

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



“Come Home To Tradition”

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH JOPLIN MESSENGER

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David Johnson, Pastor; Email: pastor.first.christian.joplin@gmail.com; cell:(417)499-3535 **Bonnie Kime,**
Office Manager; Cell Phone: (417)850-8275; M-Thur, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
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FROM THE PASTOR: “Transformed to be More Like Jesus”

A society lady was gazing upon an image she had never seen before in the city’s art museum. “My dear fellow,” she said in a condescending way to the curator, “I have never seen this painting before. I find the image shallow and rather crude in appearance. What do you call this?”

The curator answered without giving the slightest expression, “That, madam, is a mirror.” Obviously the woman’s vision was not very focused!

Romans 8:29 says, “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” As believers in Christ, if we are going to put ourselves in the position to be transformed into His image, then we are going to have to constantly keep our focus on Him. “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18). When we first came to Christ and accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, and we gave our lives to Him and were baptized into His death, burial and resurrection, then we were given the Holy Spirit as our down payment on heaven (Ephesians 1:13-14).

And it is the Holy Spirit who indwells us and empowers us to live the Christian life. He helps us keep our focus on the Lord. He grows within us the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). All these characteristics Jesus perfectly displayed in His own earthly life and ministry. As we keep gazing upon Christ (Hebrews 12:2), then we are transformed to become more like Him. We can’t change ourselves. We are being changed. The work is done for us by the Holy Spirit.

It is our task to simply submit to Christ’s Lordship over our lives and keep gazing upon His glory. We can do this in His Word and through our prayer and worship to Him.

(continued on next page).

And we can certainly ask God to refill us with His Spirit each day (Ephesians 5:18). As we do this, like a mirror, we will reflect Jesus and His qualities to those around us. With the passing of time, those who look at our lives will see a definite change. They will see the image of Christ coming into sharper view. This will be ever-increasing. And one day, as the Apostle John says in his first epistle, we will be like Christ, for we shall see Him as He is (3:2).

The late preacher Adrian Rogers once made this statement...”The same Jesus who turned water into wine can transform your home, your life, your family, and your future. He is still in the miracle-working business, and His business is the business of transformation.”

In Christ - *David*

SUNDAY SERMON TITLES & SCRIPTURES:

Sunday, August 6 – “The Merciful” – Matthew 5:7

Sunday, August 13 – “The Pure In Heart” – Matthew 5:8

Sunday, August 20 – “The Peacemakers”– Matthew 5:9

Sunday, August 27 – “The Persecuted”– Mattew 5:10



SUNDAY, JULY 30 – AFTER WORSHIP – YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET

Sunday, July 30 immediately after worship the youth will meet in the Family Life Center for lunch, “Super Hero” lesson and open gym. Questions see Lisa Lawrence.

BRING CROSSES FOR THE SANCTUARY

We are asking families who wish, to bring a cross to hang in the sanctuary, in the choir loft, to represent their family or a loved one. We will have a wall of crosses. Questions contact Linda Ashby.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 MEETINGS:



Immediately after worship on August 13, the church committees will meet, followed by the monthly August Board meeting.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 3:00 -5:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 13 from 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. we will host a Wedding Shower for Emily Watson. All are invited to attend.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2:00 P.M. RECEPTION FOR REGGIE THOMAS

On Sunday, August 20 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. we will host a “Come & Go” retirement reception for Reggie & Esther Thomas in the Family Life Center. This will be a special time to come and thank them for their many years of Christian service and missionary work for the Lord and His Kingdom. Cards are welcome to be given.



**BIRTHDAY PARTY “LUAU” -
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 6:00 P.M.**



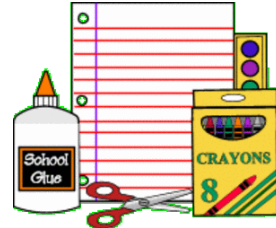
On Sunday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the FLC we will Celebrate EVERYONE'S Birthday!!! Membership will provide Finger Food followed by Birthday Cake and Ice Cream and Special Entertainment. The theme is a luau. If you have a Hawaiian shirt or grass skirt, wear them!!! It will be a lot of FUN!!! Everyone come, and enjoy time with your Church Family!

If you would be willing to bring some finger food let Linda Ashby or Kathy Coy know.



“BACK TO SCHOOL” SUPPLIES –

We are collecting school supplies for West Central School. Bring your school supply donations and place in the barrel on the wing. We will collect supplies until the end of August. This is one of our outreach projects.



OUR NEW WEBB PAGE: WWW.JOPLINFIRSTCHRISTIAN.COM

OUR SYMPATHY:

To Jim & Pam Howerton in the death of son, Jon who passed away July 9. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends.