

New experiences

scare us, don't they? And if you disagree, you're either a person who doesn't try new things or you've tried so many new things in life that it's just a normal part of your life.

This past weekend with my kids we went on a family trip to just enjoy some experiences together. I enjoy these experience gifts as a part of Christmas rather than giving them so many things. And as part of this trip (and other trips we go on) I like to try to get them to experience different things, including activities and food. And, usually, they're pretty open to it, especially the younger ones, but I've noticed that it can be difficult for the older ones to try something different because of their expectations and context.

During our trip we went to a HuHot restaurant, which is a Mongolian grill where you get to load a bowl full of various meats, veggies and noodles and then top it with various sauces to create a stir fry meal. Then you take that bowl of food to a large griddle where it's cooked in front of you. It's one of my favorite restaurants but the kids haven't been to them much. In fact, the one who hadn't ever been to one decided not to eat, which is odd considering he's usually our biggest eater. And he said he didn't eat because he 'wasn't hungry' but I'm convinced he didn't because he didn't feel comfortable enough to join us (or he was rebelling slightly).

And even though I explained the process and I was walking alongside them throughout it, it was new and different and none of them enjoyed it as much as I did. However, I feel like it was worth the trip because it showed them something new and different.

And from that experience, I was reminded about my own hesitancy to do something different. And

today I'm much more open to trying new things and having new experiences, but that's mainly because I have a context for how this world functions and how things should go. I have a basic understanding of commerce and businesses in our world, as well as human behavior, that I'm prepared for how things will go, even in new situations.

But I understand that not everyone (including my children) have that. And, often, it just takes experience and trying new things to learn it. Which means, the more we push ourselves to try new things, the more comfortable we become with them.

And all of us have experiences and times where we didn't do something because we thought it'd be awkward or uncomfortable, right? But once we tried it, it was enjoyable or at least not as bad as we thought.

But even more than that, it's important to remember who is with us. When I was growing up, I was lucky enough to have an outgoing cousin who was willing to ask questions and do more bold things than I was and so I experienced more than I would have otherwise because of him.

And, often, having someone with us, a friend or spouse, as we attempt to do new things, especially things requiring some faith, is incredibly helpful.

But we also need to remember that God is with us through it all. **James 1.9 says,** *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

So, when it comes to your faith and maybe sharing your faith, I encourage you to be strong and courageous, knowing you have God and others with you through it.

Serving Him and you,

Matthew

THANK YOU!

The Thiner family wanted to thank the entire church and the individuals who gave generously for our Christmas gift this year, as well as being able to have time away for the holidays! We are truly blessed to serve together with such a wonderful group of people.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 21st** following our church service. This is a time to vote for board members and consider other business of the church. Please bring any items needing discussion to Steve Trone to be put on the agenda.

Family Night

We will resume regularly scheduled Family Night on **Wednesday, January 10th at 6pm**. If you haven't joined us or brought your kids or grandkids, it is worth checking out!

The Shelf

Our local food pantry will be having weekly distributions in January and moving forward. The dates are posted here for those who desire to participate, or if you're interested in helping at one, please let Matthew know.

REGULAR SCHEDULE	HOURS
<u>FIRST FRIDAY</u> OF THE MONTH	6-8pm
<u>SECOND SATURDAY</u> OF THE MONTH	9-11am
<u>THIRD MONDAY</u> OF THE MONTH	10am-12pm
<u>FOURTH FRIDAY</u> OF THE MONTH	6-8pm

Prayer List

Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
Jerry Armbruster – serious health issues
Kaidn Bayer – home, healing from burns
Jeff (and Cindy) Benefield – upcoming procedure
David Cassel – cancer, waiting next treatment
Robert Cassel – back in Rushville
Dorothy Cleavinger – serious health issues
Emily Clemens – collarbone surgery soon
Betty Davis - hospice
Shelby Eyer – home, back to work soon
Karen Fredrick – in hospital, not well
Mike Grater – cancer
Eric Hamm – leukemia
Joe Hayes – St John's hospital
Nancy Herron - brain tumor surgery recovery
Wendy Kaler – pneumonia
Jim Kinzer – cancer, heart attack
Butch Maloney - cancer
Dan Palmer - health issues
Lori Rodriguez – health and personal issues
Debbie Opp – chemo treatment, off work
Unspoken Prayer Concern
Becky Watson – cancer back
Ellen Webb – cancer, colon surgery
Condolences
Chad Bent family
Sharon Blakely family

December Financials

	Weekly Actual	Annual Actual	Annual Budget
Dec 3rd	\$1,008.00	\$39,671.69	\$52,251.15
Dec 10th	\$883.00	\$40,554.69	\$53,317.50
Dec 17th	\$427.51	\$40,982.20	\$54,383.85
Dec 24th	\$717.00	\$41,699.20	\$55,450.20
Dec 31st	\$771.00	\$42,470.20	\$56,516.55

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:

Tues. Jan. 9th – Man Up
@6:30pm

Weds. Jan. 10th – Family Night
@6pm

Sun. Jan. 14th – Board Meeting
@6pm

Weds. Jan. 17th – Family Night
@6pm

Sun. Jan. 21st – Annual Meeting
@10:15am

Weds. Jan. 24th – Family Night
@6pm

Sun. Jan. 28th – Worship &
Prayer @6pm

Weds. Jan. 31st – Family Night
@6pm

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



*“For I am about to do something new. See, I have
already begun! Do you not see it? I will make
a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”*

Isaiah 43:19