

WHERE IS THE JOY?

Psalm 16:11

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Stop looking in the wrong place. In don't be like the people of Jeremiah's time who had turned from the "fountain of living water" replaced it with "broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13). Through their idolatry, they had turned from the true source of water to place where there is only emptiness.

While we may not turn to idolatry, we may be resorting to empty broken cisterns. Too often we search for joy in the wrong places. Sometimes that search leads us in the direction of the trivial. It is, after all, the beginning of football season. Someone somewhere is going to have a miserable existence because they depend upon the success of their team for their joy. If that team does not win or does not win enough, there will be no joy. How trivial is that!

Others search for joy in human relationships. We do derive a high degree of joy from those. But, what are we going to do when those relationships go bad?

Psalm 16 helps us. The author cried out to the Lord. "Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You. I said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; I have no good besides You'" (Psalm 16:1, 2). That is where we must begin and end the search for joy and peace. When everything around us is in a state of upheaval, God is still there. Indeed, in His presence there truly is "fullness of joy." That's where it is found.

--Ron Harper--

Hope Provides a Gate

“If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

1 Corinthians 15:19

About a week ago, I read a statement that said, “Having no hope is like having a fence with no gate.” At first, that statement did not make much sense to me. I have several fences without gates. Each of these fences serves a specific purpose and a gate certainly would not aid in that purpose. However, I began focusing on the first part of that statement. Hope. Hope carries a connotation of expectation, most always in the positive. So how is having no hope like a fence without a gate?

First, let’s think about the purpose of a gate. Last Saturday, I was getting my cows up to sort them into different fields when one of my more “energetic” cows knocked my gate off its hinges leading all the cows to retreat into a field that I did not want them going into. This gives us our first purpose: a gate keeps things confined. It is true that we do not like to be confined most of the time. We enjoy having freedom to go wherever and do whatever we so choose. However, we must retain our hope. Imagine if our hope somehow escaped from our soul. How awful would life be then? We need to make sure every day that our hope is still just that: OUR hope.

On the other hand, I need a gate to provide a path from one field to the next. In the same way, how can I share my hope if all I do is keep that hope within myself? Peter tells us to be ready to give a defense for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15)! Perhaps a gateless fence is pointless.

Fortunately, we do not hope in Christ in this life alone. Our hope lasts throughout eternity. Let’s all hope in Jesus Christ. He will deliver above our expectations.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Charles & Sue Reeves, Dave Borden, Odell Grissom, Nora Fann, Kenneth Tucker, Lester & Ann Clark, Gladys Davidson, Dean Thompson, Pat Davidson, Laura Wiser, Louise Smithson

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard, Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Dan Stephens, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*

COMMUNITY CARE OF RUTHERFORD

COUNTY: Margaret Davidson*



TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

*Mallory Bowman
and
Jake Wilbanks*

REQUEST YOUR COMPANY
AT THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR UNION

SATURDAY, THE SEVENTH OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN
AT ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

SALEM CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST
2525 SALEM CREEK DRIVE
MURFREESBORO, TN

Reception to follow

NEWS & NOTES

- The **Wednesday night teen class** will be combined and meet in classroom 107.
- **Disaster Relief** will be running their food line and loading 1500 food boxes on Tuesday, September 5th at 10am. Volunteers are needed.
- **Christmas boxes** for students at the Nicaragua Christian School are available in the foyer along with a provided list of items and instructions. All completed boxes are due September 17th.
- **Gospel Meeting** at Leanna Church of Christ on September 17-20th. More details posted on the bulletin board.
- **Rutherford County Bible Bowl** will be on September 25th. If you would like to make a donation to purchase the pizza and drinks, please give your money to Robert McKnight or Jeff Glidden by September 17th.
- The **Fall Food and Supply drive** for the Tennessee Children's Home has begun; supply list is in the foyer. The truck will be here on Thursday, September 28th.
- If you would like to attend **RUSH** on **September 29th – October 1st** please see Joshua Houston, there will not be a sign-up sheet for this event.

Salem Creek church of Christ
2525 Salem Creek Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

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P.O. Box 332067
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

August 27, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	222
	Bible classes	160
	PM worship	144
	Contribution	\$6,267.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	137
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	

Wednesday morning Ladies class will resume on September 6th.

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity! We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
30 minutes prior to service*



September 3

Andy & Lisa Mitchell

September 10

Dianne Stroop Joyce Jenkins