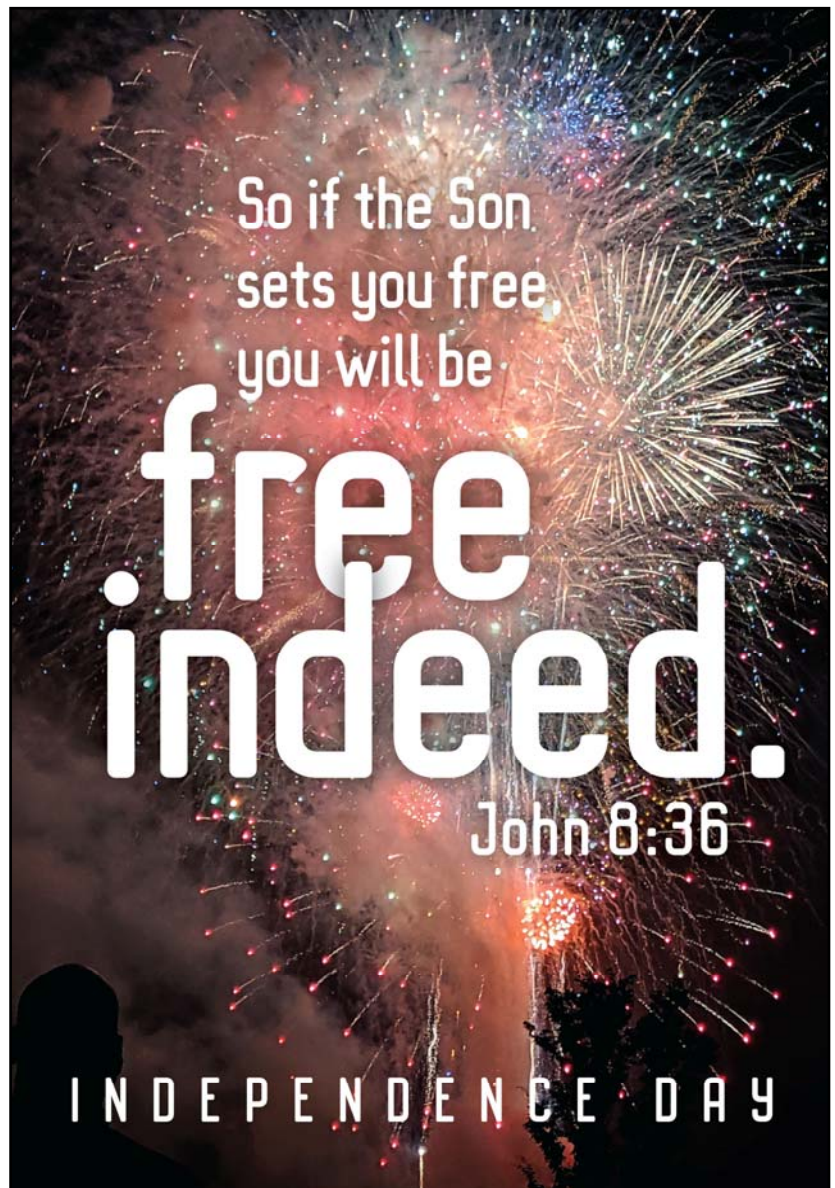




FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS



***To see all people WORSHIP God,
CONNECT with His people,
and join His MISSION in this world.***

Worship the Lord with Us!

Sunday Worship

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am

Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities are cancelled until further notice.

Please visit www.fumccollingswood.org for our online worship experience.

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:

The First United Methodist Church

201 Dayton Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108

Phone: (856)858-1186 Fax: (856)858-1775

E-mail: info@fumccollingswood.org

Church Staff

Pastor Sam Mountain, Senior Pastor

(pastorsam@fumccollingswood.org)

Shawn Zook, Pastoral Assistant for Outreach and Youth

(shawn@fumccollingswood.org)

Maria Gianfrancesco, Administrative Assistant

(maria@fumccollingswood.org)

Will Walker, Organist

(will@fumccollingswood.org)

Pat Gunning, Children's Program Director

(pat@fumccollingswood.org)

Matt Peace, Connections Pastor

(pastormatt@fumccollingswood.org)



Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS

is online at

www.fumccollingswood.org

and is available via e-mail.

