



Down by the River

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

From the desk of Pastor Cary:

Our Call to Discipleship

I In a recent sermon we discussed the well-known passage in which Jesus called Andrew and Peter to follow Him: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19 ESV).

Jesus' call to "Follow Me" is a call to discipleship, and Byrley (2014) helps us understand what true discipleship is:

Discipleship is the process of devoting oneself to a teacher to learn from and become more like them. For the Christian, this refers to the process of learning the teachings of Jesus and following after his example in obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship not only involves the process of becoming a disciple but of making other disciples through teaching and evangelism.

Like Andrew and Peter, we must answer Jesus' call to follow Him. In this month's article I provide a few verses that will help us understand how we can follow Jesus.

After we accept Jesus' call, we are to learn from Him.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:29 ESV).

We learn about Jesus by studying His word and by praying for wisdom from the Holy Spirit. Following a Bible reading plan or daily devotion is an easy way to study the Word.

(Continued)

I subscribe to Charles Stanley's daily devotion and receive an email each morning with a scriptural reference and short devotion. I encourage you to find a daily devotion or Bible reading plan. A quick internet search will yield many options, and you can also pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread from the church.

As a disciple, we are also called to obey Jesus.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15 ESV).

We cannot, of course, earn our salvation by following the commandments, but we are called to walk in obedience by following them. Doing so is impossible in our own strength. But we are not alone. We can call on the Holy Spirit to give us the faith and courage to truly obey, and we can also ask for strength to stand strong in the face of opposition and temptation.

Disciples are called to trust Jesus.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me (John 14:1 ESV).

God has given each of us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3), and we know that trusting God means that we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

When my faith is challenged, I pray the heart-felt prayer that was prayed by a father in Mark 9:24:

I believe; help my unbelief!

You can pray this honest prayer too when your faith starts to waiver.

Our call to discipleship is a call to follow Christ's example.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps (1 Peter 2:21 ESV).

The more we study God's word, the more we see how Jesus lived His life. We can follow His example rather than follow our fleshly desires. And of course, we can pray to the Holy Spirit to help us understand how to follow in His steps.

And finally, as we have discussed for several weeks, our call to discipleship includes the need to make other disciples. Jesus calls all believers to be evangelists.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19 ESV).

We make disciples by sharing our faith with others and by walking in a manner worthy of the Lord (1 Colossians 1:10).

My prayer is that each of us will fully dedicate ourselves to a life of discipleship. That sounds like a challenging prayer, but we must remember that those first disciples impacted the world for Jesus Christ because they were obedient to Jesus' call.

He made them fishers of men, and He can make us into what He wants us to be if we give ourselves completely to Him.

References

Byrley, Chris. "Discipleship." Edited by Douglas Mangum, Derek R. Brown, Rachel Klippenstein, and Rebekah Hurst. Lexham Theological Wordbook. Lexham Bible Reference Series. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014.

February 2022 Announcements

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m. led by Cary Green at the Church and on Zoom
(Information for Zoom will be sent to join)

CONVERSATION & COLORING: Thursdays @ 11:00 a.m. at the Church and on Zoom
(Information for Zoom will be sent to join)

STARTING IN FEBRUARY: Max Landes will be 100 years young on February 28th, please shower him with cards on this very special day. He will be so surprised. All of our Shut-ins would be so happy if we do this for them.



PRAYER, JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS:

We have a Contract for the Sale of our building
Paige Smith is home from hospital, doing better
Connie Kiesling is home
Jim Brown is home again
Joyce Leslie, responding well to new medication

CONCERNS:

Dorinda Hylton has a fracture above her right ankle
Gavin Johnson Family
Kesling Family, Mary Lou passed away
Jerry Stillwell Family
Kian Busard
Jim Brown
Deb Dunn Family
Janet Benz niece's baby, Luella Joy, birth weight up
Paige Smith
Joyce Leslie
Connie Kiesling
Cindy Erickson's stepmother, Janie Long
John LaOrange

Betsy & Bill Arnold
 Max Landes
 Rick & Janet Benz with ongoing dialysis
 Alice Snider, & Kenny and Tia Denny
 Shannon Minglin
 Chuck Minglin
 Eva Logan
 Deb Britt (Jim & Martha's neighbor)
 Cyndy Gentry
 Tony, Jennifer, Lennon & Aldous Morgan
 Gavin Morgan & Ryker
 Mary Jean Shanks
 Dorinda Hylton
 Gloria Santee
 Gail Truax
 Bob Rihel (Ted Jones' brother-in-law)
 Kathi, Cary Green's cousin's wife
 Jason Crittendon
 Bonnie Uchida
 Sandy Dalton
 Kamryn Kollmar
 All who are struggling with health, work, grief, depression, anxiety, and loss
 All who are holding their pain privately

SHUT-INS:

Cyndy Gentry (McKinney Place)
 Dorinda Hylton (Chase-therapy)

Iris Ashby (Neal Home)
 Max Landis (McKinney Place 101)



16 Bonnie Uchida
 18 Sandy Dalton
 28 Max Landes 100th Birthday
 28 Jeff Spencer



11 Mike & Yvette Sims
 24 John & Deb Richards

Serving in February

Praying at the Table:

5 Ken Uchida
 12 Connie Kiesling
 19 Ted Jones
 22 Julie Jones
 (Ash) Wednesday
 26 Dennis Kollmar

Worship Leader:

5 Julie Jones
 12 Rosie Harrison
 19 Barb Erickson
 26 Ken Uchida

Greeters

5 Barb Erickson
 12 Ingrid Minnick
 19 Skip Perry
 26 Susan Spencer

Coffee Closet

5 Toni Lhamon
 12 Barb Erickson
 19 Marilyn Fitzpatrick
 26 Martha Brown

Love - 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

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

Pride
Self-sacrificing
Believes
Resentful
Boast
Corinthians

Forgive
Agape
Bears
Irritable
Envy
Love

Paul
Endures
Truth
Rude
Kind

Eternal
Hopes
Rejoice
Arrogant
Patient

Valentine's Day Word Search

c g f l o w e r s i p
j s w e e t h e a r t
e f p a c u p i d a e
v h o i k a c p s r t
a o g u y h e a r t s
l o v e r r d e g o f
e k r a p t r r o w r
n r i r o s e s p x i
t o h s d r d e i r e
i s u h s p i n n h n
n r g a r e l l k t d
e o s c h o s r o s h
s w e e r t s f r i e
v c h o c o l a t e k

valentine
arrow
cupid
hearts
love

red
fourteenth
hugs
chocolate
pink

roses
friend
flowers
sweetheart
kisses