

Last Day (AB)

This is the last Sunday of the year of our LORD, two thousand, twenty three. Tomorrow, if the LORD wills, we will begin the year of our LORD, two thousand, twenty four.

Why do we celebrate ends and beginnings? Birthdays, seasons, anniversaries, etc... They carry emotional significance for everyone but, as Christians, we hope for eternal newness, and God does promise that blessing to us.

Romans 6:4 *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

Bearing in mind that the entire revelation of God speaks of Messiah and the resurrection to eternal life, we see why ends and beginnings are such a huge part of our psyche. So, when Jesus went up to the Temple in Jerusalem in the middle of the Feast of Booths, it was on the last great day of the feast that He stood up and spoke the messianic promise to be a source of living water. That would be when He poured out the Holy Spirit after His resurrection and returned to Heaven. (John 7:37-39)

The last day of the Feast of Booths was the eighth day, which is technically the first day of a 7-day week. Jesus resurrected on the first day of the week, Sunday, and He poured out His Spirit on the day of Pentecost, which is 50 days after Passover (Leviticus 23:16). That is, one day after the 49th day, which would also be a Sunday. If the number seven is the measure of completeness, why does God use the concept of the eighth day so often? In the Bible we find that it applies to the dedication of animals, priests, the Temple, and of course it is the day that a male child is circumcised.

The number eight becomes the hope of newness because it goes beyond our normal measure... into a different measure altogether. Eight includes the seven but it brings the seven to an end. It is the beginning that will have no end. The LORD is the Alpha and the Omega because He is beyond them both, and He is the beginning and the end, because He is beyond them both. He is the one and the seven because He is beyond them both. Those of us who have the Spirit of Christ stand at the dawn of a new day that will never end. With that in mind.... Happy New Year!



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

December 31, 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. on Zoom

Today's Sermon: Favorable Year of the LORD

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:14-21

Steve will be 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 December 13, on Zoom, Arthur will continue the study from G.R.O.W. We will be in lesson #33 (Giving).
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, January 2. We will begin our study of Habakuk.
- ❖ **Next Potluck & Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – January 21.
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing-** March 31 at Horseheads.



Our Holiday message is being broadcast on WEBO (FM) WATS (AM) and Choice 102.1. Pray this will be a source of contact with area residents.

Preacher Search: We have officially launched our preacher search as we seek to bring a minister who will live in this community and build this church in the coming years, LORD willing. Arthur has drafted an introductory letter and asks that we all share it with our network of contacts.



PRAYERS

- **Sandy is sick with COVID.** As of Saturday, Arthur is symptom-free.
- **Please pray for Steve's brother Brian** who has prostate cancer. **Also, Steve's sister Deb, who has leukemia and has recently also been diagnosed with breast cancer.**
- Pray for **Darlene** as she seeks treatment for the pain in her throat and esophagus. Also pray for her and Doug as they sojourn in FL over the winter.
- **Dawn Cowles-** breast cancer, and loss of her sister **Sandy McFarland.**
- **Margarite,** Ruthie's friend suffered a stroke recently and is undergoing rehabilitation at Beechtree, in Ithaca.
- **Steve Burger.** Pray for his wife Judy and their two daughters and families for peace and comfort.

Continue to pray for these people:

- **Monique (Miki's friend)-** gradual withdrawal from morphine pain killer
- **Bonnie's brother Greg** upcoming hernia surgery.
- **Pat Guthrie-**he has lung cancer, stage 4, and his wife Robin.
- **Paulette-** Pain coming from her spine and affecting her hip and leg. Pray that this will improve with time.
- **Mike Walls,** frontal lobe dementia, and his wife Carrie
- **Sue Barry-** stage 4 breast cancer. (currently in remission)
- **Brian (Steve and Amy's neighbor's b-i-l),** who was injured by a falling log and is in a rehab center near Albany.
- **Jim Sexton-** on Hospice care for esophageal cancer, and his wife Debbie.

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.