

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BULLETIN

10/01/2023



A fight to the death

Not only are we in a personal fight to the death with Satan, but so is the church. This is not new, of course, but it does seem as if the attacks are relentless today, at least as far as we can remember in our lifetime. Satan does not fight fair. He is not obvious, and his attacks will often come from within. He never rests because his goal is the utter destruction of the church. We know from Jesus' own words in **Matthew 16:18** that the devil will not succeed. However, that does not mean he will not destroy thousands of churches worldwide. I think we can all agree that the situation is dire at the moment – the prince of darkness seems to have the upper hand, and churches are struggling. Instead of growing, their numbers are dwindling, and the confused, fear-stricken members stumble around looking tired and worn out, as if in a daze. They hope for a revival or look for a numerically stronger church in case the one they attend fails.

So, who's at fault? Who is to blame for the struggling church today? We are brothers and sisters; we are. Will our legacy be the collapse of the church – not the death, but the severe shrinking of it? Is this what we are leaving our children? Is the church in the state it is today because we failed to fight for it? Are we so timid, so shy, so cowardly, or are we simply too afraid to fight the forces that want to tear down the church's walls? Christ did not stand by and watch us being devoured by the hungry lion in **1 Peter 5:8-9**. He did not have something else to do that was so important that He did not have the time to invest in us. No! Instead of doing nothing, He heroically walked into the arena like a gladiator and took on the enemy face-to-face. He suffered, He bled, and He died – for you and me. But His death was not final. Three days later, he rose and defeated him, who triumphantly believed victory was his. In doing so, he dragged us from certain death and clothed us in new whiter-than-white linen. He fed us and allowed us to drink from the fountain of life, freed us from the bondage of slavery, and restored us to the Father.

P.T.O...

He did this for you and me, but what have we done in return? NOTHING... we have done nothing. We say we are too young, too old, too introverted, too this or too that as excuses for standing idly by. Why? Why is that? Why aren't we fighting anymore? Why are we cowering in fear in the shadows? Why are we watching from afar, even denying Him as His bride, the church, is being devoured by the insatiable, evil appetite of the devil? There is a song with the following words in it, "Who am I that you my king would die for me?" Why, when victory is all but assured to us by His death and resurrection, are we so afraid to step onto the battlefield for Him? What in this world is so threatening to us that we would give up the glory of an eternal home in heaven? Is what He did not enough? Why, after what he did, do we do nothing? Do we not realize that the more the church is bruised, the more the world bleeds because the church's health is directly related to the world's health? The fewer Christians there are in the world, the less morality exists, and the more lives and churches Satan drags to the fiery pits of hell.

So, stop making excuses and do something. Prove to God that you are worthy of being called his son or daughter by fighting for the church's life. Pick up the armor of God and step onto the battlefield, and fight. Face the heat now so that you don't have to face it in the future.

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Cleve Stafford	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - Cleve Stafford
<u>SONG</u> - 627 - The Gloryland Way	<u>SONG</u> - 663 - There Is Sunshine in My Soul 1,2,4
<u>PRAYER</u> - Matt Brinckerhoff	<u>PRAYER</u> - Jeffery Tarmey
<u>SONG</u> - 645 - The Old Rugged Cross 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 669 - This Is My Father's World
<u>COMMUNION</u> - 1 Cor 10:16-17 Douglas Roy	<u>SERMON</u> - Trials of Fire
<u>SONG</u> - 655 - There's a Fountain Free 1,2,4	<u>SONG</u> - 618 - Sweet Hour of Prayer
<u>SERMON</u> - The Dangers of Lust	<u>COMMUNION</u> - Douglas Roy
<u>INV SONG</u> - 660 - There Is a Habitation 1,2,4	<u>INV SONG</u> - 674 - There's a Great Day Coming
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Douglas Roy



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS



Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.

We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Ladies Breakfast is 7 October at 10:30 am here at the church. Invite a friend and bring a dish to share.
- The next Potluck luncheon is 29 October following morning service. Bring a dish to share with every one (enough to serve 12).



PRAYER REQUESTS



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- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Prayers for all our service people wherever in the world they have been deployed to.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for the privilege to worship in safety
- Praise God for the measure of health and wealth we enjoy

BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS

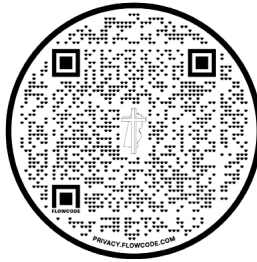


01 October - Nancy Demers

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Kids Word Search



Word List

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| ADULTERY | BEAUTY | DAVID | DESIRES |
| EYE | FLESH | GEHENNA | HEART |
| HELL | HITTITE | IMMORAL | LIFE |
| LUST | OUTSIDE | PAGAN | SEXUAL |
| SIN | SPRINGS | URIAH | WIFE |