Send an e-mail to

ewindows@fumccollingswood.org
to subscribe.

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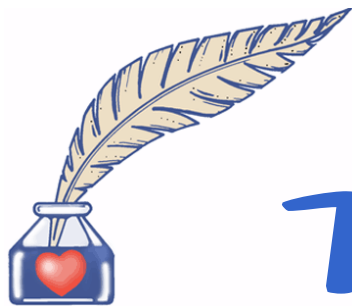


The submission deadline for the *September* issue of Windows is August 10th.

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!**



This month's Windows is only available online due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This edition of Windows is in color to brighten your day.



From The Pastor's Heart



"The LORD is
my shepherd,
I shall not want."

Psalms 23:1, NRSV

July 8 at 7:00 pm in the church volleyball area. This will be an informal, outside, socially distanced evening of sharing and giving thanks to God for the opportunity to be together. Our next all church gathering will be on Sunday, July 26 7:00 pm. How we truly miss you all! We are watching trends and safety factors across our country, state and locally to anticipate next steps.

There are smaller summer gatherings you can sign up for that will be meeting weekly or bi-weekly at homes throughout the summer. Contact one of the staff through email or leave a message on the church phone. We are monitoring the messages. Also the Monday through Thursday Prayers on the Porch have been a powerful time to meet with Lord and each other. Several have zoomed in as well.

All that we are doing is for one purpose: that we recognize our need more than ever for the love and relationship of Jesus Christ in our lives and those around us. His presence is so vital in our lives. Beginning, Sunday, July 5th, we continue that focus with a short series during the month of July on the 23rd Psalm. The 23rd Psalm is a heartfelt psalm for every season of our lives. As we focus our time on this powerful familiar passage of scripture right from the heart of David, we know David did some great things and had his share of issues too!

Some 1,000 years after his death, Apostle Paul reveals an interesting statement about David. The passage is Acts 13:22. The statement is: *"God testified concerning David: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' What a testimony of a life well lived and found pleasing to the Lord!"* God used a simple shepherd boy because of one amazing passion: longing to please God. What a great attribute to be known as a person "after God's own heart." These qualities are seen throughout David's life, but they are brought into sharp focus in this passage. By the way, these are the same qualities that can guide us to be known as one "after God's own heart."

I encourage you to look at the 23rd Psalm this month and throughout the rest of the summer to find descriptive words and phrases like *"The Lord is my Shepherd, He restores my soul, He leads me by the still waters."* Continue to look at words and phrases throughout this Psalm and allow the Holy Spirit to bring fresh strength and encouragement to your life in these challenging days.

We don't know what lies ahead, but the good news is that our Shepherd will go with us anywhere, and his mercy is there when we need it right to the end! Now, as we meditate on this Psalm we recognize it had to be written by someone who also desired to make God's presence matter most in his life's journey. I pray you will join us in this journey this summer.

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam





Opportunity to Serve Our Community



In light of the things that so many people are facing these days we have a special opportunity to bring Christ's love. Our community has a new website online for volunteers to help with community needs right here in Collingswood during this "stay at home" time. It is run by the Borough of Collingswood and is called "Collingswood Cares." Here is the link: <http://www.collscares.org>.

