
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

June 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 5 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
JUNE 6 -	10 AM BIBLE STUDY
JUNE 8 -	REPORTS DUE FOR COUNCIL MEETING (SEE ARTICLE)
JUNE 12 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
	COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE
JUNE 13 -	10 AM BIBLE STUDY
JUNE 14 -	SHARON JENKIN'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 15 -	PATRICK CASH'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 19 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	11 AM ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE FOLLOWED BY COVERED DISH LUNCH (SEE ARTICLE) FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 20 -	10 AM BIBLE STUDY
JUNE 21 -	JENNIFER REID'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 23 -	KATE VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
JUNE 26 -	SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
	WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
JUNE 27 -	10 AM BIBLE STUDY
	JACK & MARLENE CORNWELL'S ANNIVERSARY & JACK'S BIRTHDAY DWAYNE & DAWNNA SELDON'S ANNIVERSARY

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Quarterly Church Council meeting will be held on June 12th. In our effort to standardize reports and to create a single set of reports in advance of the meeting, treasurers and chairpersons are being asked to provide their reports to Pastor Mike by June 8th.

For consistency, the treasurer's reports should be a year-to-date accounting through May 31st. They can be emailed to the church at timberidgechristianchurch@gmail.com or hand delivered. The meeting should last no longer than an hour.

ANNUAL HOMECOMING/MEMORIAL SERVICE

Our annual Memorial Service will take place on Sunday, June 19th. 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. Let's not forget that it is also Father's Day!

For the past twelve 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. The site contains information about the church and church activities, as well as audio files of the Sunday morning sermons and daily devotions. 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 a reduced price of \$30.00 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 have risen significantly this year. 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

Abounding Grace

If you didn't know, our church website has a morning devotional every day except Sunday (see – timberridgechristianchurch.com – they also post on our Facebook page). As I've been introducing the various books of the bible during the morning devotional videos these last two weeks, I have realized just how easy it is to think that Grace is mainly found in the New Testament. You might have heard someone separating the bible into two parts by talking about Law and Grace. They usually mean that the Old Testament is about the Law, and the New Testament is about Grace. I've tried to point out this past week that Grace abounds in the Old Testament too. This has been especially true as we've looked at the minor prophets Hosea, Joel, and Jonah.

If you don't know much about these three minor prophets, allow me to give you a little background. In Hosea, God calls the prophet to marry a prostitute. During their marriage, Hosea's wife Gomer returns to her adulteress behavior, and Hosea is told to buy her back. The entire situation is meant to be an object lesson for Israel. God has always been faithful to Israel as a nation while Israel is constantly running after false gods. Yet, God constantly pursues them. In Joel, a swarm of locusts besiege Israel. This is a devastating result of God's judgment on their sinful behavior. The prophet announces that this temporal judgment, as bad as it is, is far less terrible than the final day of judgment coming at the end of the age. In addition, even in middle of their judgment God promises that in the future He will pour out His Spirit in a special way.

Finally, in Jonah, we have a nation so wicked that Jonah is sent to announce a coming day of destruction. When Jonah finally does preach this message, the people repent, and God relents. Jonah isn't happy about that at all. In chapter 4, verse 2, Jonah prays, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster." Like I said, Grace abounds in the Old Testament.

This is so important for New Testament believers. These Old Testament stories of failure overcome by Grace remind us that we have never been able to save ourselves. Instead, it's always been God's Grace. When you find yourself unfaithful to the Lord, returning to sinful patterns of behavior (like Gomer). You can know that the Lord will continue to pursue those that belong to Him. He is faithful even when you are not. When you find yourself disobeying the word of God, going your own way, even to the point of suffering temporal judgment for your sin, the Grace offered in the book of Joel reminds you that there is still an opportunity to be released from the final day of judgment. Repent, turn to the Lord, and you will be saved.

In the book of Jonah, we see just how Gracious God is. Nineveh is a wicked place where God's judgment is coming. Yet, God sends a message of Grace, calling them to repent. God is the great missionary! There is an echo of this Grace in the New Testament when the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:8, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Do you ever find yourself unfaithful to the Lord, disobedient to His call for holiness, or simply living as a sinner awaiting judgment? Then let the Grace found in the lives of those who lived in the time of the Old Testament remind you that you too can be saved by Grace, despite your constant fall into sin. That's because God's Grace abounds in both Testaments.

~ Pastor Mike