
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

June 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 1-	ZACHARY SZELMECZKI'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 2 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	TRUSTEE MEETING
JUNE 9 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	DEACONS MEETING
JUNE 14 -	SHARON JENKIN'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 16 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	11 AM ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE
	FOLLOWED BY COVERED DISH
	LUNCH, (SEE ARTICLE)
	FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 21 -	JENNIFER REID'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 23 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	STEVEN & BRENDA SZELMECZKI'S
	ANNIVERSARY
	KATE VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 27 -	JACK & MARLENE CORNWELL'S
	ANNIVERSARY & JACK'S BIRTHDAY
	DWAYNE & DAWNNA SELDON'S
	ANNIVERSARY
JUNE 30 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	FIFTH SUNDAY LUNCHEON (TENTATIVE)

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Our annual Memorial Day Service will take place on Sunday, June 16th. Pastor Mike VanDerLinden, will be delivering the message. During the 11 am service we will remember those who have passed away during this year. As usual, a covered dish lunch will follow. There will also be an afternoon service from 2 – 3 pm featuring music by Higher Power. Let's not forget that it is also Father's Day!

For the past nine years, the Deacons have been producing a monthly *Newsletter* of the events that take place in our community and at the church. It is part of the bulletin on the last Sunday of each month. Also, we produce a CD of the weekly church services for anyone who is unable to attend church regularly. If you would like either of them, or know anyone else who would, just provide us with the e-mail or mailing address and we will be happy to send them. You can also keep up with us at our church website - timberidgechristianchurch.com. We are currently in the process of making changes and updates to the website. The site contains information about the church and church activities, as well as audio files of the Sunday morning sermons. You may also email us at timberidgechristianchurch@gmail.com.

The watercolor prints of the church by local artist, Eugene Smith, will be available for purchase at \$50.00 each. The paperback book history of the church that was produced for our 200th anniversary will also be available for purchase at \$15.00 each.

In these times of lower than usual returns on our investments, the Trustees have fewer funds to spend in the cemetery, even though costs continue to rise. For that reason, a donation to the cemetery fund would be greatly appreciated. Many contribute regularly, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

We welcome any articles, comments or suggestions.
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PASTOR'S PEN

Why Mercy is Important

The church is not only a place of worship. It's not only a building where you can find a sense of community. The church is also the gathered people of God who have a purpose on earth. Yes, that purpose is to worship. Yes, we gather as a community. However, we must also work together to show forth God's mercy to World that is often merciless. We do this with words and with actions.

What is mercy? Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines mercy as "compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power" and "a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion." Let's look at the second one first. It's great to see that the dictionary acknowledges that mercy, carries a divine connotation. From the church's standpoint, we can say this in an even stronger way. Mercy is an action that originates with God Himself. The first definition is also instructive. Specifically, mercy is an action by one person who has some sort of power to act. In the dictionary definition, there is a sense that mercy is given to one who is unworthy. This idea, although not absolute in every case we see today, actually ties the idea of mercy together for the church.

Ultimately, mercy begins with God. In Exodus 34:6-8 where Moses has asked to "see God" we read "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." 8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped." Notice that mercy is not divorced from justice. In this case, we see that God delivers mercy to the guilty instead of justice. This is done by pouring out justice for the guilt on Jesus at the cross. In turn, God then calls us to show mercy to others.

In Micah 6:8 we read: "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." We must offer mercy to others based on the mercy that God has shown to us. Matthew chapter 5 backs this up in the Beatitudes by saying "Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy." God has declared that we will receive mercy when we meet Him. In the meantime, He has given us work to do. That work includes showing mercy to those around us in need of God's love.

I would encourage you to be on the lookout for people around you in need of mercy. The church's job is not to offer judicial mercy but to provide a blessing when it is in our power to do so. This means we use our time, our talents, and yes – our money to offer relief to those in need. Sometimes this will be missionaries who need our support financially and through prayer. Sometime this means taking the time to drive someone to the store or the doctor. Sometimes this will mean giving money to those who are suffering from financial hardship. In every case, we must offer others the same mercy God has given us. In this way, we show people we are Christians with our actions while praying for the opportunity to also offer them the gospel with our words.

~ Pastor Mike