

Jesus the Uniter by David R. Ferguson

The Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 3:26-29 [Simple English]: “You were all immersed into Christ. So, you were all clothed with Christ. You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and non-Jew, between slave and free, between male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. You belong to Christ. Therefore, you are Abraham's descendants. You receive all of God's blessings because of the promise.”

Jesus prayed for unity among His followers when He said in John 17:21 (Simple English), saying, “May all of them be united, just as You are in Me and I am in You. I pray that they will be in Us, so that the people of the world may believe that You sent Me.”

When we become a child of God, we become a joint heir with Christ and His riches (Ephesians 1:5 and 14; Ephesians 3:6; Galatians 4:7). God wants peace to reign in His family. As Jesus said in Matthew 5:9 and Mark 3:25 (Simple English), “People who make peace are happy, because they will be called the sons of God. If a family is divided and fights against itself, that family will not be able to stand.”

Jesus also taught in John 3:16 (Simple English) that all people, regardless of one's background, were welcome into His Kingdom: "God loved the people of the world so much that He gave up His only Son. Every person who commits himself to Jesus will not be destroyed. Instead, that person will have eternal life." Jesus' message of salvation is available to all, and He tears down the walls of separation that exist between us. This is why Paul could write to a master regarding his runaway slave, “Perhaps this is why Onesimus was separated for a while. Now you can have him back forever. Onesimus is not really a slave anymore. No, he is more than a slave; he is a dear brother – especially to me. But this is even more true for you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord” (Philemon 1:15-16, [Simple English]).

When we keep our eyes and hearts focused upon Jesus and lift Him up as our Redeemer and personal Savior, our house will truly be in one accord. The Body of Christ, which is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23), will be the example our Father wants us to be! The world will then know that God our Heavenly Father sent Jesus, for they will know us by our love we hold for one another:

“You must have love for **one another**. **This is how everyone will know that you are My followers**” (John 13:35 [Simple English]).

May we all be one unified body of believers in Christ!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838
Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

July 2, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: In the Garden

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:1-9

Steve is preaching today.

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm July 5, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the third chapter on O (obeying). You should receive notes ahead of time by email.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – July 16.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, July 11. **Jonah cont'd. No class this Tuesday because of Independence Day.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing** – July 30. **Here.**



Fourth of July BBQ picnic: Tuesday, July 4th at Paul & Dawn's house- 350 Dean Creek Rd., Spencer, NY 14873.

Beginning at 12 noon, bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs. Meat, BBQ beans and Mac 'n cheese and other things will be provided.

The “**House to House and Heart to Heart**” mailing took place three weeks ago and we have already received a few responses by mail. Arthur followed up one of these by delivering some additional Bible study materials.

We should be planning our **5th Sunday Singing** which we are hosting at the end of the month.

PRAYERS

Sandy and Arthur are thankful for a good trip to Alaska and time spent with close family and church family both in Soldotna and Anchor Point, where Arthur used to preach. Praise for this wonderful opportunity!

Darlene has painful esophagitis and has possibly been exposed to covid within the last few days, so she needs prayer.

Jackie is home today with a painful rheumatoid arthritis flareup. Please pray that this can subside quickly.

Steve is awaiting the results this week of a skin biopsy. Please pray that it is negative.

Amy's results came back negative for serious things that could be causing her stomach issues, yet she is still experiencing discomfort. Please pray that she can find out what the problem is and be able to start the healing process.

Pray for much success with the House to House and Heart to Heart outreach effort.

Steve and Amy's neighbor's brother-in-law Brian is making slow but steady progress in rehab following his accident when a tree fell on him.

Bonnie's brother Gregg was experiencing pain and discomfort following his recent cancer surgery. Pray for his relief.

Pray for these people:

- **Bob** (Steve Burger's brother-in-law)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Sue Barry-** Breast cancer stage 4 chemo treatment. Pray that she will go into remission.
- **Pat Guthrie-** lung cancer, stage 4 chemo treatment
- **Mike Walls,** frontal lobe dementia. He is not improving. **Carrie** needs prayer and encouragement.
- **Jim Sexton,** esophageal cancer, he is back on chemo.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April,** terminal cancer, salvation
- **The people of Ukraine, Russia and Sudan.**
- **Jerry Lowe-** needs contact with a church, and encouragement

.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.