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# TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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August 2024

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- AUG 1 - PRAYER MEETING 6:30 – 7:30 PM (CHURCH)  
ALAN & GINGER BRILL'S ANNIVERSARY  
MIKE VANDERLINDEN'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 4 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
- AUG 5 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- AUG 6 - HEATHER REID'S BIRTHDAY  
JEAN KENNEY'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 8 - ADDYSON BRILL'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 10 - MENS BREAKFAST 8 AM (HAYFIELD REST)
- AUG 11 - SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHURCH PICNIC 11:15 AM  
LAFOLLETTE HOMESTEAD (SEE  
ARTICLE)
- AUG 12 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM  
DAWNNA SELDON'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 15 - PRAYER MEETING 4 -5 PM (LARUES)
- AUG 16 - BRIAN & AMY BRILL'S ANNIVERSARY
- AUG 17 - VANESSA WALKER STARNES BIRTHDAY
- AUG 18 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM  
LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING (SEE  
ARTICLE)
- AUG 19 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM  
JANE BILLINGS' BIRTHDAY
- AUG 22 - PRAYER MEETING 6:30- 7:30 PM (CHURCH)
- AUG 25 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM  
HOME MISSION OFFERING
- AUG 26 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- AUG 28 - ELIZABETH WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
- AUG 29 - PRAYER MEETING 4 -5 PM (LARUES)
- AUG 30 - HENRY SMITH'S BIRTHDAY

### *Sunday School and Church Picnic*

Our annual Sunday School and Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:15 am. Again, this year, Ruby has graciously invited us to the farmhouse, which is located about 3 miles from Shiloh United Methodist Church on Back Creek Road. Meat and drinks will be furnished, but please bring your favorite covered dish to share. Directions are as follows: Take Back Creek Road 23/3 and at the Shiloh Cemetery go down the hill to a "T" in the road. Stay on the paved road. At the "T" go right, continue for about a mile, and the farmhouse is on the right. It is a two-story white house with upper and lower porches. It sits off the road with walnut trees out front. Everyone is invited. Bring a lawn chair and plan to have a good time! In the event of rain, the picnic will be moved into the basement of the Parish Building.

### *LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEETING*

*The next Ladies Fellowship meeting will be held on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of planning for the upcoming Yard/Soup sale which will be held on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow as the date gets closer.*

We welcome any articles, comments, or suggestions.

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### PASTOR'S PEN

#### Love Is Foundational

At the beach on Sunday, the sermon during worship was about love. (Participating in the congregation instead of leading up front is always interesting.) The preacher offered three questions to which a true believer must know the answers. Who am I? Why am I here? And where am I going? If you're like me, you might be thinking – What do these questions have to do with love? Well, for the next 30 minutes, the preacher shared with us how God's love is foundational for answering these three questions.

Who am I? As a Christian, you are someone God created to be loved. From all eternity, God has been perfectly satisfied with Himself. He lacked nothing. The three persons of the Trinity enjoyed perfect communion. Yet, we read in Ephesians 1:4 that God chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world. In John 3:16, we're told, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Putting these two ideas together means God planned on creating, loving, and bringing you to Him through Christ before He said, "Let there be light." As a foundational statement, this message should amaze us whenever we hear it. God has loved you since before you were born! He loved you even before the events of Genesis 1:1 took place! When you're wondering who you are, start by reminding yourself that you are someone God loves.

Why am I here? Again, love is foundational to answering this question correctly. Your first thought turns to some action you're supposed to do, such as love your spouse, children, neighbor, or enemy. On Sunday, the preacher turned this idea on its head by saying that your first reason for being here is to be loved by God. Have you ever thought about your existence from this vantage point? One of the great truths in the Bible is that you are here so that God can love you. And I'm convinced that you will see how God has loved you from the beginning when you look back over your life. On this point, I only wrote one thing in my notes, "Look back at your Ebenezers." In 1 Samuel 7, we read that a "stone of help" was set up as a reminder of God's help – the word for "stone of help" is Ebenezer. Do you have any Ebenezers in your life? If not, you should. Take time this month to set up some markers to look back on and see how God has loved you in the past so that when you're wondering why you're here, those markers remind you that God created you so that He could love you.

Where am I going? The short answer is heaven! Your destination is to be where God is! This isn't based on how well you love God. It's based on how well God loves you. The cross is the supreme example of how much or how well God is willing to love you. The Bible testifies that God's love is not only powerful enough to save, but it also never fails. It never fails to bring His perfect will to its perfect completion. It may not look that way at times. It certainly didn't at times for Joseph, David, the disciples, or Jesus. In every circumstance, though, God worked out His perfect will, loving His people through trial and victory. When you're wondering where you're going, don't look inward at what you've done (or haven't done); look to Christ and see that God's love makes your destination secure.

In a world, so dark at times, so insecure, and uncertain. God's love for you must be foundational. His love must inform and control your thinking about who you are, why you're here, and where you're going. He created you for love – His love. This love is not just a concept; it's a source of security and assurance that provides comfort and peace amid life's uncertainties.

~ Pastor Mike