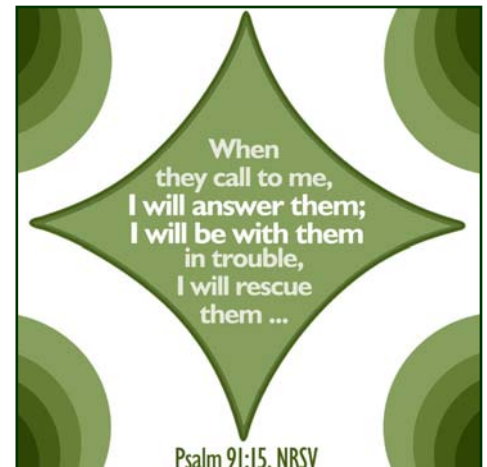
They are looking for volunteers to help SAFELY pick up grocery or pharmacy items for people in our Collingswood community who cannot get out for these items. The volunteers will purchase these items using funds and gift-cards from the town or our church, using all the usual safety protocols we are already using when we do our own shopping. The items will then be dropped off by the front door, rather than handing it directly to person in need. That way everyone remains safe.

If you're looking for a way to serve, simply go to the "Collingswood Cares" site and click on the button to put in your volunteer information. Our church is helping to coordinate needs and volunteers along with other chaplains and pastors in our town. Please join us in prayer and action as we care for others around us. Let's continue to pray and find one person to call today.

We give the Lord praise for your continual generosity and faithfulness in sending your envelopes to the church and online giving at fumccollingswood.org. Your prayers and support are so vital as we work together in these days and in the future in sharing Christ's love and hope.

Please feel free to email or call us with updates so we may pray and respond as a church family and staff during these challenging days. If you have a need please let us know so that we may journey with you at this time. Above all, know you are loved today!

In His Love and Grace,
Pastor Sam and Staff

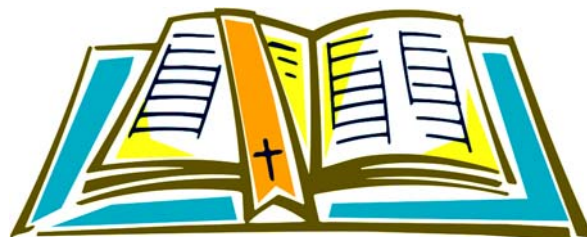


We now have a new website through Faithlife!

We will continue to improve on it in the coming months but it is now up and running. You reach it at the same address: www.fumccollingswood.org.

Please come visit our website where you can access recordings of our services, old newsletters and more!

UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



Summer Series – Presence Matters Most

Who would have thought 2020 would have been quite the year we have experienced... The pandemic and all that has been coming everyone's way this year? *What would happen if you told God how you really feel or what you really think? Have you ever found yourself praying the same words over and over again without really opening up with God?*

The Holy Spirit and God's Word can help us deal with our inner struggles that reach beyond the world of sight and sound to reveal what our senses long to see and hear—our authentic self and the heart of God. Join us this summer as we journey together in God's word and pray real prayers from our hearts together. Don't worry. God is big enough to handle all our pain, fear, desire for control, prejudice, greed, doubt, unfulfilled longings... or any other thoughts or feelings stirring inside. He's inviting us to relax and spend this summer in His Presence.

July 5	ZOOM	<i>Where are the Still Waters?</i>	Psalm 23:1-2	Communion	Sam
July 12		<i>God is Always with Us</i>	Psalm 23:3-4		Matt
July 19	ZOOM	Graduation Sunday		Graduation	Sam
July 26		<i>Our God is Always Prepared</i>	Psalm 23:5-6		Shawn
August 2	ZOOM	<i>A God for the Journey</i>	Psalm 34	Communion	Sam
August 9		<i>Where are we Looking?</i>	Psalm 121		
August 16		<i>Experiencing God's Power in Difficult Places</i>	1 Kings 18-16-39		
August 23		<i>An Amazing God Moment</i>	1 Kings 19:1-14		
August 30		<i>A God of Wonders</i>	Psalm 8		

New Opportunities for Prayer

Daily Prayer on the Porch

As your pastoral staff is trying to navigate with you through these days, Pastor Sam has felt led to open the front porch of the parsonage, with social distancing, for anyone to come by for a simple prayer time. The porch will be open Monday through Thursday from 12:00noon -12:30 pm. (638 Park Ave). Wear your mask please! We know there is power in prayer when God's people bring themselves before Him. We can cast our every care before the Lord each day, knowing He cares... prayer can surely make a difference!

