

The Connection

We are called to share Jesus in creative and intentional ways, through: **Connecting** with God and His Church, **Growing** in Faith and Love, and **Serving** Our Community and World.

May 2022

The monthly newsletter of Turner Christian Church

Volume 17; Issue 5

Dear Church, From Pastor Matt

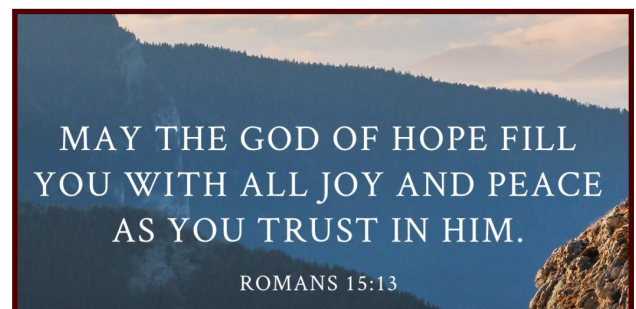
Welcome to May! This is always one of my favorite months—and not just because it’s my birth month! I love the month of May because it always feels so hopeful and joyful to me. April is a bit dodgy—sometimes April is sunny and warm like Spring, but sometimes it’s cold and rainy like winter. May, on the other hand, always feels like Spring. In May we can start eating outside, maybe even go swimming. As the days get longer, May is the month when I finally get to do my morning run in the sunlight. School events start to wrap up, and Summer break begins to loom on the horizon. Everything feels hopeful.

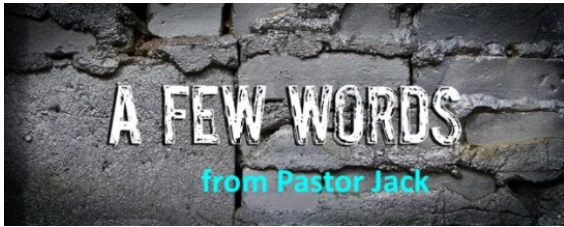
This year we get to experience that feeling of Spring in other ways, as well. On the one hand, we are entering a kind of Springtime after the winter of COVID. Our sanctuary is full, our faces are bare, our voices are strong! You’ll see changes to the education wing as we reorganize our spaces for growing ministries—a new youth room, a children’s ministry room, and more adult classroom space! The sign is already out for VBS, and we are really excited about what the Summer has to offer!

But the most important way in which we experience the feeling of Spring is in the afterglow of Easter. The winter of Sin and Death ended when Jesus rose from the dead, and the world has been thawing ever since. The

nights can still be long, and we don’t know how long the thaw will take, but we know that Summer is coming, and we live in hope and joy that the Summer of the Kingdom of God is coming for certain! Because we believe in the coming Summer, we can endure the days of rain and clouds that still lie ahead. Because we know the Summer is coming, we can recognize all the signs of Spring around us and celebrate the warmth of the Son that embraces us now.

I think I am in danger of overusing the word “excited”—I’m constantly talking about how excited I am about the next sermon series, the next ministry, the next season, the next month. But the truth is, I always am excited, because as Christians we are always living in Spring. We are always living in hope, we are always living in joy. In May, it’s just a little bit easier for me to feel it. My prayer is that you will also feel the hope and joy of Easter during this month of May, and throughout the year ahead.





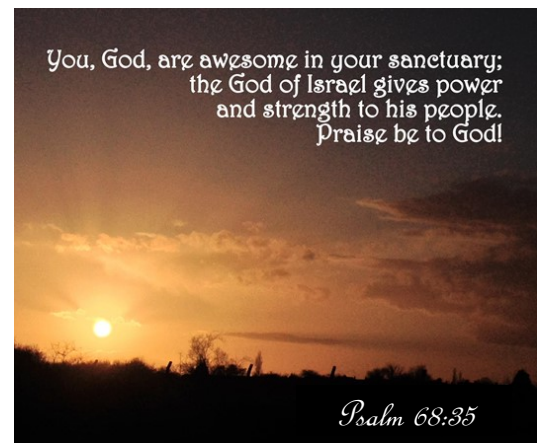
Recently, I have been reflecting on just how good God is. As I interact with people, as the weather gets warmer and sunnier, and as we worshiped Jesus during the Easter season, I was reminded and have been reflecting on the goodness of God. It amazes

me, often, just how good God is. It is astonishing just how much He loves us. Truly, He is an amazing God.

Life can weigh on us quite heavily sometimes. It can feel like we are being crushed beneath weights we cannot lift on our own. Stress, nausea, and anxiety creep in or bust down the door... causing us to react in all sorts of different ways. It's not always easy to see the goodness of God in these moments. It isn't always plain to see how He is working in our lives.

