

# BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

## BULLETIN

11/26/2023



### He knows the future – we do not

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Pro. 3:5-6).* Has an

individual ever approached you with a question like whether they should change the security of a job for the uncertainty of a better-paying one somewhere else? Maybe they wanted to know if they should leave a dating partner because they have violent tendencies or are suspected of infidelity. Did you sit them down and give them the best advice you can think of, only to have them ignore you? Did you find that annoying? It is even more annoying when it is one of our children. We have lived through the things they are experiencing, and we want to protect them. We want to pass on our wealth of lessons learned in the “school of hard knocks,” but they don’t listen.

They do not trust us because they think they know better. They may even agree with us when we are handing out the advice, but no sooner do we leave than they resort to their own “understanding” - sometimes with disastrous results. Who of us does not find that incredibly annoying? If only they had listened, if only they had not been so arrogant as to think they know better, if only they trusted our wise words of wisdom. Maybe they would have been spared the pain if only they had listened to our sound advice. How many times have you asked God for direction, only to ignore it because you did not like the answer? “God,” you say, “I think you may have misunderstood the question, so let me ask it again.” When the answer does not change, we throw out the Creator’s advice and “go it alone” – sometimes with disastrous results. The fact of the matter is that we tend to mistrust any advice that does not match our desired solution.

PTO...

It seems safer to lean on our own understanding, to do what we think is the best for us. After all, who knows better what is best for us than ourselves. We only ask others, including God, for their advice to affirm what we already intend to do. So, when we do not receive the desired answer, we think they do not understand the question, do not see it from our perspective, or worse still, are trying to harm us. Trusting our parents or friends takes a leap of faith, but trusting God takes an enormous leap of faith because we do not physically see or audibly hear Him. But, His advice, given to us through the word, our conscience, or common sense, is always the best because He sees what we do not. If our parents know more than us because they have experienced the things we are currently going through, how much more does God know? Did he not create our parents? Was He not around from the beginning of humanity? Is He not omniscient (all-knowing)?

God wants to direct our paths because He has a plan for us. **Jeremiah 29:11** *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* If we believe in God, surely, we should be able to trust that He has the best solution. Do we not believe that He knows what’s best for us because He knows the future and we do not?

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Bill Joy	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - Bill Joy
<u>SONG</u> - 19 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' name	<u>SONG</u> - 234 - Higher Ground
<u>PRAYER</u> - Matt 5:6 Bill Joy	<u>PRAYER</u> - Bill Joy
<u>SONG</u> - 53 - Al Calvery	<u>SONG</u> - 238 - Holy, Holy, Holy
<u>COMMUNION</u> - 1 Cor 11:28-29 Douglas Roy	<u>SERMON</u> - The Day of the Lord
<u>SONG</u> - 843 - As the Deer Panteth for the Water	<u>SONG</u> - 255 - I Am Resolved
<u>SERMON</u> - The Beatitudes 4: Better to Hunger and Thirst for the Spiritual	<u>COMMUNION</u> - Douglas Roy
<u>INV SONG</u> - 679 - Thel'll Know We are Christians	<u>INV SONG</u> - 282 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives 1,2,4
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Jeffery Tarmey



## **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.
- Our next potluck meal will be on 17 December following morning service and will be our Christmas Meal. Please invite a friend and bring a dish to share ( enough to feed 12 people)
- Ladies breakfasts will resume again in the New Year.
- We will have a Christmas Gift exchange party on Saturday 9 December at 6pm here at the church. The gift has to be \$10 or less and it's going to be a game. Please bring a plate of fingerfood to share.



## **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**



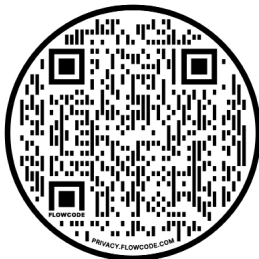
Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM  
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

- |           |        |        |         |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|
| BLESSED   | BREAD  | DAVID  | DEER    |
| HEAVEN    | HUNGER | HUNGER | KINGDOM |
| LABOR     | LAW    | LIONS  | PROPHET |
| RIGHTEOUS | SIN    | SOUL   | SPIRIT  |
| SUFFER    | THIRST | WINE   | WITNESS |