

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



Volume 1, Issue 9

PILGRIM CHURCH A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATION

November 1st, 2020

IS IT OVER?

By Pastor Paul Eknes-Tucker

In order to have everything in to Tammy to create this month's newsletter, I had to write this article before the November elections. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, we have a clearer understanding of what our future as a nation will look like. The *good news* is that all the campaign commercials on television and social media will finally be gone. The true news is that we still have a whole lot of work ahead of us as a nation. I would love to say that now is the time for us to unite across differences so that we can pull together to create a better future. *Yet, none of the challenges or entrenched opinions are changed by an election.* What the last four years of a Trump administration has taught me, is that our world doesn't need a lot of encouragement to revert to our basest self-interest. *It is a pull as old as history.* It seems every

Trust

GRACE

love PEOPLE

generation must learn this lesson in its own way. *I hope something has broken through the fog for this generation.*

With all that is swirling around us right now, I think I am more tired of the "petty" than I am the pandemic. As scary as a virus may be and as profound as its implications have been on our lives and economy, we've survived viruses before. I have a great deal of confidence in the minds and science that will help us overcome. It is a confidence born from experience

★ ★ ★
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
2020
★ ★ ★

that we bring our best when challenged with evidence and facts. *We seem to be less competent when we are challenged by different worldviews.*

As a Christian, my navigational capabilities are charted by a North Star of example. *Jesus told us that we honor God by trusting grace and loving people.* While I can be truly amazed by the choices some make for how they live and how they vote, **my first priority is to honor God.** I honor God with what I do and how I live. When I allow the actions of others to take me to actions and feelings that no longer honor God, then I am the one who has lost my way.

So, my mantra continues,
*"Trust grace, love people.
Trust grace, love people.
Trust grace, love people."
It isn't over yet.
"TRUST GRACE,
LOVE PEOPLE..."*



FOR VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES

Please refer back to the September and October Pilgrim's Progress Newsletters!
PLEASE VOTE!



Covenant Community Church Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Greetings Covenant and Pilgrim Family and Friends!

Although we cannot gather to celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner together this year, we will still be providing dinner with just a few modifications. On Sunday, November 22nd, 2020, we will be serving the traditional Turkey, Ham and all the fixings, available for pick up between 4 PM and 6 PM at the United Church Center "curbside."

To help us plan and be sure we have enough, there is an online order form we're asking members and friends to fill out and submit, along with any special needs or requests you may have. Just click on the link below to submit your order.

The form can be found here:

<https://jmichael205.wufoo.com/forms/covenant-community-church/>

During this time, please remember those who cannot come to the church to pick up dinners, those who are sick at home, have transportation challenges or challenges in mobility, those in quarantine. If you know of someone like this please consider picking up meals for them and add them to your order. Together, Covenant members and friends offer hope, show faithfulness and share joy!

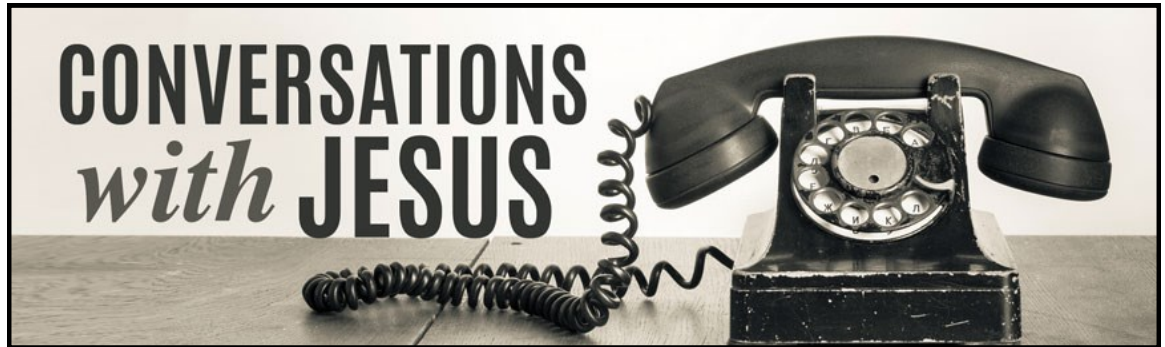
Is Your God Out To Lunch???

