

Someone asked me

this morning, “Why does all this bad stuff keep happening?” She had just been telling me about the various struggles her family had been facing recently, especially health and physical issues they were dealing with. But her question caught me a little off-guard because she’s a lady who has her own chronic and significant health struggles, too. If anyone would understand those big, hard and devastating health issues, I assumed she would. But I also get it, too. No matter what we’ve dealt with in this life and struggled with in the past, when we have new and persisting issues that we face, we get a little down. We feel a little more defeated. We begin to question more and more just how we will manage these new sets of circumstances. Because it never does end, does it? There will always be another hard diagnosis for someone we love. There will always be another accident or tragedy that we face in our lives. There will always be death and pain and loss no matter how much we faced in the past and no matter how long we live. In fact, the longer we live, the more we will face physical and relationship loss. My answer to her question was, unfortunately, probably not that helpful. I told her I understand and I know that it just feels so heavy and harsh. We live in a messed up, even evil world, and we have to deal with the loss and pain on a regular basis. And though that’s true, I’m not sure that’s entirely helpful either. Even though we know and expect bad, even catastrophic, things to happen, it never gets easier. And, in some ways, it probably shouldn’t. If it got easier, it might mean we’ve come to just accept it and not strive for it to be any better. If we just go with it, we might not work at our relationships to be stronger or we might not grieve the losses we face as well as we could. Though it’s a reality in our world, I also believe that we need to hold to a standard that expects more. So it’s a balance. Knowing our world is a mess and

is broken, and our own hearts are broken, but also knowing and wanting something more, too. And if we could ever find that perfect balance, I believe we’d have peace in our hearts, even if there will never be peace in our world. Unfortunately, we won’t ever quite get that balance right. We’ll either expect too much of this world and want it to be fixed and made right (which is what God wants, too) or we’ll become too apathetic toward our plight and just fully accept the terrible state of our world.

Thankfully we have a God who balances it perfectly and works to make our world a better place and has already done what was needed to fix it for us. Now we are just waiting for that world to come to fruition!

So for us today, what does that mean? It means that we attempt to find the place in our hearts where we accept and acknowledge the evil around us as well as in our own hearts and mind. It means we know it is there and we come to some amount of peace about it.

However, it also means we strive to make this world a better place through God’s power. Jesus tells us to pray ““Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6.9-10) When we pray ‘your kingdom come’ we should assume that we can and should work to accomplish that. As we work to bring God’s Kingdom more and more into this world, we can find that balance between acceptance and effort to building a world where God’s presence is fully known.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Camp Fellowship

We will host this event in May on **Monday the 20th at 6:00pm**. This is a great way that we serve the camp, including by giving an offering for their continued cost. We will also need help with the meal, so please keep that day open!

Camp Schedule

Camp is coming back in full force this summer, with camps available for going into 1st grade through 2024 graduates. Sign up is available through the camp website (lamoinecamp.org) and if you marked that you’re registering through our church, we will pay 50% of each camper’s registration cost (we can cover more if necessary). Please contact the church office with questions.

Also, we are responsible for providing **25 boxes of Fruit Loop cereal** again this year; generic is fine, too. Please have boxes here by **Monday, May 20th**. Also, we are responsible for cooking all day on **Tuesday, July 2nd** starting at 10:30am. Please let Matthew know if you’d be interested in helping cook.

Lastly, if you’re interested in helping do our camp cleanup project (cleaning Cabin 2), we will probably do it in late April so contact Matthew if you’d like to help.

Revival

Sumnum Christian Church is hosting a revival with local pastors preaching each night from Sunday, **April 7th** to Wednesday, **April 11th** at **6:00pm nightly**. This is a great time to come together as a community and to engage with other Christians as we look to recommit our faith and enjoy the fellowship of others who love Jesus. Matthew will be preaching Sunday night.

Prayer List

Rushville families and community
Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
Roy Atwood (Angela T’s dad) - dementia

Dorothy Cleavinger – serious health issues
Joan and Ron Davis - Ron paralyzed
Karen Fredrick – in hospital, not well
Mike Grater – cancer
Eric Hamm – leukemia
Wendy Kahler - health issues
Jim Kinzer – cancer, heart attack
Butch Maloney - cancer
Dan Palmer - health issues
Debbie Opp – chemo treatment, off work
Mike Ulmer (pastor at Vermont) - heart issues
Becky Watson – cancer treatments started
Diane Walters - hospital, critical condition
Ellen Webb – cancer, colon surgery
Friend of Mary Belville – unspoken
Unspoken Prayer Concern
Campus House leadership changes

Condolences

Eskridge family
Macomb families
Joanne Heath family

Praise

Titus home safe after missions trip
Brody Brush, biopsy results benign
Jill Easley - shoulder surgery went well

March Financials

	Weekly Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Mar 3 rd	\$864.00	\$6,684.00	\$8,383.86
Mar 10 th	\$968.00	\$7,652.00	\$9,315.40
Mar 17 th	\$853.00	\$8,505.00	\$10,246.94
Mar 24 th	\$614.00	\$9,119.00	\$11,178.48
Mar 31 st	\$682.00	\$9,801.00	\$12,110.02

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

Weds. Apr. 3rd – Family Night @6pm

Sun. Apr. 7th – Youth Offering Sunday

Sun. Apr. 7th – Weds. Apr. 10th –

Summum Revival @6pm

Weds. Apr. 10th – Family Night
@6pm

Sun. Apr. 14th – Board Meeting
@6pm

Mon. Apr. 15th – Camp Fellowship,
Bader @6pm

Tues. Apr. 16th – Man Up @6:30pm

Weds. Apr. 17th – Family Night
@6pm

Thurs. Apr. 18th – Ladies’ Fellowship
@6pm

Sat. Apr. 20th – Senior Saints Day,
LCC Camp @6pm

Weds. Apr. 24th – Family Night
@6pm

Sun. Apr. 28th – Worship and Prayer
@6pm

All events are subject to change. Please keep up to date by checking the bulletin, Facebook page or website.



*“Let my teaching fall like rain and my word settle like dew,
like gentle rain on new grass and showers on tender plants.
For I will proclaim the Lord's name. Declare the greatness of our God!
The Rock - His work is perfect; all His ways are entirely just.
A faithful God, without prejudice, He is righteous and true.”*

Deuteronomy 32:2

