“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP

NOVEMBER 2018

The season of Thanksgiving will be celebrated with an evening of worship and praise to God for His bounty on November the 20th at 7:00pm at Faith Community Church. This year’s celebration of God’s goodness is hosted by Faith Community Church. Pastor John Southwick will deliver the message.

RFKC Dessert Auction
Sunday, Nov. 4th @ 12 noon
Public is invited!
Bring your homemade desserts to help in this fund raising event!

The RFKC quilt raffle also comes to an end during the auction! Last chance to win!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Join this group, Thursday, Nov.8th @ 3:00pm. All are welcome! They are asking for donations of non bulky blankets. Call Lisa Wallner at 935-6249 or Shar Small @ 509-991-1045 for details.

On Sunday evenings @ 6pm, Kerry & Loretta Burkey (935-0829) are hosting and leading the small group study of: Emergency Response: Practical ways to help others through challenges.

Greg & Joan Scot (935-6730) resume their small group Tuesday, Oct 9th at 7pm. This study stems from the movie, “The War Room.”

Join the Women’s Yada study Tuesdays at 10am in the ALF Fellowship Hall with Linda Norris (936-0031) facilitating the group with The Good Gift Giver: 21 Days of Unexpected Blessings.

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October is in the books. I was blessed to be able to go back to Minnesota for my mother’s 95th birthday. This was my favorite month of the year when I lived there and so I enjoyed being back in touch with the local environment.

Of course, it’s lovely here too. I so enjoy my drive to Chewelah on sunny days with the various colors on display along the way. We have had some lovely worship times and numerous visitors as well. Of course, the month ends on a significant note as we hold our Harvest Party as a healthy alternative to some of the other emphases on Halloween. It’s great to have this community outreach and connect with some folks who otherwise don’t enter our building.

October was also Pastor Appreciation month. Many of you have expressed this in some form to myself and Patty, as well as to Pastor Brenda. Thank you! While there is no congregation appreciation month, I certainly do appreciate so much about our congregation here at Abundant Life Fellowship. God bless you.

Pastor John

Verse of the Month

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing.

In most of the letters of the Apostle Paul we see him write in the opening verses some version of “grace and peace to you.” This is usually followed somewhere in the next few verses with some variation of, “I give thanks for you…” In the month of November we mark one of the major holidays of the year and the beginning of “the holidays.” Thanksgiving is more than eating a big turkey dinner and family gatherings, though for many that’s essentially what it has become. Nevertheless, the holiday is intended to remind us to be thankful people. Of course, there is great breadth of blessings to be thankful for. Paul begins most of his letters reminding us to be thankful for fellow believers and what God is doing in their lives, as we see in the verse of the month. Perhaps we can do the same for each other. Most of us do this already, but maybe we can up our game in November.
The Adult Sunday School is studying the Book of John. It has been a wonderful opportunity and Pastor Brenda is leading us in familiar stories, but opening up the scriptures in new and profoundly soul reviving opportunities to draw closer to our Lord.

We are still praying to have enough teachers so that each class has a team to two teachers who can rotate either weekly or monthly. Our goal is that each teacher will only teach 26 weeks per year, instead of every week (52 weeks per year) but the rotation schedule will be decided on by the team.”

However, we can’t do it without people willing to volunteer to teach our pre-school through 1st grade; second through fourth grades; fifth though eighth grades; and High School classes. We have great kids and they are wonderful to work with. It is such a joy to see their eyes light up as we teach the Word, and the Word of God sinks into not just their minds, but sets roots into their hearts.

How many of us could put main characters from Scripture in a general time line? It may not be as easy as it sounds, but this is part of what the new lessons in “God’s Big Picture” curriculum do! It’s a rather rapid walk down a timeline, beginning with Genesis. To date our main characters have been Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Joshua.

God is the only one in the beginning, and how each of these people interacted with Him is briefly discussed in each lesson with a “what about you?” application.

This month children will begin to learn a special song for the up-coming holidays celebrating our Messiah coming to earth. Linda Ortega has graciously offered to teach this along with traditional Christmas songs. Why not put on some traditional carols during December so the young people in your home can become more familiar with them in preparation for and anticipation of singing for the congregation?!
“Do I really believe that I need encouragement to maintain my faith?”

The answer should be “YES!”

One of the issues that continually faces believers is the idea that we are okay by ourselves. Oftentimes we may think that we do not need other Christians in order to progress in our spiritual growth.

However, we do need each other. We need fellow Christians to encourage us to be faithful to the Lord. Without the support of others, we can be in great danger of falling into apostasy.

Our need of each other for growth and perseverance is the focus of today’s passage. In light of the great and effectual sacrifice Christ has offered (Heb. 9:1–10:18), we are exhorted to meet together so that we may spur one another on to love and good deeds, especially since the return of Christ draws ever closer (10:24–25).

As we have seen before, Christians are called to a living and active faith, to a faith that produces love and good works. This is not to say that good works are meritorious or that they somehow add something to salvation. Rather, they evidence true faith in the God who is love and who Himself performs good works. Where love and good works are wholly absent, then faith is absent as well. James 2:17

When we encourage one another to love and good works, two things happen. First of all, church members who have falsely professed faith see that they must stop doing so and put their faith in Christ alone as they are encouraged to love God with all of their heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, when we encourage one another, the true believers in the church are motivated to persevere in their faith. Faith is to be a continual possession, profession, and action, not only a one-time event. Calvin says that, in today’s passage, the author of Hebrews “intimates that all the godly ought by all means possible to exert themselves in the work of gathering together the Church on every side; for we are called by the Lord on this condition, that every one should afterwards strive to lead others to the truth, to restore the wandering to the right way, to extend a helping hand to the fallen, to win over those who are without. But if we ought to bestow so much labor on those who are yet aliens to the flock of Christ, how much more diligence is required in exhorting the brethren whom God has already joined to us?”

Do you or someone you know need prayer?

Call the Prayer Chain:
Lolita Lyon 935-8244
or
Mary Knapp 936-0319

Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near”

Hebrews 10:24-25