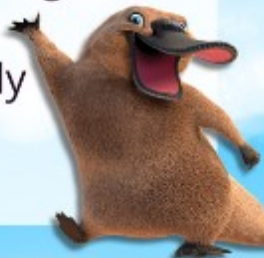


PRAY FOR FAMILIES

"Heavenly Father, let the changes in kids' hearts this week be an inspiration to their families. Let parents and caretakers pursue a deeper relationship with you. Let family connections grow stronger, deeper, and focused on you. Give kids strength to stand firmly rooted in their faith and relationship with you."



Dates: Wednesday, July 17 & Thursday, July 18

Time: 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



July 14, 2024 9:30 a.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



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Butler, MO 64730
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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, July 14, 2024

Joys and Concerns

Sharla Hulsey

In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.

Welcome and Announcements

Don Malan, Elder

If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video or visit fccbutler.org and click the Register Attendance button.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Mary Coffman & Lynda Perkins

Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary

*Call to worship (please rise as able)

Don Malan & Congregation

L: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us
we have come to worship and to praise.

**P: With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds,
the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.**

L: We love because God has first loved us,
freeing us from the power of sin and death.

**P: With glad hearts let us join together in singing praise to God:
Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit.**

*Opening Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #556 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

"Trust and Obey"

*Invocation

Don Malan & Congregation

**Loving God,
open our eyes to see what is beautiful,
our minds to know what is true,
and our hearts to love what is good;
for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Prayer Hymn

CH #572 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

"Take Time to Be Holy"

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Sharla Hulsey

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Responsive Reading

Don Malan & Congregation

Psalm 8:1-5, 9 (*United Methodist Hymnal*)

L: O LORD, our Lord,

P: how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

L: Your glory is chanted above the heavens
by the mouth of babes and infants:

**P: you have set up a defense against your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.**

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

P: the moon and the stars which you have established;

L: what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

P: and mortals that you care for them?

L: Yet you have made them a little less than God,

P: and crowned them with glory and honor.

L: O LORD, our Lord,

P: how majestic is your Name in all the earth!

Special Music

"The Summons"

by John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Sharla Hulsey

Scripture

Ephesians 5:21—6:9

Carol Hedrick

Message

"Hierarchy"

Sharla Hulsey

Invitation to Discipleship

Sharla Hulsey

*Invitation Hymn

"Living for Jesus"

CH #610 (all)

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation

Diana Rich

A PROBLEMATIC, YET FREEING DISCIPLINE

As Richard Foster notes, “Of all the Spiritual Disciplines none has been more abused than the Discipline of submission. Somehow the human species has an extraordinary knack for taking the best teaching and turning it to the worst ends.”

Why, then, shouldn’t we simply say an emphatic “No” to this Discipline, because of how it’s been misused and how that misuse has allowed some to dominate and abuse others? Perhaps it’s because of the paradoxical freedom submission confers on us.

Foster continues, “Every Discipline has its corresponding freedom. ...Our aim is the freedom, not the Discipline. The moment we make the Discipline our central focus, we turn it into law and lose the corresponding freedom.

What is the corresponding freedom of the Discipline of submission? Quite simply, it’s “the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.” If that is our mindset, we are going to spend a great deal of time stewing in anger, because the reality of life is that things *don’t* always go our way.

Foster again: “In the Discipline of submission, we are released to drop the matter, to forget it. Frankly, most things in life are not nearly as important as we think they are. Our lives will not come to an end if this or that does not happen.

“If you will watch these things, you will see, for example, that almost all church fights and splits occur because people do not have the freedom to give in to each other. We insist that a critical issue is at stake; we are fighting for a sacred principle. Perhaps this is the case. Usually it is not. Often we cannot stand to give in simply because it means that we will not get our own way. Only in submission are we able to bring this spirit to a place where it no longer controls us. Only submission can free us sufficiently to enable us to distinguish between genuine issues and stubborn self-will.

“If we could only come to see that most things in life are not major issues, then we could hold them lightly. We discover that they are no ‘big deal.’ So often we say, ‘Well, I don’t care,’ when what we really mean (and what we convey to others) is that we care a great deal. It is precisely here that silence fits in so well with all the other Disciplines. Usually the best way to handle most matters of submission is to say nothing. There is the need for an all-encompassing spirit of grace beyond any kind of language or action which sets others and ourselves free.

“The biblical teaching on submission focuses primarily on the spirit with which we view other people. Scripture does not attempt to set forth a series of hierarchical relationships but to communicate to us an inner attitude of mutual subordination. ...In the matter of submission...the real issue is the spirit of consideration and respect we have for each other.

“In submission we are at last free to value other people. Their dreams and plans become important to us. We have entered into a new, wonderful, glorious freedom—the freedom to give up our own rights for the good of others. For the first time we can love people unconditionally. We have given up the right to demand that they return our love. No longer do we feel that we have to be treated in a certain way. We rejoice in their successes. We feel genuine sorrow in their failures. It is of little consequence that our plans are frustrated if their plans succeed. We discover that it is far better to serve our neighbor than to have our own way.”

From Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, 20th anniversary edition (New York: HarperCollins, 1998), pp. 111-112.