only our biological family and life-long friends, but also with the blood-washed ones.

In this life, we can sin because we have a human mind (*need transformation - renewal*) and a human body (*need to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit*). However, the blood of Jesus is therapeutic. There is cleansing, there is healing, there is life, and there is power available by the blood of the Lamb!

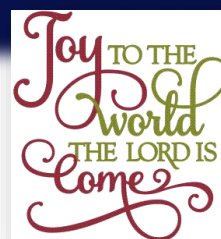
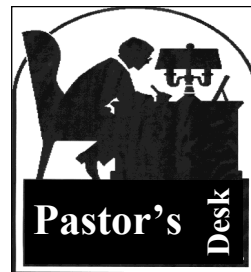
This is a beautiful time of the year. The mess-of -this-age can become meaningful when Christ is illuminated in the middle of the mess.

Christmas is all about Christ, the birth of hope to this world. Our Christ was born in a messier world, with the king of that age killing babies. It was indeed a terrible, horrible, and bloody time. There was no space for Jesus, but the true message was born out of it. Our Lord was born in the manger. He is Christ, Immanuel, the God who is with us. Do we have any space for Christ? Are we busy pleasing our family and friends? Do we have any time for Jesus?

Remember, Christ is the Light and Love of the world.

It is in His blood we are cleansed. It is in His Light we light our world. It is in His Love we love one another.

Merry Christmas
Sam P. Jacob
Pastoral Care Pastor



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: Sam Jacob, President Phyllis Clark, Vice President Nona Koivula, Secretary Ted Gehman, Director Erik Wiechering, 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 Via Zoom every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

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 November 2, 2022

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Erik Wiechering, Ted Gehman, Sam Jacob, Glenda Kasza, Nona Koivula, and guest Effie Wierchering.

Prayer and Devotion: Galatians 6:9-10 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$2,175.17, Giving \$14,550, Expenses \$16,314.03, Faith Promise \$7,878.

Worship & Prayer: There will be a "Praying Together...Time with Jesus" immediately after the Worship Service on Nov. 20. All are invited to remain in the sanctuary to pray and after prayer time a modest luncheon will be available in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Pastor Pete will begin a Bible Study on the book of James on Sunday Mornings at 9:45am. The Bible Study on Faith and Doubt will continue on Thursday evenings at 7 pm, both at Sunny Place Church and on Zoom

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: We reviewed our vision and mission statements, and identified that we currently are fulfilling most of our mission plans; however, we shared areas of improvements with new activities. Also we planned for upcoming holiday gifts, poinsettias, visitations and gatherings.

Missions Outreach & Evangelism: Senior Luncheons continue every 2nd Saturday through the remainder of the year. December 4th Larry & LeAnn Sellers will be with us in person to share what is happening with the ministry in the mission field. We will be working with the Addison School District to sponsor kids for Christmas. Info will be sent via email to the congregation. The Beverly's will be joining us for the 2023 Mission Fest.

Stewardship & Support Services: No report at this meeting

New and Old Business

- Sunday Nov.13 there will be Baptisms and an Elders & Team leaders meeting.
- Saturday Nov. 19 at 9:30am, there will be a Calendar Planning meeting where Team leaders are coming together to plan the 2023 church calendar.
- Saturday Dec. 3 there will be a Night of Christmas Hymns at the Wiechering home.
- There will be a Ladies Christmas Party on Sunday Dec. 4 after Worship Service in the Parsonage.

Next Elders meeting Dec. 7, 2022 6:30pm

Sunny Place Church - December Events



A Night of Christmas Hymns
Saturday, December 3rd

4:00 PM @ The Wieherings



**Ladies Christmas Party
at the Parsonage**

**Sunday, December 4th
After Worship Service**

**Join your sisters in Christ
for a fun afternoon.
Invite friends and family.**

See Kim for details.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

“Faith in Action”

A study of the Book of James
Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



“Faith & Doubt”

Practicing Kingdom Principles

Led by Pastor Pete
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study 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.