

June 17, 2020

Announcements

1. Join us for worship on Sunday, June 21 at 10:30AM on Facebook Live. It will also help us get more traffic if you comment and share on your Facebook page.
2. We have a Deacon's meeting tomorrow night at 5:30PM on Zoom. You should have received the correct link yesterday.
3. At last week's Session meeting, Session agreed to resume my normal drop in office hours. Feel free to drop-in any time. My office hours are Monday and Tuesday, 9:30AM - 12:00PM and Wednesday and Thursday 1:00PM-5:00PM. Per Session's decision, if there is more than one person in the office, you must wear a mask. So, if you come and visit me, you need to bring a mask. If you do not want to wear a mask, we can sit outdoors 6ft or more apart. You can always call me on my cell phone, which is 217-994-8588 or email me at revandysonneborn@gmail.com
4. Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in their tithes and offerings. Your support of our congregation is greatly appreciated during this time. We are continuing to support our staff and pay our expenses during this time. If you wish to send in your checks, please send them directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531.
5. So far, our congregation has donated 459.06lbs of food to the food pantry. This includes 285lbs of ground pork recently donated by Duley Farms because the Duley children were concerned about making sure that people were getting enough to eat during this crisis. Thank you so much for your generous donation. We are well on our way to reaching my goal of our congregation donating 1000lbs of food to the food pantry by December 31, 2020. I challenge all of you to help us meet this goal by dropping off food each Friday in our grocery cart, which will be outside the CE building at the corner of Fulton and Gold.
6. We have copies of the These Days devotionals for July, August, and September in the office. Please reach out to me if you'd like a copy, or swing by the office.

Scripture: Psalm 86

LORD, listen closely to me and answer me, because I am poor and in need. Guard my life because I am faithful. Save your servant who trusts in you—

you! My God! Have mercy on me, Lord, because I cry out to you all day long. Make your servant's life happy again because, my Lord, I offer my life to you, because, my Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of faithful love for all those who cry out to you. Listen closely to my prayer, LORD; pay close attention to the sound of my requests for mercy. Whenever I am in trouble, I cry out to you, because you will answer me. My Lord! There is no one like you among the gods! There is nothing that can compare to your works! All the nations that you've made will come and bow down before you, Lord; they will glorify your name, because you are awesome and a wonder-worker. You are God. Just you.

Meditation

The author of Psalm 86:1-10 is apparently going through something major in their life. "Listen closely to me and answer, because I am poor and in need. Guard my life because I am faithful..." The rest of the first 10 verses of Psalm 86 go on much like this. I'm not sure what is going on in the life of the Psalm writer, but it is clear that they are anxious and worried. They are begging God to draw near to them and to help protect them from all that is going on in their lives. While the language used in this Psalm might not be familiar to many modern day speakers, the feeling behind it certainly is familiar. I would argue that we know exactly what it's like to cry out to God for mercy in a time of need. We are in the midst of a pandemic and a financial crisis. People are worried and they are tired and they are frustrated. It doesn't help anything that it's been absolutely beautiful outside recently. We want our lives to be back to normal. We want God to restore our life, to be full of faithful love in our time of need. Now is the perfect time to be turning to God. With all that is going on in our lives, we need to look beyond ourselves to something greater, something bigger than ourselves. We put our faith in God's mercy, that it is greater and more abundant than we can possibly imagine.

I wish that we weren't here right now. I wish I could wave a magic wand and suddenly everything is back to normal. I wish we could have VBS and our 4th of July festival and I could go on my trip to Maine that I had planned for a year now. But I know that, even though life is difficult and we have had to make difficult decisions, we are not alone. God is faithful still. So, in our anxiety and our nervousness, let us turn our attention to God. Let us come to God with thanksgiving because we are not alone. God's mercy

is ever-flowing and abundant. We will get through this together. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer, including Lord's Prayer

Let us pray...

God of grace and love, we come to you today, thankful for the sun that is shining. We are grateful for all the ways in which your mercy shines forth. Help us in this time to look beyond the here and now and to look towards you. Today we lift up all the doctors and nurses and scientists and tech who are working around the clock to find a cure and treatment for COVID-19. Give them wisdom and endurance and patience. Be with all those who are sick this day. Give them healing according to your will. And, we pray, for those who are mourning this day. May they feel your peace and comfort and may they trust that their loved one is at rest in the arms of the Savior this day. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together saying,

“Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen”

Benediction

Go this day and take all of you to God in prayer. And as you continue throughout the day, may you go with the love of God, the peace of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, this day and every day. Go in peace to serve the Lord. Amen.