By Ron Collins

The Prophet Elijah was about "fed-up" with the people of Israel. He said, okay people, let's get this settled. If Baal is god then serve him. If the God of Abraham is

God then serve Him. I'll tell you what we are going to do. You see those two bulls? Well it's time for a sacrifice. The prophets of Baal can have one and I will take the other. We each will place a bull on an altar and call out to our god.

The one who answers with fire will be the one true god. All the people were in agreement. The prophets of Baal went first. They sang and danced and cried out to Baal to show his power. This went on for hours. Around noon Elijah started asking questions. I like to call this his "well, bless your heart" response. Why hasn't Baal answered? Maybe he is working in the garden, shout louder or perhaps, he has gone fishing or is taking a nap. Cry out to him. I bet I know what is happening, he is on



a lunch break. Yep, that's my main man Elijah. As the people continued to cry out to Baal, they started cutting themselves and other things to get his attention. As the time for the next sacrifice drew near, Elijah stood up. He took twelve stones, one for each tribe, and built an altar. He then dug a trench to surround the altar. After he cut up the bull he placed it on the altar. He then asked for four jugs of water. He poured ALL of the water over the altar. The water soaked the meat. It ran down the altar and filled the trench. Then Elijah started to pray, asking the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to show His power. This is the good part. Not only did Elijah's God answer with fire, but the fire also consumed the sacrifice, the twelve stones, and all the water from the

trench. It's in the Book: 1 Kings 18:22-34. Many times we are like the people of Israel. We get all excited when we see or feel the power of God. We are so excited that we are ready to storm the gates of Hell with a water gun. But, way too often after that "feeling" goes away, we go on with our life, leaving God on speed dial to talk with Him when we need Him. The question was, 'Is Your God Out To Lunch?'. Now that I think about it, God should be out to lunch. Yeah, God having lunch with someone special; that would be you. You and God spending some quality time each day. Just as you would talk to a close friend while munching on some chicken tenders and a glass of sweet tea, sharing your dreams, hurts and so much more. Then you ask Him, 'Father, what do You think?'. Make time each day for a lunch break, or breakfast, or even just a snack. Great food for the soul.



“We are so excited that we are ready to storm the gates of Hell with a water gun.”

FOND MEMORIES OF MY AUNT BELLE

By Jim Ball

The first 8 years of my life my family lived across the street from Papa and Grandma Ball and Aunt Belle. Aunt Belle lived next door to Papa and Grandma. At that time my parents had six kids, I was the third. Papa thought the sun rose and set in my oldest brother. Grandma thought my second brother was all there was. My Aunt Belle petted me!

My Aunt Belle, Bellzora Ball Wright, was born on January 16, 1896. She was the oldest and older sister of my Grandpa Ball. Her husband had died as a young man, she had no children. The first 8 years of my life Aunt Belle ruined me. I loved her so much

because she always made me feel special. On my sixth birthday Aunt Belle did something that showed just how much she loved me and how special I was to her.

I remember that the night of my birthday, February 13, 1960, was very cold and windy. We were all doing whatever we were doing and there was a knock at the door.

It was Aunt Belle! She said, **"I made Jim a bag of popcorn for his birthday!"**

Aunt Belle had made a bag of popcorn just for me! **How happy was I!** But it wasn't just a small bag of popcorn, it was a giant, brown paper grocery bag full of popcorn, enough for all! I felt so special as I got to give out popcorn

to everyone! I knew how much Aunt Belle loved me and how special I was to her.

My Aunt Belle was a sweet lady, always helping her own folks and others. She died on November 14, 1966 after suffering a massive stroke.



*Love overflows
and Joy never ends
in a Home that's
Blessed with
Family and Friends*



***I will always remember my Aunt Belle,
especially for making my Sixth
birthday so special!***

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

*To all of our
Church Family!*



GLUE FOR MY SOUL

By Lauren Blankenship

When I was asked to write about a childhood memory of someone doing something kind for me, I immediately thought about my mom and the time she glued my shoe soles together for me.

