



Let's Not Lose Our Neighbors

By Pastor Jason Triplett

Hebrews 12:12–15 (ESV) *“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;”*

Within a short time of our arrival in Schuyler County, news spread of a family that had survived a housefire. The property was a total loss and the family had three children. Thankfully they escaped any physical harm. The news hit hard in the community and many were concerned. On the following Sunday morning, I can remember multiple people making me aware of the family's needs. We decided it was right to pray for them openly in Church that day.

The public response to this family's needs was inspiring. A local movement emerged in force to help them. There were drives and funds raised. Many provided clothes and sought to be sure the kids made it to school and that the parents had all they needed. It was as if the people carried this wounded family to a place of stability and helped them to stand again. It was beautiful.

Maybe all small communities are like ours. I suspect it's a DNA thing. I think it's something wired into folks who live in close social proximity to each other day in and day out.

When hardship strikes those we know, the suffering echoes from an epicenter. In this sparsely populated place, we live so relationally close to one another it seems we feel the tremors of tragedy more deeply compared to densely populated places in the world. Where there are fewer people, everyone believes they know everyone. So, it seems in rural places a greater section of the public tends to empathize with their neighbors when tragedy strikes.

Schuyler County is one of the most neighborly places we've ever lived. Yet *neighborliness*, the willingness to empathize and lock arms with our neighbors, appears to be one of the social casualties of 2020. It's ironic as we collectively decided to respond to a pandemic that estrangement followed social distancing, polarization followed politics and mistrust followed healthy fear. All these things are a threat to neighborliness.

It makes sense that it's Christ's Church, those commanded to love God and neighbor, who must set the example of what it means to be neighborly. We are called to see the example written by the writer of Hebrews in the passage above. We are to stand up, seek healing, strive for peace, and pursue holiness and the grace of God while turning from bitterness. I don't think we've lost our neighborliness yet in this corner of the world. But I think it's healthy to be reminded of the neighbors we were before the year 2020 and refuse to relinquish this precious identity that makes our community special.

Save
the date!

Ladies Retreat
March 14 & 15

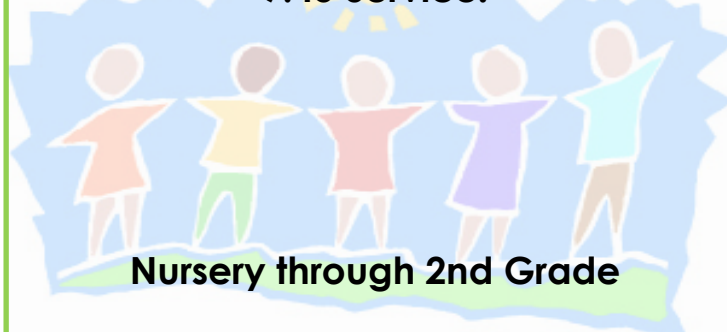


In the Lenten Spring, winter is giving way to summer - life and sunrise and a great feast are ahead. Each day's light is longer than the last. Lent, then, is a profound picture of the Christian journey. It stands between our deliverance and our home. It is a time of faith and longing, hope & expectation.

From "The Good of Giving Up" by Aaron Damiani



RCC Kids Ministries are back in our
9:45 Service!



Nursery through 2nd Grade

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

The HELP Center will once again be making Easter Food Baskets for approximately 120 senior citizens in our county. We have been asked to provide 50 tubs of frosting. Please place in the basket in the foyer by Sunday, March 21st.



ARE YOU READY FOR CAMP?

The Lamoine Christian Service Camp has announced their 2021 CAMP SCHEDULE! They have also announced a DAY CAMP SCHEDULE which will be activated if the FULL SUMMER CAMP is cancelled due to Covid Restrictions. The full schedule will be published here next month, or you can find more info at:

ourcamp@lamoinecamp.org

www.lamoinecamp.org

Gordon Blankenship (217) 654-2238



YOUTH GROUP - SUNDAYS

Middle & High School age students WELCOME!

5:00 - 6:00 Middle School meets

6:00 - 6:30 Combined Food & Fellowship

6:30 - 7:30 High School meets

Questions contact:

Nate (217)491-5807 or Kristen (217)491-5809 Campbell
Eric (217)322-8285 or Lacey (217)322-8278 Cunningham

TO CONTACT PASTOR JASON

(309)331-0200 (talk/text)

jasontriplett99@gmail.com

TO SUBMIT NEWS CONTACT

Mindy Crum (217)473-3473

Or Email to RushvilleCC@gmail.com

Prayers & Praises

Updated: 3/1/2021

Pray for the family & friends of Nathan Grafton, 19 year old who lost his life as the result of a car accident

Ladies ministry retreat in May

Leaders of our country & military

Jane Wright - recently hospitalized for infection in legs & breathing issues, and is now battling a virus

From Emily Caldwell - for people to Love God and Love Others!

Prayers for God to end Covid and that RCC can fully Regather!

Associate Pastor search

Family of Carl Wiggins

Alisha's grandmother - starting breast cancer treatments

Kay's mother - shoulder replacement went well!

Thelma - health

Teresa Boyd - Praise for successful liver transplant!

Garrett Collins - Cancer

Rick Ashcraft - Cancer

Ron King (Cheri's father) - health

Kailey Orwig - deployed to South Korea

Abigail Norton - deployed to Africa

Still in need of a Nursery Point Person

Shannon Hughes - Praise - currently in remission

Church Building Need

Liz Wood - cancer

Dan Norton - stroke recovery

FEBRUARY OFFERINGS:

Feb 7 - \$ 2477.17

Feb 14 - \$ 1035.17

Feb 21 - \$ 2706.92

Feb 28 - \$ 2207.67

Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com

