

THE BELL

April 2022
Gather, Love, Serve, Impact

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

I have tried in my studies to find at least one portion of Scripture, especially, in the New Testament when the intended audience was going through a good time, or an easy time. The bible was written for God's people when times were very difficult. It is meant to give hope to those going through hard lives. It is meant to be a source of light to those who can only see darkness in their lives.

With this passage from Lamentation we can be assured that just as the sun comes up every morning, God's mercies never end. They are not based on how good we were yesterday, or how good we might be tomorrow. God's provision for the day is based on His steadfast character. His compassion and love for us is fresh every morning and each day we receive and every breath we take is a gift straight from His hand.

Here are just some ways that we can have hope for the days ahead when things get hard. Just some ways to remember that in the morning his mercies will be new and enough for the day we face.

1. God has Forgiven and Redeemed Us:

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, ...who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your life with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ... The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,

abounding in love. ... for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him, as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgression from us. ..." (Psalm 103:2-5, 9, 11-12)

It is easy to become cynical today and it may seem far easier to complain about everything than to praise God. However, there is great power available in choosing to set our hearts and minds on Jesus Christ by offering him praise for who he is and what he has done and continues to do in our lives. Remembering God's promises, and choosing to praise Him and trust His Sovereignty, is the first step towards finding hope in the hard seasons.

2. He Is Bigger than this Battle:

"Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You." (Jeremiah 32:17)

God often reminds us that He is greater than the problem, the obstacle, the giant, and the fear. He is a God of miracles who works on behalf of His children, even where we can't fully see. We may not understand the reason for everything on this side of heaven, but God is always faithful.

3. God's Power Is Made Perfect in Our Weakness:

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions,

in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

It’s certainly never easy, but the truth is our greatest growth and perseverance come from the hard seasons. Through hard places, God brings us to deeper humility and dependency on Him. The sooner we can embrace this truth, the sooner we can be filled with the power of His Spirit over every problem.

4. He Reminds Us to Choose Joy:

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing...” (1 Peter 4:12-13)

He tells us not to be surprised at the troubles we face, but to “keep on rejoicing.” This is a difficult thing if you only focus on your circumstances. But if we focus on His promises for our lives and can look past our present situation and see his work in our hearts and in our faith then we can rejoice even when it doesn’t make sense.

Maybe it should be reworded. Instead of “keep on rejoicing,” it should read, “Instead, choose to rejoice.” Because truly, it’s a choice. It may be hard to keep choosing joy when life seems to press us down, but God wants to lift our burdens and remind us that what we hope in is still ahead of us.

5. God Covers Us in His Care:

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, ‘My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!’ He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge.” (Psalm 91:1-4)

The enemy will always tempt us to believe we are forgotten and left on our own. We have to make the choice to step right over his traps. We may not be aware, but God is leading, carrying us, even when we don’t understand how we’re getting through each day. The Bible is filled with countless reminders

that He loves us and that His Presence covers us, goes before us, and hems us in from behind. God never asks us to face the struggles alone.

6. God Gives Us His Grace and Mercy for Each New Day:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Every single morning, God is waiting to meet with us, with the fresh filling of His Spirit, with strength for the day ahead. He offers us the rich blessings of His grace and mercy that never run dry. And here’s what those gifts mean for our lives:

- Grace = getting what we don't deserve
- Mercy = not getting what we do deserve

I pray that during this time as you draw near to Him today, may you sense His powerful presence surrounding you in every way.

Our Good Friday service will be held at the church on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 PM.

Sunrise Service will be held at church at 6:15AM on Sunday, April 17 followed by a light breakfast provided by Ministry and Council.

Join us again at 9:30 for Sunday school, and 10:30 for our regularly scheduled service time.

Missions

The Mission focus for April and May will go towards Camp Quaker Heights for a project of a pergola over the deck at Tall Oaks Lodge.

Youth

The youth mission trip was canceled for this summer, as there were not enough youth signed up. There is still great participation during DEEPER on Wednesday's ranging anywhere from 6-16 youth.

Camp Dates (Contact Robin or Alicia for discount code)

Little Fry	June 10-12	Grades K-2
Jr High	June 12-16	Grades 6-8
Sr High	June 17-22	Grades 9-12
Elementary	June 23-26	Grades 3-5

Children's Easter Celebration

The Christian Education committee is hosting a celebration for kids up through 5th grade.