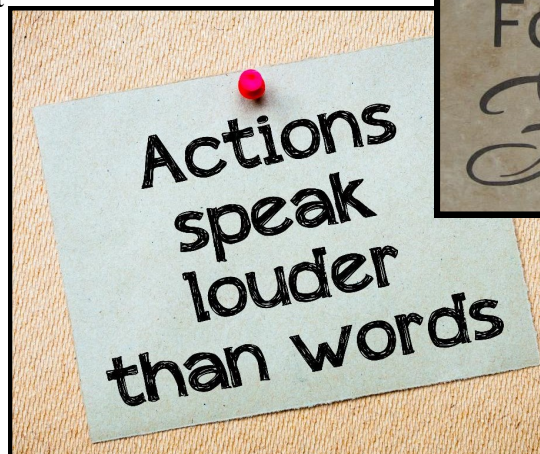
I was probably a toddler and my parents didn't have much money. The soles of my shoes were coming away from the rest of the shoe. My father wouldn't give my mother any money to buy me new shoes, so she carefully glued them back together so my toes wouldn't peep out the ends. I think she probably had to do this more than once over the years to keep other shoes from falling apart.

This was such a simple moment in my memory, but it was the love behind it that makes it a lasting one. My mother went on to support me, hold me together, and sacrifice for me in countless ways all throughout my childhood and she's still there for me to this day as *my prayer warrior, always encouraging, always feeding me the truth of the love of Christ, always there when I need her.* She's been the glue for both my "soles" and my "soul" my entire life.

It reminds me of the love of Christ and the story of Him washing the disciples' feet.



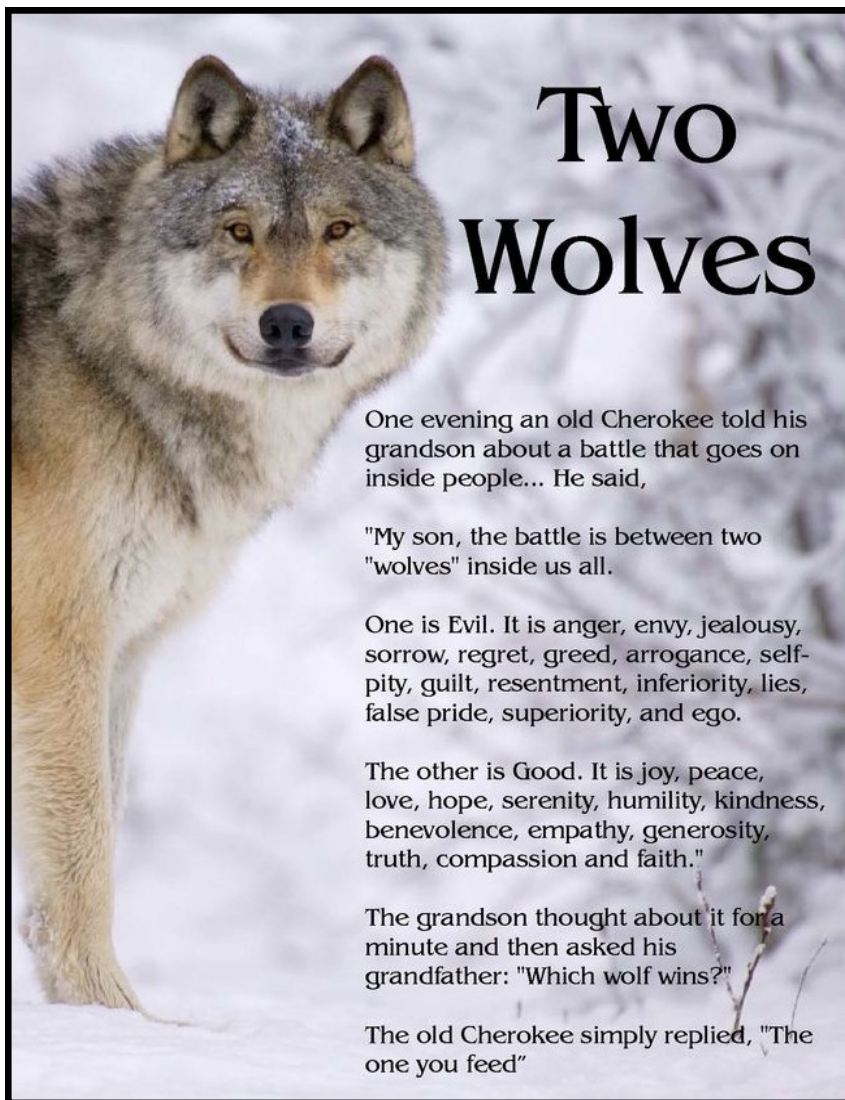
Seemingly small acts of love and kindness can hold immense power and have a lasting impact.