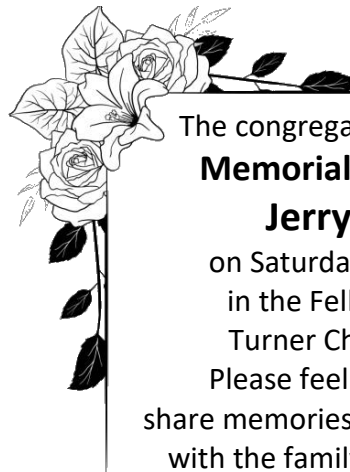
Now, that doesn't mean you or I are a bad Christian for not thinking of the goodness of God in the midst of stress, anxiety, or difficult situations. But I would encourage you to think of a time you previously were feeling those feelings and try to find where God was working in those situations. Maybe you grew in your faith, maybe you were strengthened, or maybe He brought you closer to a friend or family member. I'm not sure where God might have been working, but our God is amazing and loves us deeply and He is with us through our hurt, our stress, and our anxieties. He's also with us in our victories. I find it much easier to see God during our victories though. Nonetheless He is with us no matter what we are going through.

I invite you to praise God for His goodness. I invite you to worship Him because He is good, He is holy, and He loves us.



Friday, May 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Gather with us for a relaxed evening of focused prayer. This will be a casual gathering where we will pray together over our community, our church, and those who don't know Jesus. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



The congregation is invited to a
**Memorial Gathering for
Jerry Huckins**

on Saturday, May 14, 2022
in the Fellowship Hall of
Turner Christian Church

Please feel free to come to
share memories and encouragement
with the family anytime between
12:00 noon through 3:00 pm

(Jerry is Ann Stoker's father)

I've been thinking... About Prayer!

I love prayer. When I pray, I feel the possibilities of what God might do are endless. I feel comfort, I feel strength, I feel hope and even sometimes, the focus of *I* can fade away and it becomes all about God instead.

At least, I do when I am praying with other people.

Often when I pray on my own I feel discouraged. I feel the weight of my own limitations, the selfishness of my words, an inability to focus.

When I pray with others-not working through a list, not confined to requests—and we revel in the fullness of God together, my soul takes wings. That might sound corny, or silly, but I don't know how else to put it. And this is not to insult or take away from list prayers, or the importance of bringing ALL our requests before the Lord, this is just to say that when someone says we're going to pray for Europe for the next hour, something changes.

There is a power in a community that prays. There is a power in a community that waits upon the Lord *together*, that kneels before the Lord *together*, that hears the heart of one another.

A friend once said to me, "It's hard to have fights with people you're praying with." I have found that to be so incredibly true. If a man or woman is making me **crazy**, but then opens up their heart to God next to me and pours out a prayer for the lost, for the oppressed, for the sick, for their own broken heart . . . how can I object to my brother or sister that goes before the Lord in such humility? When I am **angry** with someone, but then hear their thoughts of praise, their thankfulness for mercy and salvation, for healing, for redemption in their life and the lives of those around them . . . how can my anger help but subside?

It is in the context of community, in a letter to a whole church community, that Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonian 5:16-18) Tucked between an exhortation to "do good to one another", and an admonishment to not "quench the Spirit," Paul's words are commanding us to go before the King of Kings *together*.

For most of us, that can be a little uncomfortable, a little too personal. If we pray in public, someone might hear that we stumble over our own words, that we're not good at sharing our thoughts, that we haven't memorized enough scripture to pray it, that our prayers aren't holy enough, that sometimes we're a little bit selfish, that we actually don't know to pray . . . our list of reasons to pray alone or to not pray can go on and on.

And yet, when we give into our reasons, our excuses, we miss the wealth of what God is inviting us too. We miss hearing each other, we miss encountering the Lord together in that way. We miss watching God shape our prayers as a community. We miss moments of growth, of richness, of healing.

God has invited us to so much more. Why don't we accept his invitation . . . together?

Our next community prayer night will be led by Pastor Jack on Friday, May 13th, at 6:30. —Rachel



Vacation Bible School!



July 26—30

9:00—11:30 am

Pre-registration available on:

<https://turnerchristianchurch.com/vbs>

Welcome to VBS 2022, Jerusalem Marketplace!

This summer your child is going to take a trip back in time to see what life was like when Jesus walked the earth! Through fun songs, crafts, outdoor games, and dramas, your child will explore the 1st Century, and learn about Jesus. And don't miss the extra-fun on Saturday -the whole family is invited along for morning VBS and a barbecue lunch afterwards. It's all free!

VBS will take place TUESDAY, July 26th-SATURDAY, July 30th. And come back again Sunday-the kids will get to do some of their VBS songs on the stage for Sunday worship, and the service will be followed by a church potluck.

-With Sympathy-

Ralph Holcomb passed away and went home to the Lord on April 23, 2022. A Memorial Service to be held at Turner Christian Church at a later date.

-Baptisms-

Loretta Kahle was baptized into Christ by Pastor Matt on Easter Sunday.

Evelyn and Myra Robinson were baptized into Christ by Tim Hauck on Easter Sunday.

Evelyn Miller also rededicated her life to Christ on Easter Sunday.