Every Wednesday Noon Time Prayer (ZOOM)

Join us every Wednesday for time of prayer and sharing with the staff. You can join on video or call in. Please join us as we seek the Lord together!



MISSIONARY MESSAGES



Bob and Barbara Alber, TX

Despite our isolation, we share a collective sense of loss. We have each lost SOMETHING these past few weeks of sheltering in place.

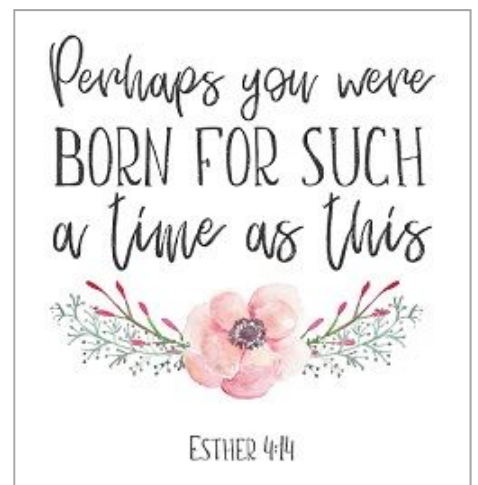
- Have you lost someone you love to COVID-19?
- Have you lost your livelihood or your sense of financial security?
- Do you miss having personal privacy in your own home?
- Have your relationships with family and friends been suffering?
- Have you lost trust in those who are making decisions for you?
- Have you missed out on celebrations and vacations?
- For many of you, it has been very difficult coping with an ever-growing list of disappointments and losses. Insecurity has given way to anxiety and fear. We feel guilty admitting our fears because—after all—aren't we all just supposed to cast our cares on the Lord?

Truth be told, though, that's a lot easier said than done, isn't it?

Welcome to the world of Missionary Kids (MKs), many of whom grow up with a heightened sense of insecurity and loss due to the frequent transitions in their lives. For the past 16 years Bob has had the privilege of helping these young people cope with the same feelings many of us single-culture, first-world citizens are experiencing for the first time.

This pandemic has shed light on the fact that only here in the Dallas area where Bob has established a local community of college-age students is this demographic of 18–25 year olds receiving the support they need. Across the country and world, hundreds of college-age MKs are struggling. Bob's supervisors at Wycliffe are now addressing this long-standing need by creating a new role for him to establish a care-giving ministry to serve ALL of the US-based young adult children of Wycliffe and its partner missionary organizations. There are currently over 400 young adults just within Wycliffe, so the potential for this outreach is HUGE. Even though Bob's role is not yet official, he has already begun to help those with urgent needs.

In order to build this program and team, Bob and I (Barbara) have agreed to move to Orlando for a few months this fall. There, Bob will have resources from Wycliffe's headquarters to establish the foundation for this new and vital support ministry. We are so excited to see how God has uniquely prepared Bob for "such a time as this" (Est. 4:14). Please pray for Bob as he seeks to build a team of helpers to grow this vital ministry. Please also pray for us as we seek the Lord's wisdom to know whether we should relocate to Orlando on a permanent basis. Thank you!



Tim and Kathy Sheetz, PA

We never, ever take your support for granted. When we receive the report from H*VMI's Finance Department that you have donated — once again — to the account of Tim and Kathy Sheetz — we're humbled - and so happy! We thank the Lord for each of you! We praise Him for continuing to make it possible for us to serve in this ministry. It's a blessing that you allow Him to work through you all to help us do that. You are our sending church—way back in 1966—so you remain so very special to us!

This is an amazing ministry. With you, we serve AN AMAZING GOD. Thank you.

