
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Happy Valentine's Day
February 14th



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 2 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
FEB 3 -	SHARIE ECKENRODE'S BIRTHDAY
FEB 4 -	ERIC REID'S BIRTHDAY
FEB 6 -	TOM JENKINS' BIRTHDAY
FEB 8 -	HARRY SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
FEB 9 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOSPICE COOKIES DUE (SEE ARTICLE)
	ROSIE REID'S BIRTHDAY
FEB 12 -	LARUE KUMP'S BIRTHDAY
FEB 16 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING
FEB 23 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	HOME MISSION OFFERING
FEB 27 -	HILDA SECRIST'S BIRTHDAY
	HILDA & DAN'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MAR 1 -	BENEFIT SPAGHETTI DINNER & AUCTION
	FOR BECKY SMITH FAMILY
	(SEE ARTICLE)
MAR 7 -	HOSPICE BREAKFAST 7:30 - 10:30 AM

HOSPICE VALENTINES DAY COOKIE PROJECT

In our efforts to promote the work of Hospice of the Panhandle, we will participate in their project to thank volunteers, doctors, caregivers, etc for their hospice work, by providing cookies for Valentine's Day. A signup sheet will be available through Sunday, February 2nd. Please record the number of cookies that you will provide and have them at the church on February 9th. We will deliver them to Hospice for distribution. Please be sure that they are in containers (zip lock bags are acceptable).

BECKY SMITH FUNDRAISER

There will be a benefit fundraising spaghetti dinner and auction to benefit the Becky Smith family on Sunday, March 1 at the Ruritan Park in Yellow Spring from 2 – 5 pm with the auction at 4 pm.

BACKPACK MINISTRY

For our portion of the Backpack Ministry, we delivered backpacks to the Capon Bridge Middle and Elementary schools during the month of January. Our next rotation will be in May and we would appreciate any help that anyone is able to give us.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.
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PASTOR'S PEN

God's Freedom is Good

As we begin a new sermon series in the New Testament book of Galatians, I want to take a moment to talk about freedom. The concept of individual liberty is at the very core of many of the discussions taking place in the world today. It doesn't matter if you are watching the news in Highview, WV, or talking to a day laborer in Kenya, Africa. In every case, when you talk about freedom, you will have to define what it means to be truly free. And there is only one person who has the authority to determine what true freedom looks like, God. He has told us what it means to be free in the bible. Through the Apostle Paul, we will learn in Galatians that God longs for His people to be free. Are you free?

Understanding what God means when He offers you freedom through the gospel is extremely important as we study Galatians. Merriam-Webster's dictionary definition of freedom says, "*the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action.*" Of course, this definition is talking about outside coercion or constraint. It doesn't include the inner constraining power of the Holy Spirit. The concept of freedom was never meant to include the idea that someone could do whatever they want, whenever they want, to whomever they want! No, for freedom to be truly free, it has to have limitations.

We find in the book of 1 Peter that the Apostle Peter agrees with Paul when he writes, *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.* (1 Peter 2:13-17).

So, freedom has limitations. However, these limitations are given for your good and God's glory! The problem is, we don't like limitations. Even those that God put in place for our own protection. In turn, we question God's authority, we push the boundaries, and we attempt to throw off all restraints. Instead of allowing God to rule, we make ourselves out to be personal lawmakers who can change the rules in an instant to accommodate our own current circumstances. This isn't biblical freedom! And it doesn't bring glory to our King.

Peter tells us that we must use our freedom for good, not evil. Using our liberty for good means that we will be subject to the rightful rulers and authorities around us. After all, God raises up rulers and removes them by His own design. When you are free, you can serve God by submitting to earthly authorities. Not out of slavish fear but from a heart that longs to be obedient to your heavenly Father. My prayer is that the study of Galatians will help each of us know what it is to be truly free. Free to follow Christ. Only then will we understand how to live rightly before God and among men.

~ Pastor Mike