I pray God uses us each to be the glue for someone else and leave the lasting imprint of God's love on them for the rest of their lives.

There is no foot
too small
that it cannot leave an
imprint
on this
WORLD





Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people... He said,

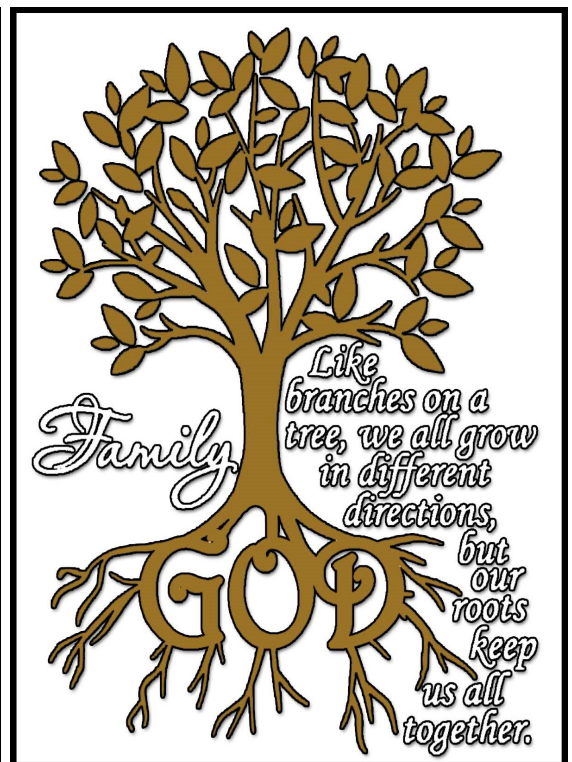
"My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all.

One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed"



Betty Thompson's Tomato Pie!

By Jim Ball

Ingredients:

- 1 9 Inch frozen deep dish pie crust, baked and cooled
- 2 Large Tomatoes (peeled or not), red or green, thickly sliced, or enough to fill pie shell
- Salt and Pepper, to taste
- 1/2 Cup chopped chives, green onions or onions
- 6 Slices of Bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1 Teaspoon Basil (optional)
- 1 Cup Mayonnaise
- 1 Cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Layer tomatoes in pie crust. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Top with onions, chives. Sprinkle on basil if desired. Sprinkle on bacon. Mix mayonnaise and cheese together, spread on top. Bake for 30 minutes or until lightly browned.

Eat and enjoy!



“Behold, a sower went out to sow...” Jesus taught about the kingdom of heaven by using parables. Fill in the clues from answers found in Matthew 13:3-23, to find the yield of good soil.

1. Example of one who sowed
2. Without roots, a person can easily “fall or trip”
3. Seed sown by the wayside can be easily “devoured” (2 words)
4. The birds in the parable (2 words)
5. Thorns
6. The soil or ground
7. Stony soil lacked this
8. The “crop” or harvest
9. The deceitfulness of riches can do this to the Word
10. Scorched by the sun
11. Seed (3 words)

God’s promise seemed almost beyond belief—but it proved true.

Clue: MESSIAH is NHLLXRG

DID YOU KNOW:

Adam was 930 years old when he died.
Genesis 5:5

Adam’s name comes from the Hebrew word “a da ma”, which means “the ground”.

“The Judas Tree” is the name given to a tree that Judas supposedly hung himself from. Matthew 27:5

Ehud is the only left-handed person mentioned in the Bible.

There are only TWO books in the whole Bible that are named after women and they are the book of RUTH & the book of ESTHER.

The Bible records two occasions on which books were burned:
Jeremiah 36:23 & Acts 19:19

Seth, Adam’s third son, was 912 years old when he died.



If you can’t fly, then **run**.
If you can’t run, then **walk**.
If you can’t walk, then **crawl**,
but by all means, **keep moving**.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

PILGRIM BIRTHDAYS
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



Rhoda Morgan ~ November 8th
Karen Eargle ~ November 14th
Larry Fitzgerald ~ November 22nd



PILGRIM ANNIVERSARIES
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Lance Simpson & Becky McDaniel
November 13th

**IF WE HAVE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY, WE APOLOGIZE!
PLEASE LET US KNOW & WE WILL GLADLY ADD IT!**