

# We all, regularly, have

times when we're offended. And that offense can come from a variety of places and hit us differently depending on our relation to it. Sometimes we get more offended when one of our kids or our friends gets hurt or attacked than if we are the one at whom the offense is aimed. But even more, we tend to be more offended when something we hold dear (like our faith or values) is the thing being attacked. This is what I saw after the opening ceremony at the Olympics. If you're not sure what I'm referring to, go ahead and Google it quick. But many Christians were offended by what occurred during that event. And I'm not going to address the issues or what might or might not have occurred, but I'm going to write about the response of Christians to what they perceived, and that response was, in multiple cases, annoyance, grief and downright anger. Now, I understand the feelings. I get the frustration, anger and the indignation of where people are at. But the key for a Christian is not the feeling we experience in something like this but what we chose to do with the feeling. What we feel is not often something we have complete control over, even though we definitely can do things that adjust how we feel over time. But we always have control over what we do with that emotion. And that's an important truth that I've been learning over the past decade especially in relation to how my choices based upon my emotions affects those around me. And we know this, but sometimes we don't process it well or we simply don't care what happens, we just feel

like we need to do something with that emotion. It can be so strong or overwhelming that we feel an incredible need to express it quickly. And the problem is, often, when that happens we create relational and community problems, including damaging opportunities to love and care for those around us. And, obviously, people will find a way to be offended no matter what we do, but what I'm seeing right now is that the general Christian response of anger, frustration and indignation about this situation, and especially the need we feel to "stand up for Jesus" is causing more damage than it is doing good. But, if we see what occurred as an offense to us (or to Jesus), we should consider what Jesus told us to do when we're offended, right? Did he tell us to respond with angry posts and attacks on those who made that choice? Was it to argue and bicker about the details of what happened? Was it to make sure we had our voices heard about our feelings? Now, and hopefully you're still with me, I understand all of those things. I participate in them too often myself. But my concern is that our response as Christians has created greater division and pushed more people away when it wasn't necessary. Jesus gives us very specific ways to handle our offenses in Matthew 18, but in general tells us to forgive when we are offended. When we argue, complain and 'stand up' against some of these things, it causes more division, which is exactly the opposite of what Jesus wants. We read in Proverbs 19.11, "A wise man restrains his anger and overlooks insults. This is to his credit." I believe many more people will see and know the love of God when we find ways to express

ourselves in positive and uplifting ways rather than attacks and condemnation. That doesn't mean that we never 'stand up' for truth and justice and what is right. But I pray, as Christians, we find a good balance for that and to, most importantly, love despite the offense and allow our service and caring for others to win others to Christ (rather than our arguments). Serving Him and you, Matthew

## Family Night

Family Night Kicks off on **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:00pm** with our annual kickoff followed by weekly meetings on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm. There is a signup for donations for the Kickoff in the back of the sanctuary for items such as soda, baked goods and other items we'll use throughout the year. If you're interested in helping cook or clean up, we could use some extra hands in the kitchen this year.

## Revival

**Starting Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** we will have nightly Revival **at 6pm** with Greg Parker speaking and the Barely Ables leading singing. Revival will run through **Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**. A signup sheet will be available to help in various ways. Light refreshments will follow each night and we hope you'll plan on coming and inviting some friends!

## Prayer List

Reese Allen (friend of Noah M.) - car accident  
 Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver  
 Patty Danner's house fire, moving forward

Cooper Davis - surgery, mass removed  
 Wilckly and Dee Dorce – medical concerns  
 Eric Hamm – leukemia  
 Marty Hulett - back surgery, recovery  
 Larry Jennings (friend of Brandon) - brain cancer  
 Chris Lewis – cancer  
 Rudy Lewis – dementia  
 Butch Maloney – cancer  
 Christine Mauseth (Marion's brother's girlfriend) - surgery, brain tumors  
 Margaret Miller – pacemaker, home now  
 Debbie Opp – chemo treatment, off work  
 Dennis and Cindy Ratcliff – health issues  
 Will Rhoades - bike accident, broken arm & teeth  
 Stambaugh family and friend Syllas - car accident  
 Tom Stevens - back surgery, cancer  
 Tari Stower (Sandy's daughter-in-law) - medical issues  
 Xander Thiner - broken collarbone  
 Marion Trone – foot and nail doing better  
 Becky Watson – cancer treatments started (insurance struggles)  
 Situation in Israel  
**Condolences**  
 Sandy Yokish family  
**Praise**  
 Dee Dorce - surgery went well  
 New Corrick baby girl!

## August Financials

|          | Weekly Actual | Year-to-Date Actual | Year-to-Date Budget |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Aug 4th  | \$1,167.00    | \$27,293.39         | \$28,877.74         |
| Aug 11th | \$889.00      | \$28,182.39         | \$29,809.28         |
| Aug 18th | \$573.00      | \$28,755.39         | \$30,740.82         |
| Aug 25th | \$930.00      | \$29,685.39         | \$31,672.36         |

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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.

Events:

Sun. Sep. 8<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting  
@6pm

Tues. Sep. 10<sup>th</sup> – Man Up @6:30pm

Sun. Sep. 15<sup>th</sup> – Community  
Worship in the  
park @10:30am

Mon. Sep. 16<sup>th</sup> – Camp Fellowship,  
Ipava @6pm

Wed. Sep. 18<sup>th</sup> – See You at the Pole  
@7:30am  
Family Night Kick-  
Off @6pm

Thurs. Sep. 19<sup>th</sup> – Ladies’  
Fellowship @6pm

Sun. Sep. 29<sup>th</sup> – Worship & Prayer  
@6pm

All events are subject to change. Please  
keep up to date by checking the bulletin,  
Facebook page or website.