Join us on Saturday, April 16 from 9:30-11:00 AM for crafts, games, an Easter story, snack, and egg hunt!

Bring a friend!

Mystery Friend

Our Mystery Friend for April was born in Houston, Missouri. He/She has 3 brothers and 1 sister. This person attended school at Union-Whitten and BCL. He/She has been a RADAR tech and cryptographic equip tech in the Air Force. After the Air Force this person has been a printer/copier tech. Favorite foods are tacos, pizza, steak, and baked potatoes. Most people would not know that this person has petted a shark at 80 feet deep. He/She has traveled a lot, but especially notes Omaha Beach in Normandy. This person especially likes the friends and the potlucks at Bangor Liberty Friends. Letters in our Mystery Friend's name are:

AAEEEIONDDLNRBRT

The Mystery Friend for March was Margaret Evelyn Good.

Prayers

- Macy Family
- Royal & Jan Young
- Shirley Davis's recovery
- Izola, Charlene's great-niece battling cancer
- Kent, Matt's friend who is in rehab after stroke
- Mara Transport employee
- Cami Rose, newborn great-niece to Diane Teske, at Uof I hospital
- Baby James (family of Kristy A.) in NICU

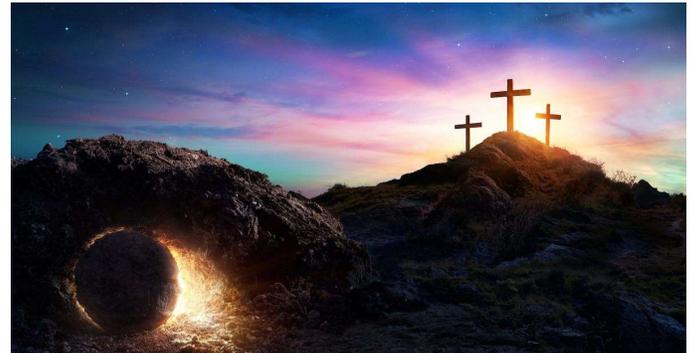
It's a Girl!

Welcome Isla Kathryn Michels, second daughter to Andy and Emma (Macy) Michels, born on March 25. She weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19.25" at birth. At home to welcome her is a very excited big sister Madelyn.

Library Ledge –Easter

Easter is coming soon. There will be many young children excited to see the Easter eggs & Easter rabbit, while running to gather as many eggs as they can. It is so fun to watch them search & find these treasures. Do we search & find our treasure, Jesus Christ, with the same enthusiasm?

This is a great time for Reflection on our lives and what Christ means to us. Pick up a book from our library. **Life is to be Celebrated, Rumors of the Resurrection, Suddenly One Morning, A Miracle a Day, The Eighth Day of Creation**, an anthology of Christian scripture. **The Incredible Power of Prayer** advises us not to rush off to do God's work before we have properly prepared with adequate prayer. **Miracles Happen When You Pray** - True stories that illustrate the power of prayer and the power of God.





Liberty USFW

Liberty USFW Ladies Meet for Work Night and Salad Pot"lucky"

On March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the Liberty USFW ladies met for their March meeting in the Bangor Liberty Friends Church Fellowship Hall. Co hostesses Darlene Bradley and Veronica Daniel served the pot"lucky" of delicious salads. Diane Teske shared devotions using spring and resurrection as her theme. The roll call, "Share a Limerick," brought a lively collection of limericks from the 12 members and 1 guest. One limerick was from school days long ago, one from a favorite author, some were courtesy of Google, and some original ones written by members. After a short business meeting the work began. Diane Teske directed the members as they spent the evening working in groups: assembling and sewing feminine care items for Days for Girls in Africa, sewing receiving blankets, and tying fleece blankets. The April meeting will be on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Sharon Johnson. The program will be a visit with Jennifer Davis as she shares about her recent trip to Jordan.

Iowa USFW Spring Fling

"Resting In His Shadow"

"Our Renewal of Hope"

This year's Spring Fling will be hosted by Motor Friends Church in Milo, IA. Join us on Saturday, April 23 from 10:00-3:00 with registration from 9:30-10:00. Tanya English of West Branch Friends Church will provide the morning message. The afternoon session will be about the PAD Project for Africa and Personal Packets for Kenya Women and Girls. Cost is only \$10 and can be paid in advance or at the door. **Register to Lila Smith at kensila@aol.com no later than April 20th.**