

The Gift of Joy

Warren Mueller

Jesus was so certain of his purpose that he predicted when and how he would die (Matthew 26:2). What is our purpose?

Some would answer that it is to love God while others might say that it is to serve him. Hebrews 12:2 says: *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Jesus looked beyond the suffering, shame, and death he knew was to come and focused on the joy that would be. What is this joy that so motivated him?

The Bible says that there is great joy in heaven whenever a sinner repents (Luke 15:10). Likewise, the Lord rewards good works and there is joy in hearing him say, “Well done good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21, 23) Therefore, Jesus anticipated the joy that would happen when each person would repent and be saved. He also looked forward to the joy that would result from each good work done by believers in obedience and motivated by love.

Ephesians 2:1-10 tells us that by nature we are rebellious towards God and are born spiritually dead. It is by his love and grace that he brings us to faith and reconciliation. God has even planned our good works (Ephesians 2:10)!

What then is our purpose?

We can give him joy! What a wonderful God we have who honors sinners like us by giving us the ability to give him pleasure! He rejoices and experiences joy as we respond to him in repentance, love and good works that bring him glory!

Give Jesus the gift of joy for he is looking forward to it!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732
Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

August 22, 2021

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Contagion

Arthur will be preaching today.

Scripture Reading: James 3:13-18

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the Psalms and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** August 25th, at the building, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing his lessons on the book of Matthew. Come at 6 and bring something to eat with us before the lesson if you like.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday (3rd Sunday):** September 19th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class will resume on Tuesday, September 7th here at the building.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book Living Stones by Cassandra Martin.
- ❖ **Second Annual National Door-knocking Day** for Heart to Heart, Home to Home. October 2nd.



- **The next 5th Sunday Regional Singing will be next Sunday, August 29th. We at Valley Cities will be hosting it. We will need contributions of food to serve our guests...soups, sandwiches, chips, desserts, etc.**
- **A donation will be made to Hospice by Valley Cities church in memory of Dawn's sister Alice.**
- Items needed in the kitchen that you have the opportunity to donate are **bottles of water, any size, paper bowls, napkins, sugar, ground coffee (regular and/or decaf) and creamer. Just drop off in kitchen. Thanks!**
- **Barrys are having a wing ding at their house on Saturday, September 11th. Starting at 3pm, dishes to pass gratefully accepted, but not necessary. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them.**

PRAYERS

- **Pray for the people of Afghanistan as there is turmoil while the Taliban takes control of the country.**
- **Pray for the people of Haiti following the terrible earthquake that caused death and devastation there last week.**
- Pray for **Jackie**. She is dealing with edema of the legs and feet. Daughter Vickie is visiting from OK, and they are also seeking a second opinion from a kidney specialist. Pray for Darlene as she cares for her.
- **Gail Westerhold** is recovering from kidney surgery to remove cancer. She suffered much pain at first, but is now feeling a bit better, she says.
- **Jerry** lost consciousness last week causing a trip to the ER and treatment for dehydration.
- **Miki's cousin by marriage, Steve Noble**, needs a lung transplant. Please pray for him and his wife Donna.
- Pray for **Linnett Short** (lung cancer), **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army), **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer), **Dan Myers** (several health concerns), **Arthur's sister Sue** (breast cancer), **Arthur's brother Chris** (Alzheimer's).
- **Pray for our ladies Bible class.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.