Curt and Carol Detwiler, FL



We are all very different: our jobs, education, religious affiliation, the types of books or movies we like, where we vacation, the food we eat. The list could go on and on! But by a strange set of circumstances, here we all are, experiencing the ramifications of a unique situation completely out of our control. No matter where you look to get your news and information, the media seems to be focused on the negative. Daily we are told how many are infected, how many are hospitalized, how many have become victims. We can't keep hearing that all day, every day, for weeks on end and not have it affect our state-of-mind. Many people are searching for answers about things that they have never had the time to before. Many are looking for some sign of hope.

This week as we listened to Christian radio the common thread that we have enjoyed is hearing program producers and pastors marvel at how many people are tuning into their programs or watching their streamed services. TWR is no different. Globally we are offering hope to people all over the world in over 275 languages on over 2000 outlets. We also have seen a huge increase in new visitors to our online ministry website "twr360.org" which houses spiritual resources in close to 100 languages. That means that anyone looking—and some "by accident" - can find answers to the questions that trouble their hearts and minds during this crisis. Our 'business' is about offering HOPE. We are blessed to have a very small part with you in helping others find the answers they are looking for—in such a time as this!

David and Phyllis Schmid, Haiti

Recent news from the STEP campus at Bolosse where we lived for all but 3 of our years in Haiti is discouraging. We know GOD IS IN CONTROL and we know our ways are not His ways. We need to remember that every time we receive news from our beloved Haiti. The notorious gang to the west of the campus has come onto the campus and are using the lower part of the campus to attack other gangs. They have tried to break into one of the empty homes. The headquarters of the UEBH and the administrative/educational building of STEP are both located on this campus. We are praying that God would intervene in this situation and protect the physical buildings and all they hold. We are praying the people in the area remain safe. We've heard that many have left the area if they have somewhere to go.

Our co-worker and friend, Lois Beadle, has been away from her home at Bolosse for over two months now because of the problems on campus. It has been recommended that she now move across town. Moving is a huge stress maker in the best of times but now with the treat of gangs on campus, the need to locate affordable/safe location and her need to relocate by early June she is under a lot of stress. Please pray for Lois. She is an excellent teacher and is setting up the program for teaching English as a second language for the seminary. She is committed to continue for 5 more semesters. STEP has had a very difficult year with the gang tensions on campus and now the Covid-19 shutdown. Pray for safe, affordable housing and a safe move to a new location.

News from the Northwest--Our co-worker and engineer who works in the northwest (where David teaches his continuing education seminars) has said the drought in northwest Haiti "the worst I've seen since 1992." He says that wells are running dry and animals are dying. The crops that usually sustain people are not growing and there is a growing concern that hunger will lead to famine.

Pray with us that northwest Haiti will be spared the combined impact of the virus and drought. Pray especially for rain and for our engineer, Bruce, and his team who are busily digging and deepening wells as

fast as they can. Pray also for resources for the food crisis and protective equipment for our medical staff as they treat patients with COVID-19.

Mark and Carol Hepner, Ohio

Except for two weeks in March being side-lined by a pinched nerve in my neck, I (Mark) have continued my regular work-at-home routine. So of all of us, I'm probably the least affected by the current upset. Back in February I started dialoging with a friend and fellow-translator in Papua New Guinea about returning to PNG at the end of July to do the consultant check of the remaining books of the Kaluli NT along with the Kaluli book of Genesis.

For now all trip arrangements have been put on hold until the COVID 19 crisis abates enough to allow firm plans to be made, tickets purchased and accommodations booked. Besides Genesis, I will be checking Kaluli Matthew, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude, and maybe Ephesians. So, I have plenty of daily work to get through, including the exegetical check of those books, corresponding with the translator regarding possible adjustments, and composing the content questions I will ask during the "face-to-face" checking sessions. I also keep chipping away at the Tok Pisin translation helps project as time permits.

We are very grateful for all of you. Your faithful prayers and giving make it possible for us to stay involved in the Bible translation effort in Papua New Guinea.

THE DESERT WILL BLOSSOM

Where there is need, God is always bringing new life, often working through the church but sometimes using Christians and others in the secular realm.

