

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

October, 2022

## Idols or Eternity

It was a difficult time for both of them. The mother needed care 24/7 and her daughter worked constantly. There were many compromises that needed to be made along with many decisions about the mother's care. The journey was made harder for both of them because of the daughter's focus on life. She measured her worth by society's standards. She considered herself valuable because she was a "workaholic." Looking at her life, her profession defined her life. Like many other career women, she looked to outside sources to define who she was and where she was going.

It took a long time for the daughter to realize she was basing her value on worthless things, such as personal income, social status, dressing fashionably, earthly recognition, pride of self and self love. I know this person well as the daughter is me.

Turning away from worthless things took some rude awakenings. Eventually my Mother's love reached deep into my soul and opened a door for a new life, based on an eternal spiritual life. I slowly began to realize my worth, dictated by society's worthless idols was totally misplaced.

Scriptures showed me a different, loving way to consider my self-worth. Scriptures such as:

"Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them."  
*Acts 14:15*

"Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them." *Jonah 2:8*

Who is Worthy?

Is God worthy of our love, whole-hearted devotion, self-sacrifice, obedience, worship and trust? YES, He is worthy! God has all of the attributes of a nurturing, loving Father and because He is invisible it is hard for people to grasp His nature which is so unlike our nature. He is worthy of our love because God is love. Consider that He loves unconditionally, every culture, every nationality. His love never fails and never shows favoritism. He welcomes all people to embrace His love. "We know and rely on the love God has for us." *1 John 4:16*

He expresses His love in many ways. He listens; He hears every word of every prayer in any language. When it is His will, He answers prayers in His time. God gave us the greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. This scripture summarizes His love, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

God's Promises

He promises many things. Unlike many people promises, His promises are always trustworthy and are always true. God promised a Messiah and in His infinite wisdom sent His Son to us on earth as the exact representation of His being. A promise fulfilled. His loving nature will forgive our sin when we pray with a

(Continued on next page)

WORTH

repentant heart. Any sin. There is no heinous crime that God with His infinite mercy will not forgive. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."  
*1 John 1:9*

He promises to bear our burdens like relational or family difficulties. He promises to comfort us in times of distress such as when we mourn the loss of loved ones. God promises His beloved followers who are worthy, an inheritance, the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, which is eternal life. "Faith and knowledge resting on the promise of eternal life which, God who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time."  
*Titus 1:2*

### God's unchanging Nature

God does not change. He is the same yesterday (thousands of years ago) today at this very moment and for eternity, which is very difficult for us to grasp. His truths are universal and foundational thus unchanging. Throughout time and through all cultures, His word remains constant.

### A Church, His bride

A church is a safe place, with loving people and passionate spirituality. It is a community unlike any other, with people sharing the faith and trust in God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a place for spiritual nourishment where spiritual truths are expressed in spiritual words. All people can grow and learn from Jesus and each other. A church is a place where all are welcome; and the love of Jesus flows from person to person like an unending living stream. It

has great worth. If this does not describe your church, look for another, or come to Sunny Place Church of God.

### What is your life worth?

We can decide to follow Jesus. We are called according to His grace to receive Jesus in our hearts to live a life of love with Him. God's purpose is for each of us to be in a love relationship with Him now. It is our responsibility to receive Him, grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ; to imitate Jesus and embrace His teachings. We know that His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

The Holy Bible gives us an example of realizing the true value of life. The example is the Apostle Paul who had power, influence and authority. He had great status among all Hebrews at the time. After an encounter with Jesus, he realized his status was worth nothing compared to the vast richness of knowing Jesus Christ.

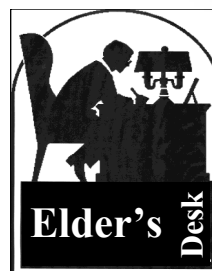
"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him."  
*Philippians 3:8-9*

Like Paul, we can define our self value based on the world's definition of success, or we can define our existence as worthy of the promise of eternal life with Jesus.

You choose.



Your loving sister  
in Christ,  
Nona



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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin 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](mailto:sunnyplacecog@gmail.com) to request a link to be sent to you**

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

**Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ**

## Elders Minutes of Meeting held Sept 7, 2022

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Erik Wiechering, Ted Gehman, Sam Jacob and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion: “Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.” *1 Thessalonians 5:12-22*

### Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$2,262.43, Giving \$11,015.67, Expenses \$18,645.22, Faith Promise \$6,798

Worship & Prayer: Worship Wednesday will be held at the Weber home Wednesday, Sept 21. There will be time for prayer after the Worship Service on October 16. This will be ‘Praying together time with Jesus.’ After prayer in the sanctuary, a simple meal will be provided in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education & Fellowship: The church picnic was held Sept 11 in the Fellowship Hall due to rain. This was a time of close fellowship among the congregation and visitors.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Plans continue for the Homecoming weekend Oct 1 & 2. Don Dennison will preach on Oct. 2. There will be fellowship and time to renew long lasting friendships on Saturday Oct. 1.

Outreach & Missions: There was the Senior Luncheon on Sept 10.

Stewardship & Support Services: There will be a Work Day on Saturday, Sept. 24.

### New and Old Business

- A letter approving the Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Account, QSEHRA, regarding Pastor’s healthcare reimbursement, needs to be approved in Sept. Ted moved to accept the reimbursement amount of \$6,000 for 2023. Phyllis seconded the motion and it passed. It will be the same amount for 2023 as 2022. Sam as Council President signed the letter.
- There was discussion about how The Council communicates and makes decisions and appointments. The Elders discussed planning a meeting with Elders and Ministry Leaders after Church on Sept. 18 or 25. The NCD Survey would be discussed regarding Effective Structures and Effective planning. Discussion also centered on the need for an open dialog between Ministry leaders and Elders to communicate regularly.

Next Meeting October 5, 2022

# Sunny Place Church October Events

## Sunny Place Church Homecoming Weekend

Saturday, October 1 & Sunday, October 2nd

Speakers: Eric Livingston, Don Dennison, and Dan Marler

Saturday: 1-4:00 pm Meet & greet, appetizers and much more

3-3:45 pm Singing, & speaker Dan Marler

4-5 pm Dinner

5-6:00 pm Dessert, remembrance,

6:00 + More chat time & light snacks

Sunday: 9:00 am Breakfast (no Sunday School)

10:45 am Sermon with Don Dennison



**SECOND SATURDAY  
SENIOR LUNCHION**  
October 8th, 11:30 A.M.

**Come be our guest for food, great speakers and activities. Free event for Seniors 55+. Space is limited so register now at 630/398-2314**

Sunday, October 9th

Honoring Pastors Pete & Sam

Thank You

**PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY**

We Appreciate Your Faithful Service

Reception in Narthex, after Worship Service  
Cards are welcome

October marks Pastor Pete's "20th" Anniversary

Worship  
With Us

## Wednesday Worship

Come fellowship with your Church Family, and share a meal, a song or two, and good times in a relaxed atmosphere.

Wednesday, October 19th, 6:00 p.m.  
At the Wiechering home.



**Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.**

**"Jesus' Teaching for the Blessed"**

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount.

Led by Pastor Pete

**Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.**

*In-person and on Zoom*

7:00 p.m.

ThursDay

**"Faith & Doubt"**

Practicing Kingdom Principles

Led by Pastor Pete

7:00 p.m. 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](mailto: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](http://sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons).