



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

“CAN IT”

Building Authentic Community – Ephesians 4:1-6

1) Recipe for a healthy congregation is _____.

- C = _____
- A = _____
- N = _____
- S = _____

2) Ecclesia = _____ = _____

The church should be a _____ community where believers find a place to _____.

I. _____ of the Community

- _____ speaks to the _____ you personally give to the _____ of Christ.
- _____ of Christ

II. _____ of the Community

- Eager to _____ the Unity of the Spirit.
- Bond of peace
- _____ - _____ because the same Spirit brought us into the Body - 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

III. _____ of the Community

- The Seven “ONES”
 - 1 Body – Let God decide and define
 - 1 Spirit – Life Principle of the Church
 - 1 Hope – Not verb, but possession.
 - 1 Lord – Only One in charge.
 - 1 Faith – Who determines doctrine?
 - 1 Baptism - “He who believes will be saved and should be baptized.” (Acts 19:1-6)
 - 1 God & Father -

We all have a _____ to make to the Community.

At times a congregation can benefit from looking inside and seeing how people, both inside and out, view it. Two quotes help us to think about what we are lifting up as we seek to lift up Christ. “Famed Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan (the man who predicted the worldwide web 30 years before it existed) is known for coining the phrase, ‘The medium is the message.’ He understood that the way we communicate is more important than the things we say.” It has to do how we are perceived. If people are turned off by how we say something, it doesn’t matter what we say. Philip Graves said, “The environment is a massive influence on how we behave. Change the environment, and you change how people perceive everything else.”

We cannot change what the Bible teaches but we can change how we practice hospitality. This is a basic charge for congregations. Welcoming seekers and creating an environment that accepting. This means we have to think seriously about what we are trying to accomplish. An illustration that helps convey this point comes from NASA. When they launch a rocket, the purpose is to get a payload of some sort into outer space. They payload is actually a small part of the rocket. Most of the rocket is fuel, boosters and engines. Lots of attention is given to getting the rocket, (93%) to ensure the payload (7%) gets to where it needs to be.

We need to be wise in understanding how things actually work, especially when it comes to the atmosphere in which we hope faith will form and grow. People who need God will not listen unless they feel comfortable and accepted. Faith is a relationship...sharing faith involves creating relationships. Here are a few ideas that can help us with that:

- Get rid of churchy jargon.
- Think in terms of making friends.
- Family and friends bring family and friends.
- Embrace the power of names.
- Tell your story.
- Eat together.
- Smile
- Be patient

Sermon Summaries

Morning “Can It” – Building Authentic Community – Ephesians 4:1-6

The church of Christ is the most unique and useful social organization that exists today. Especially during troubling times, both culturally and personally, people need hope. People need to know there is more to this life than politics and pandemics. Each person we encounter is created in the image of God and our task is to help them discover that fact. It matters greatly how we represent the God of creation. In Ephesians 4:1-6, Paul gives us instruction of what the church of Christ should look like. What a powerful picture.

Evening *The Life of Joseph – I keep Praying and Nothing Happens – Genesis 39:10-20*

Some people believe that, as a follower of Jesus, if we do the right thing, everything will work out. If I read my Bible and pray, God will hear and answer my prayers and my life will be good. While I do know that if you love the Lord your God will all your heart, things will go well, life won't always be “good.” We live in a fallen world and interact with people who have a self-style ethic. That place of conflict in value systems can mean struggle for Christians. But Joseph's life teaches us a powerful example; wherever we find ourselves, that is the where we live for God. He will always be with us.

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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ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	55
AM Worship	86
PM Worship	31

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$3379

Abounding in Hope

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13).

I don't know that there is any worse feeling than that of hopelessness. Left unchecked, it is soon followed by despair. These strong feelings present themselves those who are suicidal. Satan desires humans to die in sin so they may accompany him to the place prepared for him and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Satan does not want people to have hope, and that means that hope is a powerful tool of God for good. God is the God of hope (Romans 15:13). This verse also presents a connection between joy, peace, faith, and hope. Joy, peace, and faith are powerful tools of the Holy Spirit that enable the Christian to abound in hope.

Having a life filled and overflowing with hope is a process that begins with faith, the foundation of joy and peace. It is “in believing” that God fills us with joy and peace. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). Joy and peace are the natural results of believing (in an obedient way) God's word. The Ethiopian nobleman went on his way rejoicing after believing (in an obedient way) the word of God (Acts 8:39). Peace comes from the fact that we have Christ as our reconciler (Ephesians 2:14-22). It is a blessing of putting our trust in Christ. Philippians 3:6-7 emphasize the connection between trusting in God through prayer and receiving the peace of God that passes all understanding. When we have faith producing joy and peace, then we have wonderful hope in the One who can bring the abundant life both now and in eternity (John 10:10).

By Kevin Cauley --- churchofchristarticles.com

Things to Know

Ladies Retreat

September 10 & 11 at CBBC. Flyers on back table.

Men's Retreat

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

LADIES RETREAT MEETING

Wed. July 28th 11am at church building.

Calendars

August birthday and anniversary calendars on the back table.



Longing For Your Presence

Dear God who cares for your creation,
Look down upon us with compassion.
See our need and save our spirits.
Open our eyes to what's important.

Our hearts are longing for your
presence.

Help us change what dims our view
Of your good will and certain promise.
Today be with our souls. Amen.

By J. Randal Matheny

PRAYER REQUESTS

Larry Miller is recovering from pneumonia

George & Gwen Lira (father & daughter) Gwen been attending since September 2019. George trying to recover from life threatening car accident. Will be discharged from hospital soon; Gwen needs guidance from God to make the best decisions for her dad and for herself.

Georgia Rodriguez (George Parks daughter) recovering from heart attack and having a stent placed.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Tracy Schoen** (Marcia & Jesse Serrano's daughter) recovering from COVID side effects.

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

~ **Suzanne Lacey** (friend of Gowers) kidney and lung cancer.

~ **Brandy Aquafedda** (Denise Miler's niece) cancer treatment.

~ **Bob Justice** continued healing

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

~ **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.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Betty McInnes (Syble Mann's mother) in Circle of Life Alzheimer's Home; being treated for pneumonia.

DON'T STAY IN THE SEWER A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

— ROMANS 6:1-2 NIV