At England's University of Sheffield, scientists have learned to grow gardens from discarded mattresses in refugee camps. In Jordan and other dry regions, the foam "soil" soaked with a nutrient solution lets vegetables, fruits and herbs grow with far less water than usual. Syrian refugees who were already farmers "have made the project their own, growing things we never thought ... possible in the desert," says professor Tony Ryan.

But more than plants are flourishing! The greenery amid a barren landscape boosts mental health. The work experience will help people land jobs. Families learn new skills and eat more healthfully. And the gains go both ways, as scientists learn to apply research in the real world.

As God promises, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert ... shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing" (Isaiah 35:1-2, ESV).





July 4	Karisa Pascall	July 19	Leon Fraley
July 5	Jonathan Schwehm		Stephany Nielsen
July 6	Judy Boswell		Margie Underwood
	Bob Brown	July 22	Roy Gordy
	Jean Robb	July 23	Doug Schmitt
	Alden Walker	July 24	Carolyn Alexander
July 9	Maria Gianfrancesco	July 25	Connie Farling
July 10	Andrew Boswell	July 27	Aria Walker
July 11	Eric Van Pelt	July 28	Nicole Hoover
July 14	Mackenzie Hemphill		Margie Hughes
July 15	Kristin Hosking		



August 3	Brooke DeRue	August 20	Dana Cherry
	Katherine Jungclaus		Nancy Masarek
August 5	Bill Hoover	August 22	Barbara Brown
August 10	Bill Brown		Rhonda Burgoon
	Ron Hoover		Sebastian Chamberlain
			Shawn Zook
August 11	Jennifer Weitzel	August 29	Julie Schmitt
	Michelle Croxton		Rachel Schmitt
August 12	Alyssa Adams	August 30	Will Bickel
August 19	Brent MacGlaughlin		Matthew Molloy

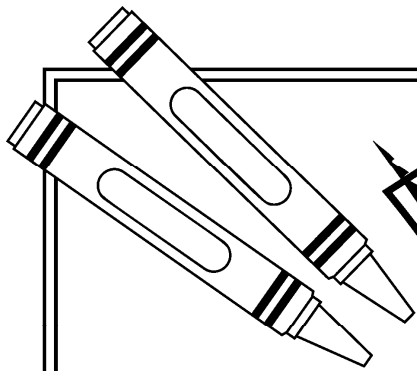


July 13	Jason & Nicole Meyers
July 17	Bill & Carolyn Alexander
	Gary & Kathy McGaurn
July 28	Tyson & Heather Chamberlain
July 30	Mike & Jill Tribulas



August 5	Mark & Rhonda Burgoon
August 11	Dana & Debbie Cherry
August 17	Bill & Carol Doron
August 24	Bill & Janice Bittle

If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: maria@fumccollingswood.org.



PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



+ e

Water changes to

JOHN 2:1-11



- k + d

Heals a man born

JOHN 9



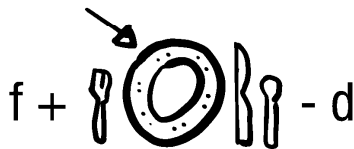
- op +



- w

Calms a

MATTHEW 8:23-27



f +

- d

Catch of

LUKE 5:1-11



- ch + er

Walks on

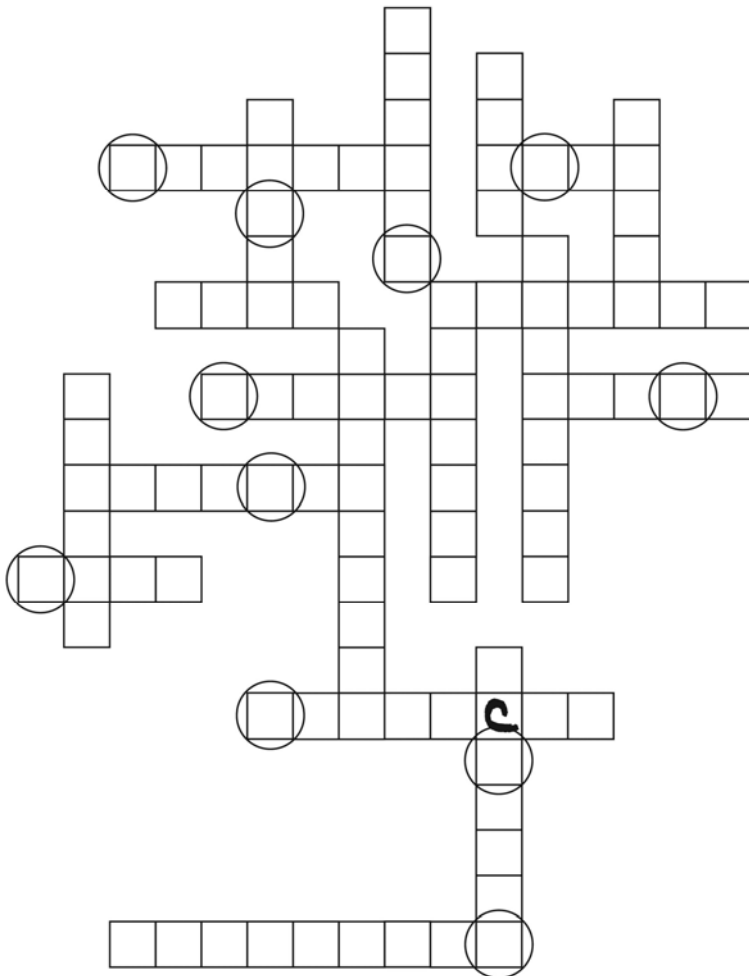
MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

Puzzle!

Fit the names of these Bible-times places in the puzzle. Then write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found, to find out where your citizenship is.

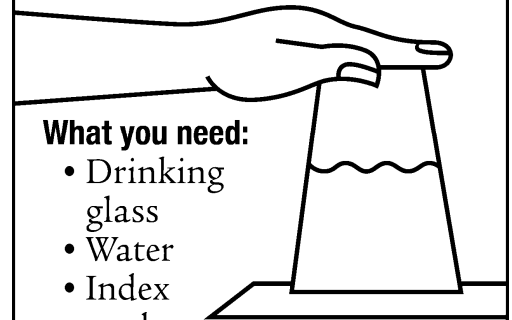
Tyre	Sidon	Kedesh	Ephesus	Philippi
Cana	Berea	Sychar	Corinth	Bethlehem
Rome	Lycia	Galilee	Iconium	Jerusalem
Gaza	Athens	Ephraim	Damascus	



God's kingdom

UNSEEN BUT *active*

This experiment illustrates that although God is invisible, we can see his work all around us.



What you need:

- Drinking glass
- Water
- Index card

What you do:

1. Practicing over a sink, fill the glass halfway with water. Then press the index card snugly atop the glass with one hand.
2. With the other hand, hold the base of the glass and carefully flip it over.
3. Remove your hand from the card. It should stay on the glass, without spilling the water! The invisible air in the glass creates a suction with the card, preventing the water from spilling out. Research air pressure to learn more.
4. After perfecting the trick, amaze others with it. Then talk about how God, like the air in the glass, is unseen but active.



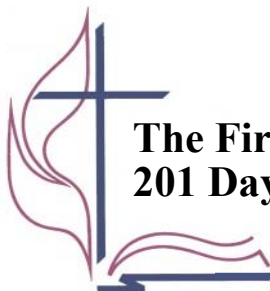
RELIGION IN THE REPUBLIC



Despotism may govern without faith, but liberty cannot. Religion is much more necessary in the republic which they set forth in glowing colors than in the monarchy which they attack; it is more needed in democratic republics than in any others.

How is it possible that society should escape destruction if the moral tie is not strengthened in proportion as the political tie is relaxed? And what can be done with a people who are their own masters if they are not submissive to the Deity?

—Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)



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