

January 15, 2023

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

*Responsive Reading (Proverbs 4:1-4) Cindy Mykrantz

One: Listen to a father's instruction;

All: Pay attention and gain understanding.

One: I give you sound learning,

All: So do not forsake my teaching.

One: For I too was a son to my father,

All: Still tender, and cherished by my mother.

One: Then He taught me, and He said to me,

All: "Take hold of my words with all your heart!"

*Hymn "Loving Spirit" Insert

*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance Cindy Mykrantz

Father, we spend so much of our life in selfish pursuits that produce no fruit. Show us the way to true achievement and fulfillment – not the useless things of this world, but the prized possessions of the world to come. May our efforts to lead holy, obedient, and selfless lives lift up others and bring honor and glory to your Sacred Name. Amen!

Prayer of Reflection Pastor John

Prayer of Illumination Cindy Mykrantz

Lord, it is your light that we seek, and your light that we pledge to follow. Direct us on the pathway of righteousness, so that all we say and do will glorify you and help to guide others to seek, find, and follow you. In your Gracious Name, we pray. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Great and Powerful God, we come before you in an attitude of humble contrition, knowing that we have failed in our efforts to obey your commands but inspired by the knowledge that your death and resurrection blotted out our iniquities and purified our soul so that we might become holy and pleasing in your sight. We gratefully acknowledge this undeserved gift as we give thanks for your grace and mercy while singing praise to your glorious name. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation for God's Holy Word Pastor John

First Scripture Reading: Proverbs 4:10-13 Pastor John

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 10:26-31 Cindy Mykrantz

Third Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:40-45 Pastor John

Response

One: Let us Rejoice in God's Holy Word!

All: For His Word brings us Light, Hope and Joy!

*Gloria Patri No. 70

*Hymn "I Surrender All" No. 354

Message "Making the Grade" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Our Gifts Pastor John

*Doxology No. 95

*Hymn: "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" No. 427

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Jen Moser

**=An Invitation to Stand in Body or Spirit*

Promoting the Power of Prayer in 2023

Oak Chapel has always been steeped in prayer and devotion, and we want to fortify our foundation in the year ahead by paying special attention to opportunities for intercessory prayer and intentional devotion.



Scripture is quite clear about the power prayer, including this passage from Philippians (4:6-7), which states, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

There is no question that those in need greatly appreciate prayer and that they often divinely feel the effects of it. Even if it does not always bring the desired results, it always seems to provide comfort, assurance, hope, and peace of mind.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please feel free to contact Pastor John, and he will pray with and for you and them in the sanctuary, in your home, or wherever is most comfortable. Likewise, if you would like to become part of our nascent prayer partners at Oak Chapel, please let Pastor John know. He is hoping to develop a more organized prayer structure in 2023.

In the meantime, take heart in the knowledge that the Lord is always present, as we know from this passage in the Book of Isaiah (41:10), which states, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



Father in Heaven, we bow down in your presence as we lift up your Holy and Precious Name. Hear our voices, lift our burdens, and lessen our fears, as we offer the following praises and prayers before you...

Praises

- *For all first responders
- *For the meek, the humble, the poor
- *For the healing progress of Cindy Mykrantz's father
- *For the value of prayer and reflection

Prayers

- *For Nancy Miller, who has an infection in her leg
- *For Avi and Laura, who are recovering from Covid
- *For Frankie during her time of loss
- *For John Hower as he continues treatments
- *For Zoe Ring as she continues her recovery
- *For Alice Giffin as she moves forward
- *For Kenzie as she makes a fresh start in a new city
- *For Kenzie's twin nieces
- *For Becky Schlund and her sons
- *For Cindy's friend as she recovers from a fire

Upcoming Worship Services

- Jan. 22.....Surviving Life's Struggles
- Jan. 29.....Coming Clean
- Feb. 5.....Changing Lanes
- Feb. 12.....Don't Take Your Love for Granted
- Feb 19.....Trust and Tupperware

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Sunday 1/15	Sunday School Classes	9:30 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Fellowship Dinner	11:30 am
	Acorn Deadline	
Monday 1/16	Revelation Bible Study	9:30 am
	Trustees	6:30 pm
Tuesday 1/17	Days for Girls	1:00 pm

Looking Ahead...

Sunday 1/22	Sunday School Classes	9:30 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Young Adult Bible Study	11:30 am
Monday 1/13	Revelation Bible Study	9:30 am
	Prayer Shawl	6:00 pm
Tuesday 1/24	Eastbrook Mission Barn	



Financial News:

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (December 2022): \$2,130
 Received in November:
 12/04.....\$1,644
 12/11.....\$1,372
 12/18.....\$5,447
 12/25.....\$2,850

As of 12/31/2022, we received about 133% of our budgeted income for the month of December and 92% YTD. We are behind last year at this time, which was 197% and 95%, respectively. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

**Oak Chapel
 United Methodist Church**

January 15, 2023



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 John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community
 through Love, Compassion,
 Fellowship, and Caring*

Today's Message...
"Making the Grade"