

# ...from the Heart

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## TIME AND TIDE



There is a time and place for everything or is there?

*Time and tide*, the old

adage states, *waits for no man*. Time is our most precious commodity because we are only allotted so much of it. When our time is up it's up. No amount of begging, bartering or finagling will replenish the sands of life's

hour glass. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, I. M. Pei, one of the most revered architects in the world, died at his home in Manhattan. He was 102 and my college roommate's next door neighbor. I.M. had a very long and illustrious life but his time was up. If you're still with me at this point you're thinking, this all sounds too fatalistic. But hold on, for the person whose life belongs to God, time constitutes an entirely different equation.

The older I get the faster time seems to move. At times I feel like a spectator standing on the side lines watching my days and weeks dissolve into a vortex. I tried to get a handle on it, as I took down last year's wall calendar replacing it with the new edition. Emerging from my winter's hibernation, I determined I would mentally slow down the rapid passage of time. I was going to savor the first day of spring, revel in the steadily increasing day light and warming temperatures but despite my best efforts time refused to cooperate.

Every person eventually reaches a reflective crossroad in life when they ask the question – What is this life really about? Even the most successful people experience that empty, hollow feeling, that missing element that has somehow eluded them. Have we made good use of the time that was allotted to us? As the years pile up there's a greater urgency to make better use of whatever time we have left. Eugene Peterson writes: *God is the living center of everything we are and everything we do. He is before, behind, above and beneath everything. If we separate any part of our lives from Him, we're left holding an empty bag. Apart from Him, nothing can stand on its own as good in and of itself.*

Now you might be thinking but I'm a Christian, I've given my heart and life to God. Why should I still experience that eerie feeling that I've missed something? The writer of Ecclesiastes asks and answers that question, relating how the pursuit of happiness without God is like taking religion out of context. Perhaps it's time we get a fresh perspective on our relationship with God. Is it inclusive or exclusive? Is He included in your daily thoughts and actions?



Do you actively consult Him when making decisions or choices or is He relegated to a once a week Sunday consultation? When we exclude God from our daily living we are pursuing happiness without wholeness. This kind of approach will leave even the supposedly devout believer with a sense of futility or as Solomon quipped, *with nothing but smoke*.

Ecclesiastes states that there is a time for everything: *A time to be born and a time to die, a time to cry and to laugh, a time to hold and a time to let go ...* When God is front and center in our lives we discover these times are not opposing forces, they complement and complete each other. It turns out the passage of time does more than rack up years; they have the potential to produce Godly wisdom. All relationships either develop or degrade and we have the opportunity to develop a relationship with the wisest, most powerful being in the universe.

If you're like me you think about the numbers of people who have past in and out of our lives. Good relationships require a give and take kind of sharing. When relationships become friendships, not only do we learn from the other person, we also learn about ourselves. A relationship with God is no different. It requires conversation, you speaking to Him (prayer) and you listening to Him (reading His Word - the Bible). God wants to be an integral part of those Ecclesiastical cycles of your life. The alternative is *nothing but smoke*.

Wherever you sit in the spectrum of time, just getting started or feeling like it's all winding down know this, God has a specific design for your life from start to finish. Whether you're just starting to figure it out or wondering if your best days are behind you, God's message to you is one of inclusion not exclusion. If that hollow pit in the stomach feeling is haunting you it's time to have a serious conversation with your Heavenly Father. *The secret place of the Most High* that David wrote about in Psalm 93 has a seat with your name reserved on it. It's only a prayer away.

Serving Him Together  
Pastor John

## *...from the Heart*

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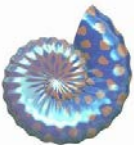
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Check out our website at [www.patchnaz.net](http://www.patchnaz.net)  
for Sermons, Church activities and other events





# VBS IS COMING!!!

Summer is coming, and that means VBS is coming too!! The program this year is an exciting Safari theme that is sure to be tons of fun for the kids and the adults. We all know that life can be unpredictable, sometimes scary, but it is always a gift from our Lord; no matter what life throws at us, God is by our side. I am so excited to share this message of God's love and care, even when life gets WILD, with our kids! Through this dynamic, fun, and exciting program, our

kids will learn timeless Bible stories, awesome songs, and lifelong lessons. Be a part of the adventure! We need your time, talent, prayers and love to minister to our kids during this incredibly special week! Consider joining the VBS team. For more information on how to get involved, contact Sue Herrmann ([jandsh817@optonline.net](mailto:jandsh817@optonline.net)). Can't wait to ROAR with you soon😊

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## Generosity Encouraged

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 NIV

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



# The Blank Slate

-Sue Cerruto, Hospitality.



A couple of weeks ago, Pastor Nick sent me an email confirming that, in answer to my request, the ministry of Hospitality had been given a place in the ministries section on our Patchnaz website. I asked for some guidance on how I should go about using the space, and he said, in part: "It's just a blank slate for you to do whatever you want"

"A blank slate." I liked the sound of that!

