

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

February, 2023

## Righteous Radiance

### RADIANCE

As she neared the end of her life, her face began to glow with a radiance that seemed to be emitted from within. She slowly lost her interest in food and it seemed her eyes were focusing on a place in the distance. There was noticeable joy in her smile and the things of this world became strangely dim. Others noticed this radiance and wondered what it meant. The glow continued until she left this world and was taken to her inheritance in Heaven. I witnessed this, as it was my Mother, Minnie, shining with righteous radiance.

This facial glow and radiance are possible and the origin is not a new exotic night cream or a cutting-edge wrinkle serum. People can have a brilliance or luminosity that is easily perceived. It seems these people have a peace of mind and a positive attitude which attracts others to them like a spiritual magnet. Not that there are many people with this inner glow, but those who do are memorable.

Scriptures explain the true source of the radiance.



"The son (Jesus) is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

*Hebrews 1:3*

"The one who is the true light, who gives light to man, was coming into the world."

*John 1:9*

These scriptures explain Jesus is the source of light, luminosity, brilliance and a glow or shine.

Many people play dodge ball with this light. This world is a very dark place. We have communities that are broken with gun violence, food deserts, abandoned houses and homelessness. There are serious financial problems such as a national debt of more than \$30 trillion dollars, a global economy coming close to recession this year and the FTX failure going from solvent to bankrupt in less than a week. The war in the Ukraine began a year ago and continues with families suffering through winter without electricity or fuel. People are subjected to social bullying, embracing substance abuse as a coping skill and physical illnesses that can incapacitate our loved ones. These hardships can cause people to become bitter, angry, depressed, filled with hatred, and isolated from society. The result of this world can be to transform people to be arrogant, thieves, greedy, hypocritical, criminals or morally corrupt. People don't come into the light for fear that their actions will be exposed. Fearful that the spiritual light of Jesus shining on them will illuminate a part of their life that he or she wants to remain hidden.

I encountered this dark place within me; a feeling of being hollow. Looking at my life as if it was a deep pit that I could never climb out of; gave me chills. I felt so bad, so

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ugly, so sinful that I could never be forgiven. I had a sense of doom. Many people feel this darkness in our world filled with ugliness. There is a choice, an avenue out of this ugliness. I chose to follow Jesus. This choice is available to everyone.

Choose to allow Jesus to transform your life into a new life radiating light.

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Following Jesus means asking for the forgiveness of a sinful life, repenting and sincerely praying for His remission of sin. Jesus removes sin as far as the east is from the west. As the redeemer of all life, Jesus wants all people to embrace His love, grace, mercy and compassion as we are all made in the likeness of God, the Father. Each willing person can invite Jesus into her or his life to be transformed into a devoted follower.

So what's the benefit, the reward for this light offered by Jesus? It is a spiritual journey that begins with the remission of past sin. The benefit of being released from the past is freedom from guilt. There is no burden quite as destructive as guilt. The release of this remorse or shame is transformative into a positive life without guilt. A reward is a clear conscience with the benefit of deep, restful sleep. In

addition, there is a peace of mind that comes from being spiritually connected to Jesus. There is wisdom when examining oneself. People can learn how to be honest with themselves and others. A change of heart occurs when the light of Jesus is embraced. A life of selfish actions can be altered to a spiritually loving person who cares about people, begins to place other person's needs before one's own needs. It is this spiritual selflessness that shines in the darkness of this world.

Here is a promise in Psalm 37:6:

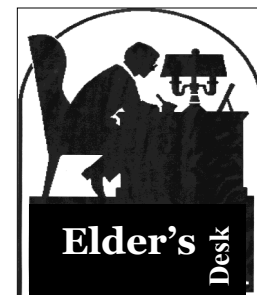
"He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn."

The decision to follow Jesus is a life-long commitment to place Him in the center of our lives. Our words and actions can show the light of Jesus within us and glorify God. Our greatest desire is to shine brilliantly for Jesus as we dedicate our lives to obey and serve Him. As a follower of Jesus our spiritual light can shine brilliantly to our family, neighbors, community and the world.

In the English Cambridge Dictionary, the definition of radiance is an expression of great happiness, hope or beauty. As a follower of Jesus, our Righteous Radiance is an expression of our spiritual happiness and hope.

In His Arms, 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 January 4, 2023

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

**Prayer and Devotion:** Romans 15:1-6, "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

## **New & Old Business:**

Second Saturday Senior Luncheon will be Saturday Jan. 14 at 11:30 am  
Praying Time Together with Jesus for 2023 will occur the third Sunday of every month. For January our congregation will pray together on Sunday Jan 15 with a simple meal afterwards  
Worship Wednesday at Pastor Pete and Carla's home will be on Wednesday Jan.18 at 6pm. There will be a meal to share, worship music, prayer and a study topic.  
Annual Business Meeting is on Sunday Jan. 22 at 12:30pm.  
A pot luck meal will be available prior to the meeting.  
Ladies Luncheon will be on Wednesday, Jan 25. Ladies will meet at 11:30am at Aurelio's Restaurant in Addison.

## **Team Leadership:**

Sunday Morning Worship Service: It was agreed that Phyllis would be the Interim Worship Coordinator  
Care and Encouragement Ministry: The Elders appointed Laura Grafer and Eva Struchen as Co-Leaders for this ministry.  
Fellowship Ministry: Laura Grafer was appointed Co-Leader with Jacob Garcia.  
Elders Nominations: The nominations were reviewed to prepare for the Annual Business Meeting.  
2023 Budget: The Elders reviewed the 2023 budget in detail to prepare for the Annual Business Meeting when the budget will be reviewed and voted on by those attending the meeting.

Next Elders meeting, Feb 1st, 6:30pm

# Sunny Place Church - February Events

Sunday, February 12th



After Worship Service  
Be prepared for an afternoon  
of fun & friendly competition.



## You are Invited

**2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon**  
Saturday, February 11th, 11:30 am  
**Sunny Place Church**

Free for Seniors 55+  
Register at 630/398-2314



## **WORSHIP WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday, February 15th  
6:00—8:30 p.m.

At the Home of:  
Ruth Beierwaltes



Saturday,  
February 25th  
9:00-1:00 p.m.

At Sunny Place

See Tim 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*



**“The Holy Spirit -  
His Fruit and Spiritual Gifts”**

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](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).