COMING
SOON
October
2022


The Holmes Family

...announced that they will be welcoming another daughter/sister to the family this Fall! Please keep Casey and the baby in your prayers throughout the pregnancy!

(Birthdays & Anniversaries are available to members in the digital newsletter)

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CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?

38-07-2015

The TCC Drama Team Will Present the Play

Quiet Sunday

Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 pm

The Porters have gone to morning services and now think they deserve a QUIET Sunday afternoon. But being a Christian means more than just going to church. God needs them. . .and it's confusion, mayhem, and lots of humor with people just like you and me.

Bring family & friends with you for a fun evening!

PRAYER GATHERING

Friday, May 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Gather with us for a relaxed evening of focused prayer. This will be a casual gathering where we will pray together over our community, our church, and those who don't know Jesus. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Church Library

Our Library has a collection of 16 books called, **Ordinary Women of the Bible**. It is a one-of-a-kind series that brings you page-turning stories enriched with biblical and historical facts, which allow you to see how God called on everyday women to work His will. These groundbreaking stories are a thrilling way to experience God's love and power.




These and many other wonderful books are available to check out — the Library is open whenever the church building is open!

May 2022

Green—Online Meetings

Black—Meeting in Building

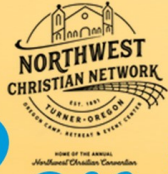
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm Kid's Club 6:00-7:30 pm Parents' Group 6:00-7:30 pm	2 Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	3 Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Elders Meeting 6:00 pm Drama Team 6:30 pm	4 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	5 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	6 Ladies Movie & Prayer Night 6:30 pm	7 Missions Team Meeting—9 am
8 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online 	9 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	10 Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Drama Night Quiet Sunday 7:00 pm	11 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	12 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	13 Prayer Gathering 6:30 pm	14 Jerry Huckins Memorial Gathering 12:00-3:00 pm
15 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Board Mtg 4:30 pm Youth Grp/Kids Club 6:00-7:30 pm Parents' Group 6:00-7:30 pm	16 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am	17 Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Drama Team 6:30 pm	18 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	19 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	20	21
22 9:00 Potluck Brunch 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Cascade Baccalaureate—5pm Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm Parents' Group 6:00-7:30 pm	23 Men's Discussion Group—8:00 am Food Bank 9:00-11:30 am Staff Mtg - 10 am Community Garden Mtg 3:00 pm Y.I.T. Mtg—3:30 pm	24 Small Group 10:00 am—Gary Tiffin Camelides 4-H 6:30 pm Drama Team 6:30 pm	25 Ladies Bible Study—6pm Adult Sermon-Based Study-6pm	26 Music & AV Teams—9:30 am Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday Classes 10:30 Worship Bldg & Online Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm	30 Food Bank & Church Office Closed 					

First
FRIDAYS

**Friday, May 6th
Ladies Movie & Prayer Night!
6:30 pm**

We Invite All Ladies to Join Us for Fun, Fellowship and Prayer!

We will watch *“American Underdog”* and then we will share in a time of fellowship and prayer. “. . .the inspirational true story of Kurt Warner. The film centers on Warner's unique story and years of challenges and setbacks that could have derailed his aspirations to become an NFL player and how he overcame those challenges and setbacks to become a Hall of Fame NFL quarterback.” Bring a friend and a snack to share!



Senior FEST

Thursday, May 19, 2022
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Keynote Speaker:
LeRoy Lawson

Workshop Leaders:
Judi Christensen (Vernonia Christian Church)
Dale Phipps (Turner Retirement Homes)
Lars Coburn (Bushnell University)

Seniorfest is one great day of celebrating, worship, workshops and encouragement. There's no age limit. All are welcome!

Registration is \$18 per person/includes lunch

Detailed information sheets and registration forms are available in the church foyer.

Also online at <https://www.nwchristiannetwork.com>

170TH CONVENTION

BECAUSE

you

SAY SO

LUKE 5:1-11



SCAN & REGISTER



STEVE & PATTI BUSS



DR. CHAP CLARK



DR. AARON J. SWOBODA



SCOTT RIGGAN

COME JOIN US JUNE 21-26, 2022

NWCHRISTIANNETWORK.COM / THE-CONVENTION

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday: 8:00am—2:00pm
Friday: 8:00am—11:00 am

Call us:

503-743-2119

Look us up at:

www.TurnerChristianChurch.com
Facebook:/turnerchristian/OR
Faithlife.com/turnercc

Staff

Matthew Holmes.....Senior Minister—matt@turnerchristianchurch.com
Jack Holvey.....Associate Minister—jack@turnerchristianchurch.com
Rachel White.....Associate Minister—rachel@turnerchristianchurch.com
Jules Roberto.....Preschool Director—jules@turnerchristianchurch.com
Jerry Sygney.....Office Administrator—office@turnerchristianchurch.com

Sunday Morning Schedule

Adult Bible Classes at 9:00 am
Worship Service at 10:30 am
Online Worship at 10:30 am