Have you ever wished you could have a blank slate for your life? We have all been guilty of sin and unworthy of the Lord, whose servants and children we are. Check out the lists of accusations against us in 2 Corinthians 12:20 and 2 Timothy 3:1-7. No matter how hard we try, we can never measure up to God's holy standard when we attempt it on our own. When we sin, we cannot clean ourselves up but when we repent Jesus says, "Today is a new day! Start over. Try again." He's giving us a new chance, another chance — another opportunity to get it right.

Paul was keenly aware of how hard it was to 'get it right.' The greatest apostle of the New Testament said it himself in Romans chapter 7, "I want to do the right thing, but I don't. I don't want to do the wrong thing, but I do. I am a mess and utterly wretched!"\* However, Paul knew Who to turn to when he needed forgiveness, and he reaped the fruit of repentance, "He makes everything new, even after you mess up, screw up, and fall short."\* 2 Corinthians 5:17-22. Today, if you're feeling the weight of sin and the Holy Spirit is calling you to repentance, don't hesitate to act. A brand-new beginning, a fresh start, a do-over, a clean blank slate awaits!

*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. Rev. 21:5 KJV*

\*My paraphrases



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Congratulations to James and Stephanie Lochren  
on the birth of their daughter, Grace, on April 30,2019.

## First Holy Communion Class

This month we began our First Holy Communion Class. The children have been learning what Communion is and why we celebrate. Over the last few weeks we have discussed God's great love for us; Jesus life, sacrifice, and resurrection. We also reminded the children that not only they have a Savior, but a wonderful friend who comforts, guides, heals, and forgives us our sins. We are also teaching them how to prepare their hearts before they receive communion and invited them, through prayer, to ask Jesus into their hearts if they have not done so. It was awesome to see so many hands shoot up in the air when asked if they believe in Jesus Christ!

We have enjoyed participating in science experiments, sensory, and art activities. They are eager to share what they know and comfortable enough to ask questions, while a couple of children silently take in the experience. I am so blessed by the children in our church and I ask that you would keep them in your prayers. They are special to us and to the Lord. I can't wait to see how the Lord will lead them as they grow and mature in Christ. Please join us on June Second for a special service where they will take Communion with the congregation!

Love in Christ,

Liz Duffy

"...and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."





## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



The months sure do seem to fly by as the seasons change. We were blessed with a pretty snow-free winter, have endured many rainy days and now look forward to summer.

All the women that attended our April 13<sup>th</sup> Retreat Day had a wonderful time. Joanna Fruhauf led us in worship and then shared some really meaningful lessons on “surrender” from the life of the Apostle Peter. I think we were all challenged to let go of the things that take priority over our lives and to seek the Lord above all else.

At the end of April, the ladies that meet in our Tuesday and Thursday study groups started reading a book about Ruth. Even though her story is a familiar one to each of us, we are always amazed at all we can glean as we share together our thoughts on what we have read.

We continue to gather items each month for Operation Christmas Child that will fill the shoeboxes we pack in November. Our closet is already brimming with gifts that many in our congregation have brought in.

During the summer months many people will be going on vacation or just “taking a break” from the normal busyness of the school/work year. The Women's Ministry takes seriously the verse in Hebrews 10:25-27 where it admonishes “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing but instead let us encourage one another and all the more as you see Christ's return approaching”. Therefore, we will continue to have our usual Tuesday evening and Thursday meetings. We will not be doing a formal study but will continue to pray for the many needs of our families, church, community and world. During this time, we will share a devotion and enjoy fellowship as well as encouraging one another as needed. All ladies are welcome whenever you are able to come!

I pray that each of you will have a safe and blessed summer. Be sure to include the Lord in your travels!

In Christ,

Mary Ann



# Summer

## Weekly Schedule

Subject to Change

### Sunday

10am - Service - Nursery available

10:45am - Children's Sunday School - Fellowship Hall

10:45am - Teen Bible Study - HPYC Building

First Sunday of Month - Holy Communion & Family Sunday

### Monday

7pm - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month - **September through May** –

M.E.N. (Men's Encouragement Network) - Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday

7pm - Every Tuesday - Ladies-In-Touch at Mary Ann Malcolm's Home

### Wednesday

7pm - New Bible Study on the book of Mark begins June 5 - Fellowship Hall.

### Thursday

10am - Every Thursday - Ladies Prayer & Bible Study Group - HPYC Building

7pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month - **Sept. - Nov., Feb. - June** - Ladies Sewing Circle - HPYC

### Friday

6:30pm - Worship Team practice in the Sanctuary

### Saturday

8am - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month - **September - June** - Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

For other Summer meetings, events, & activities, consult your Sunday Bulletin.



## Coming Up...

### In June...

June 9 - Pentecost

June 14 - Flag Day

June 16 - Father's Day

June 21 - First Day of Summer

### In July...

July 4 - Independence Day

July 8-12 - 6pm-8pm - VBS

### In August...

Watch your bulletin for  
announcements and keep cool.



[illegible]

## A stylized, cartoonish illustration of a green sewing machine. It has a yellow spool of thread on top, a needle at the front, and two orange buttons on the right side. The machine is sitting on an orange base.

[illegible]