

I like to hear various points of view and even other religious beliefs. I wouldn't say I always accept them graciously, but I enjoy hearing them to contrast it with the truth in the Bible and my personal beliefs. Recently I was watching a sermon from a Unitarian Universalist sharing the basics of his faith. And it's fascinating to listen to these types of messages because it isn't argumentative or defensive, but simply an explanation of why they've accepted certain beliefs. Now, I certainly don't accept much of what they hold to be truth, and in all honesty I struggle with their purpose for meeting and the reasons they do what they do, but one idea he shared struck me. I was forced to wrestle with the idea for a while and to decide if that's something I believe, needed to adapt to or if I simply needed to reject the idea. This is what he said: "In the relationship between God and human beings, God is not the dissatisfied party." What I believe he meant was that when it comes to how God and humans interact, it wasn't God who was dissatisfied. It wasn't God who needed anything. It wasn't God who needed to solve any sort of problem, because for him there wasn't one.

And in a purely cognitive, theological way, I think that makes sense. God, who is almighty, all-powerful and complete in himself, cannot be in any way dissatisfied, right? I mean if God has or can create anything he desires, why would he be dissatisfied? My mind alone would say that he wouldn't, even couldn't, be dissatisfied. Which means, that the dissatisfied party between us and God is us. And you might wonder why that's significant. But for me, if that's true, if we are the dissatisfied parties in our relationship with God,

then we are the ones who have created a system, even a religion, to satisfy ourselves. I believe this Unitarian Universalist would suggest that my faith in Jesus is a result of a man-made desire to satisfy a need we feel in ourselves. He would argue that Christians, and other religions, have made it so that we can be satisfied by creating a set of beliefs where we can do or say or believe the right things and then be accepted by God. It's our dissatisfaction that leads to our religion. The Unitarian Universalist would say that we are already accepted by God. That we are not separated from him, as Christians believe, because of our sin. But because we're dissatisfied, we've created a way to rectify a problem that we've created. But the truth is, God is not satisfied. He is not satisfied because we repeated hear from him that there is a problem: we are separated from him. And he's not satisfied because he deeply and profoundly longs to be near us. But this dissatisfied God does not remain dissatisfied. He chose to solve the problem by sending Jesus to die for us so that we could have a relationship with him. And it is that love, that action-oriented love that solves the problem and satisfies a dissatisfied God. Serving Him and you, Matthew

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is Sunday, January 20th following our 9am service. We will do the 'usual' business of selecting elders and deacons and such, but we also wanted to have a limited time of sharing our thoughts and concerns. We especially wanted to focus on the current time of our Sunday morning service of 9am. Several

have expressed concerns about this time and we wanted to allow a time of lovingly sharing our thoughts and concerns about the topic. Related to this, the elders are going to be available again to hear other thoughts and concerns about the current time of our service following the January 27th and February 3rd services. They will be available in the back of the church on those dates. We desire to lovingly listen and open a dialogue about these concerns and issues to make the best possible decision moving forward.

Directory Updates

We plan to make updates and corrections to our church directory in February. If you have any changes (i.e. update of picture, change in address, etc) please let Matthew know by the end of January. If you currently are not in our directory, please let Matthew know and we'll make sure we get you added!

Thank You

"We wanted to express our thanks for the generous offering you gave for our Christmas gift this year. We are so blessed to be a part of such a generous church family." -The Thinners

December Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Dec 2nd	\$1,408.00	\$65,169.52	\$76,692.48
Dec 9th	\$1,217.05	\$66,386.57	\$78,290.24
Dec 16th	\$1,128.00	\$67,514.57	\$79,888.00
Dec 23rd	\$977.00	\$68,491.57	\$81,485.76
Dec 30th	\$838.00	\$69,329.57	\$83,083.52
Totals	\$5,568.05		

Youth Offering

The offering from December 30th for the youth was \$510.00. Thank you for your generous support of this program!

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer treatments (9-30)
 Beckie Beaird (Laurie M's friend) – chemo treatments (12-30)
 Evelyn Carlock – surgery recovery (12-23)
 Shelly Claxton (Pam K's friend) – cancer spreading (8-19)
 Tim Gunter – blood sugar issues (12-23)
 Todd Hamm - cancer treatments (7-30)
 Miranda Hoppock –cancer treatments (11-18)
 Leonard Kaufman - cancer (10-16)
 Paul Morris – in hospice in Peoria (12-23)
 Garry Myers (Dusti H's coworker's dad) – late stage cancer (9-23)
 Brandi Rudd – cancer treatments (12-30)
 Emma Shaw – final weeks of pregnancy (12-23)
 Todd Stambaugh – knee injury (12-23)
 Liz Stimler (Frankie J's sister) – fall in nursing home (12-23)
 Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh's friend) (11-5)
 Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer (8-26)
 Mary Belleville's friend – cancer (9-23)
 Brian Griffin's cousin Joy – house fire (12-23)
 Mary (Pam K's aunt) – cancer (12-30)
 Christy Lehman's friend – recovery from accident (12-30)

Condolences

Family of Gilbert Hickle
 Family of Paul Morris
 Family of Helen Blue

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

January Events:

- Tues, Jan 8th 6:30 p.m.
Man-Up
- Wed, Jan 9th 6:30 p.m.
taking down
Christmas
decorations
- Sun, Jan 13th 6:00 p.m.
board
Meeting
- Wed, Jan 16th 6:00 p.m.
Family Night
resumes
- Sun, Jan 20th 4:30 p.m.
Youth
Committee
- Wed, Jan 23rd 6:00 p.m.
Family Night
- Wed, Jan 30th 6:00 p.m.
Family Night



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.



The Daily Bible Verses

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