

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

October, 2023

Face Every Storm With Jesus

This life's journey is predictable and unpredictable. We sometimes forget about the predictability of life. For example, for every 365 days the sunrise and sunset are easily found on any smart phone. The moon rises, sets and the phases of the moon are on a calendar. Recently the astrologers reminded us of a blue moon that occurred in August. We can't forget about the predictability of the planets as they orbit the sun in a defined pattern and length of time. Oh yes, too, consider the ocean tides; two high and two low tides occur daily and are listed on any maritime chart.

Many people dwell on the uncertainty or capriciousness of life, seeing and feeling chaos particularly when watching news programs. As believers, Children of God, we know beyond a doubt that God created the heavens and earth. He created the solar systems, galaxies containing more than a trillion stars which is His creative signature on this journey.

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:11

God gave us certainty and He is the best example of unchanging.

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8

God in His infinite wisdom knew before the beginning of time, that His creation, men and

women, would need to be rescued. Because God loved the world, He sent His Son, Jesus, to offer salvation for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was God in flesh while he sojourned on earth.

This is the unpredictable part of our journey. There are many times when storms enter our lives. Meteorologists can predict hurricanes but not the place for landfall. Storms will occur, we may even become shipwrecked, but when we cling to Jesus, we can sing in the lifeboat He provides.



There are many examples of storms in the Bible, two are particularly memorable. Both are on the Sea of Galilee when the disciples and Jesus were boating.

"Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him saying, "Lord save us! We're going to drown." He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"

"Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of

(Continued on next page)

man is this? Even the winds and waves obey him!" Matthew 8:23-27

The storm is symbolic for the spiritual or mental struggles we certainly will encounter during our life's journey. Jesus said,

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Jesus refers to the unpredictability of life as trouble. He invites each of us to take refuge in His spiritual shelter. No matter what type of storm, when we place our faith and trust in Jesus, we are safe and secure. The storm may rage around us, and with Him, we can weather the fury, undamaged by its intensity.

The storm can be spiritual, an unexpected attack from a loyal friend who is influenced by the evil one; a physical affliction or the death of a loved one. Any storm can blow us off His plan for our journey. It's easy to fall away from the righteous path following Jesus. These days there are millions of distractions that pull our focus from our spiritual lives.

There is another short and miraculous experience on the Sea of Galilee which clearly explains the way to take refuge in Jesus.

"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side while he dismissed the crowd."

"During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said and cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus cried out to them,

"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you." Peter replied, "Tell me to come to you on the water." "Come" he said.

"Then Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith, he said, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14: 22, 25 -31

When Peter took his eyes away from Jesus, the reality of walking on water scared him to the point of disbelief. I can see Peter saying to himself, What! I'm actually walking on water????? It was this mental distraction that caused Peter to begin to sink.

Our journey on earth can become one distraction after another. Distractions can be the TV, smart phones that interrupt our lives, worries, anxiety, fretting, social status, the pursuit of money, or trying to please anyone else. Sometimes we don't even realize, like Peter, that the distraction can be dangerous to our spiritual lives with Jesus.

The cure is simple. Cry out to Jesus for rescue. Seek His salvation from the unpredictability of life's journey. Also notice how Jesus referred to "You of little faith." To find safety in Jesus each must acknowledge Him as the Son of God, know beyond any doubt that Jesus can save us from any storm and place all faith and trust in Him. Trusting Him includes believing in all the precious promises in the Holy Bible. God the Father said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." That's a promise you can rely on like the predictability of the sunrise and sunset.

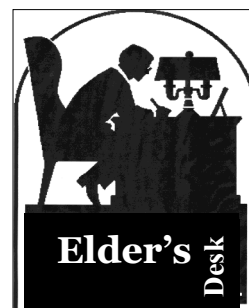
In His service.
Nona

Connect

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Sunny Place Church—October Events

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, October 8th
Honoring Pastor Pete

Reception in the Narthex,
after Worship Service
Cards are welcome.



