



# Down by the River

News from the River of Life Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear River of Life Church Family,

Can you believe that next month will be the end of my second 6<sup>th</sup> month contract with River of Life? I can't. The time has flown by and I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and being part of this community.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be in a mutual discernment process. You will be deciding if you want to extend a call to me to be your pastor in an ongoing capacity. I will be trying to discern God's will for my vocation. I will be praying for this congregation and the needs of this community. I am asking for your prayers as I listen for God's voice.

We have been blessed to have a much longer period of time in which to get to know one another than most pastors and congregations have during a search and call process. However, you may still have questions you would like to ask me. If you do, I am happy to answer them.

I hope it's okay that I have some questions for you. I'm wondering what you would like to see happen in the future of River of Life. Are you content with the current size of the congregation and with the ministries being offered? Do you have a vision for growth or change that you would like to share? Do you have ideas or concerns that you have never expressed? Are you

content with a part-time pastor? Does the ministerial/teaching team concept work for you as members of the congregation?

Carolyn Reed, our Associate Regional Minister, has agreed to facilitate a discussion with us on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet after worship and discuss what is on your mind and mine as we move forward. I'm looking forward to this time together and hope that you will plan to attend. I believe it's important to hear from everyone!

In the meantime, if you have questions for me, please do not hesitate to ask. If you prefer, you can submit your questions to any member of the Pastoral Relations Committee, which is made up of Melissa Gerni (formerly Closson), Steve Erickson, and Jane Kollmar.

May God be with you in these dark days of winter. Remember, the blessed season of Lent is just around the corner.

Pastor Betsy



11 Mike & Yvette Sims  
23 John & Bonnie Minglin



16 Bonnie Uchida  
17 Betsy Logan  
18 Sandy Dalton  
25 Shane Lothar  
26 Jim Hammon  
28 Max Landes  
Jeff Spencer



River of Life  
Chili Cook-off  
Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

MAKE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE

OR BRING A COMPLIMENTARY DISH OR DESERT

## Ramp Up Your Personal Bible Study

Many Christians, including myself at one time, quickly answer “Three” when asked how many Magi visited baby Jesus in the manger. However, a close reading of Matthew 2:1-12 reveals that the specific number of Magi is not given. Further, the Bible says that the Magi visited a Child in a house (Matthew 2:11), rather than a newborn infant in a manger as commonly depicted in nativity scenes.

This example illustrates a condition in which we Christians may all-too-often find ourselves: we don’t always know what the Bible actually says. The Apostle Paul wrote, “*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:16, NASB). Paul’s words to the young preacher in the first century are equally relevant to us today. God speaks to us through His written word, and we are wise to study, understand, and apply His word to our lives.

Here are a few tips to help you ramp up your personal Bible study.

- ✓ Set aside a specific time every day to read your Bible. This approach is better than “hoping to find some time.”
- ✓ Pray for insight into what God wants you to know.
- ✓ Use a study Bible to increase your understanding. I like the Charles Stanley Life Principles Bible, the MacArthur Study Bible, and the ESV Study Bible. Pastor Betsy finds the Harper Collins Study Bible valuable.
- ✓ Read chapter introductions and notes to better understand the context and meaning of scripture.
- ✓ Review cross-references to see how the Bible “interprets itself.” The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge contains a list of cross-references for nearly every verse in the Bible and can be accessed for free at <http://tsk-online.com/>.
- ✓ Read the same passage in different translations to see how different Bible translators interpreted the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic languages the Bible was originally written in. You can read and compare several different translations of a passage at <https://biblehub.com/>. (Check out <https://www.christianbook.com/page/bibles/about-bibles/about-translations?event=Bibles|1001385> for insight into the Bible translation process.)

There are many apps available if you prefer to read the Bible on your phone or other device. Bible Gateway is Betsy’s go-to app. I like the NET Bible app. This free app includes the New English Translation of the Bible and extensive notes. Translator notes provide detail into why the original text was translated as it was and includes alternative wording. Study notes provide insight into interpreting the meaning of the text. The NET Bible also can be read online at <https://netbible.com/>.

Enjoy spending time in God’s word. And please join our Bible study at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Cary J. Green

# Bible Word Search Puzzle

## Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 256

Matt. 11:18-30

### Jesus the Teacher 2

K	N	O	W	S	D	E	L	T	H	G	I	L	S	I
V	B	U	R	D	E	N	D	E	N	I	A	M	E	R
D	N	E	I	R	F	I	E	N	S	N	R	D	S	E
R	E	H	T	I	E	N	T	U	E	O	S	E	O	P
J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T	I	L	D	S	T	O	E
A	S	D	E	V	O	R	P	C	C	I	D	F	H	N
N	K	B	T	R	A	E	H	D	A	S	R	I	C	T
D	I	F	E	G	U	I	O	R	R	H	I	L	H	R
R	E	V	E	A	L	S	P	G	I	T	N	J	E	H
E	S	N	H	D	R	U	A	I	M	R	K	E	X	U
H	V	E	R	E	S	A	T	E	O	A	I	S	C	M
T	U	E	N	A	A	O	B	T	L	E	N	U	E	B
A	N	N	R	S	E	V	D	L	O	P	G	S	P	L
F	I	G	E	N	T	L	E	O	E	N	I	N	T	E
S	S	D	E	P	T	H	S	N	M	S	E	H	S	A

ASHES	BEARABLE
CITIES	BURDEN
DEPTHS	CHILDREN
EARTH	CHOOSES
EXCEPT	GLUTTON
FATHER	HEAVEN
FRIEND	HIDDEN
GENTLE	HUMBLE
HEART	JUDGMENT
JESUS	LEARNED
KNOWS	MIRACLES
LIFTED	NEITHER
LIGHT	PLEASURE
PRAISE	REMAINED
REVEAL	PROVED
SIDON	REPENT
SKIES	SINNERS
SODOM	DRINKING

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

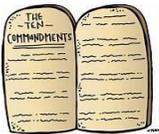
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## Something Funny



The church janitor was also the organist, and had to watch his keys and pews.



An ad for a Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets."

# Serving in February

## Elder

### Prayers at the Table

- 2 Ted Jones  
Julie Jones
- 9 Dennis Kollmar  
Jane Kollmar
- 16 Jim Brown  
Martha Brown
- 23 Ken Uchida  
Martha Johnston
- 26 Melissa Gerni (Ash Wednesday)  
Connie Kiesling

## Deacons

### Offering & Communion

- Jim Brown  
Martha Brown  
Reshma Green  
Roslyn Morgan

### \* Clean-up

- Martha Brown

## Worship

### Leaders

- 2 Connie Kiesling
- 9 Grace Ann Piles
- 16 Jason Crittendon
- 23 Alice Snider

## Coffee Closet

- 2 Ingrid Minnick
- 9 Dennis Kollmar
- 16 Melissa Gerni
- 23 Bonnie Uchida

## Greeters

- Ingrid Minnick & Martha Johnston
- Alice Snider & Tia Denny
- Melissa Gerni & Mary Shilling
- Ken & Bonnie Uchida

## Security Check

- Cary Green

Minister: Rev. Betsy Arnold [betsy.kayak@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.kayak@gmail.com)  
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Administrative Assistant email: [martha.rolcc@gmail.com](mailto:martha.rolcc@gmail.com)  
cell (574)732-4494

## January Attendance

- 1 - 49  
8 - 52  
15 - 53  
22 - 60  
29 - 44



### **JOYS:**

Ashley & Dustin, welcomed baby girl McKensi Grace on January 18<sup>th</sup> weighing 7lbs, mom and baby doing well  
Jessica Dominguez (Mary Jean's granddaughter) Sebastian Luca Dominguez was born 1/5/2020 weighing 9 lbs. 14 ozs.

### **CONCERNS:**

Wayne & Eva Logan  
Luyza Dominguez, confined to bedroom has strain B Flu  
Rob Lother family in need of prayers, his oldest sister passed away from liver disease  
Marc Conrad family  
Pete Hall Family  
Tom Morris family  
Brent & Georgia's baby is scheduled to be delivered 2/6/2020, please pray for parents and baby  
Marsha Iles  
Greg Bell  
David Herd  
Kayla Ellis  
Chuck Erickson  
Jim Cook  
Helen Ennis  
David Sander  
Anita Closson  
Karen Troxell  
Frank Smith  
Kormen Ashby Spretzer  
Jaylen Kline  
Doris Raihle  
George Drake  
Pat Hall

### **SHUT-INS:**

Norma Harris (Millers 203)  
Pat Shipp (Pleasant Escape)  
Woody Hammon (McKinney Place 115)  
Dee Hiatt (Chase)  
Shirley Horn (Cass Plaza Apts)  
Cyndy Gentry (McKinney Place)

**Ongoing Concerns:** Alice Hibbard, Max Landes, Cyndy Gentry, Norma Harris, Barb Stigers, Donna Troxell, Jonathan Brown, Martha Johnston, Ingrid Minnick, Barb Landis, Brooke Spencer, Susie Spencer, Kasia Rees, Ruth Collins, Tony and Jennifer Morgan, the families of Auden Myers and Haley Begley, Gavin Morgan, Elizabeth Smith & Erica White, Alice Snider, Eva and Wayne Logan, Ellie Winegardner, Ted Jones, Amy Howard, Tim Johnston