



“WHEN THE SUN SHINES IT WILL SHINE THE CLEARER”

One of the finest characters in the Lord of the Rings trilogy was Sam. Samwise Gamgee, the loyal friend and protector of Frodo Baggins, the bearer of the ring. He clearly had his flaws but he’s markedly selfless, gallant and pure of heart and if it were not for him, Frodo would never have completed his destiny with honor. He not only had a profound depth of character he had a profound vision of the big picture. This is obvious from a piece that occurs near the end of The Two Towers.

At one point Frodo is overcome by the evil ring he bears and must destroy and he is near to giving himself up to its evil power and Sam saves him in the nick of time. Still blinded by the ring’s power, Frodo pulls his sword on Sam and has it at his throat and Sam gasps to his deranged friend:

“It’s me, it’s your Sam, don’t you know your own Sam?”

Frodo recovers and confesses the job’s too much for him.

Frodo: “I can’t do this Sam.”

Sam: “I know. It’s all wrong. By rights we shouldn’t even be here, but we are. It’s like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo. The ones that really mattered, full of darkness and danger they were. Sometimes you didn’t want to know the end, because how could the end be happy. How could the world go back to the way it was when there’s so much bad that had happened?

But in the end it’s only a passing thing, this shadow; even darkness must pass.

A new day will come, and when the sun shines, it will shine out the clearer. Those are the stories that stay with you, that meant something, even if you were too small to understand why.

But I think, Mr. Frodo, I do understand. I know now. How folk in those stories had lots of chances for turning back, only they didn’t. They kept going because they were holding on to something.”

Frodo: “What are we holding on to Sam?”

Sam: “That there’s some good left in this world Mr. Frodo...and it’s worth fighting for.”

There’s so much that is gospel-like here. In light of the Story, the one that ultimately matters, there are things and people and a glorious Lord worth fighting for, worth living for and worth dying for.

Is this not Hebrews 11:32-40? Does that truth not help us to want to continue the war until the return of the King?

A new day WILL come! Because HE is coming.

In the meantime He is making His presence felt in and through all the friends who travel with us! Flawed friends, it’s true, but friends who travel with us on the same quest, helping us to fulfill our unique place in the service of the King. We each in the divine drama that is life have to bear the ring of evil to its total destruction and others can’t do it for another but as Sam in the final episode says before picking up the exhausted Frodo: “If I can’t carry the ring for you I can carry you.”

(Holy Father, help us to recognize that we are not alone in bearing burdens, that others bear burdens too. And we fervently ask you to supply sufficient strength that we don’t become fixated on our own and that we will help one another to bear what we can’t bear for them. And perhaps we will find that in helping them we too are helped. Would you do that? In light of Jesus we know you must be happy with such a request.)

By Jim McGuiggan

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
Suspended until Sept 15 th	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunt Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 8am to noon

ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	72
AM Worship	92
PM Worship	31

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$3440

Things to Know

Helping Hands Camp Donations

Ladies if you would like to make homemade items to sell at the upcoming ladies retreat please see Sally Guest. All proceeds from your donation will go toward the camp.

Ladies Retreat Donations

We are asking the ladies of the congregation for your help with baked goods. If you can make and donate items such as cookies, brownies, muffins or sweet breads, please see Patty Pinney or Heidi Guest.

Men’s Retreat

Sept 17th & 18th. Flyers on back table.

Visiting Preacher

Edison Gruber is the first Navajo graduate of the Bear Valley Preaching School. He has served at the Crown Point NM church of Christ since 1993.

DISHWASHER



Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

- MATTHEW 23:25 NIV



PRAYER REQUESTS

Dee Faber pray that her fistula heals, and her pain will be relieved.

Adrian Lopez (Rick Lopez’s brother) has been found and in a treatment program. Thank you all for your prayers!

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Rusty & Bonnie Parker** many difficulties with Rusty’s dementia

~ **Bob Justice** continued healing

~ **Sean Steward (friend of Barry & Millie Redden)** extreme side effects of COVID

~ **Richard McDonald (Katherine Stewart’s brother-in-law)** bladder cancer

~ **Suzanne Lacey (friend of the Gowers)** treatment for kidney cancer

~ **Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miller’s niece)** treatment for her brain cancer.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler’s son-in-law)** cancer treatment

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

~ **Carol Ann Burdine (former member)** chemo for new tumors.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Ravenell Young

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann’s mother) in Circle of Life Alzheimer’s Home