Second Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, October 14th,
11:30 am
at Sunny Place Church

Praying Together...Time with Jesus



Sunday, October 15th
In the Sanctuary, after Worship.



Poncho says:
The weather, she is chili
But the chili, she is
hot, hot, hot!

Chill Out Chili Contest

Come join us for a fun
afternoon, where you can enter
to win with your own homemade
special secret recipe. Don't
have a recipe? Then you can be
the judge...sample and enjoy.

Sunday, October 15th
12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place



Worship Wednesday October 18th, 6:00 p.m. At Ruth's home

There will be dinner, fellowship,
singing, and an encouraging
message. All are welcome.
Please bring a dish to share.



Church Work Day
Saturday, October 28th
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

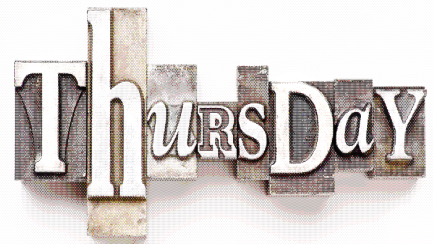
"Faith in Action"

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



"Pray Without Ceasing"

A study on having a life
of fervent prayer.

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.

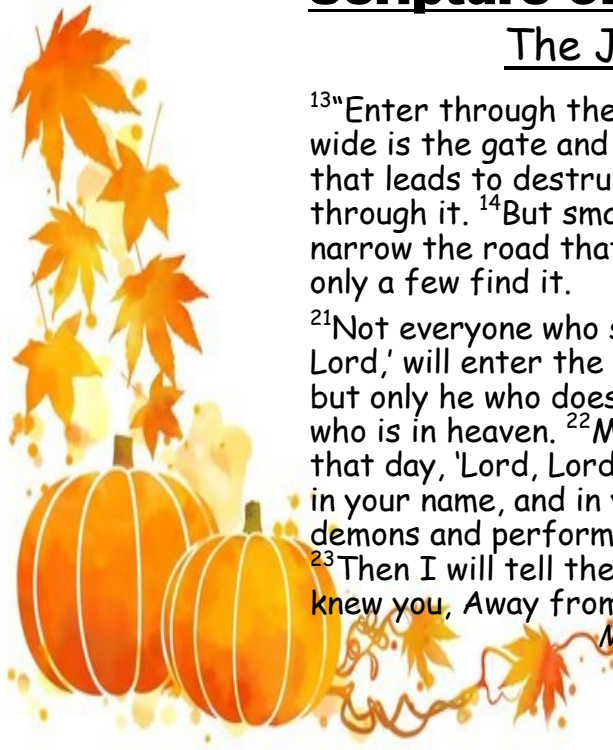
TLC

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 Thursday's at 7:00 p.m.

Grow in the Word!



Scripture of the Month:

The Journey

¹³"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

²¹Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' *Matthew 7:13, 14, 21-23*



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Visit us at: **www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org**

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held Sept.6, 2023

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, and Nona Koivula
Guests: Eric Livingston, Jose and Patricia Gomez
The meeting began with prayer.

New Business

Eric Livingston is the Director of Illinois Ministries which maximizes ministry for pastors and churches in the Church of God in Illinois. Eric is on a mission to locate Illinois churches to host incoming Hispanic Pastors. Eric explained there have been two Hispanic churches planted in the area; one in Peoria Heights and one in the Oak Lawn area south of Chicago.

The Illinois Ministries has a plan to plant 7 Hispanic churches in three years. He introduced Jose Gomez as leading a Hispanic training, leadership, discipleship and recruiting program for Hispanic Pastors. There are fourteen people in the training program now.

Pastor Pete and the Elders discussed the mission Eric put forward. It was decided to pray about the Illinois Ministry's plan and have further discussion on Sept. 27.

The Sunny Place Ministry teams will be having meetings and will be sharing the team ideas and plans with Elders in the near future.

Next Elders meeting, Sept. 27