

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Dear Friends of Faith,

WHAT A GREAT JOY IT IS TO BE IN GOD'S HOUSE, ON GOD'S DAY, WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S WAY--in Spirit and in Truth! Thank you for coming. There are many things you could have chosen to do today, but you have made the House of the Lord a priority and we are blessed to see you.

We have a packed calendar this month. Today we will be asking for Readers and Singers for our traditional CandleLight Service. This special evening is always enhanced as the church community participates! Don't forget the children's program next Sunday! Caroling on Friday, Dec 20, the Teen Play, Saturday Dec 21, and Christmas Sunday, December 22!

a Thrill of Hope!

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

In Paul's letter to the Ephesian Church he describes life BC (Before Christ). Pointedly and plainly he paints a picture of their pagan past summing up their sad reality--"having no hope, and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:12.

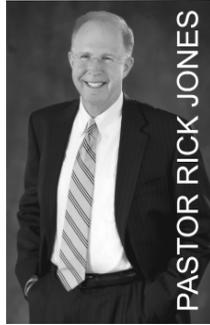
Hopelessness is debilitating. Hopelessness is paralyzing. Hopelessness is ultimately deadly. Apart from the presence of God, hopes for fulfillment and meaning are elusive. It is not coincidental that as our nation has abandoned God we have witnessed a rise in self-destruction. Every day 123 Americas lose all hope. Without God. Without hope.

Yet a closer look at the people of whom the Apostle wrote reveals that they were not without gods. They were without God. They had the Greek Pantheon--Zeus, Poseidon, Hera, Athene, Ares, Aphrodite, Apollon, Artemis, Hermes, Dionysos, and Hestia. But these were gods who were no gods at all!

It is tragic to have no hope and no God. It is just as tragic, and perhaps even more so, to have hope in a God who is no god at all. God is not who we make Him to be. He is the One who made us to be! God is not the figment of our imagination.

If God is not who we think Him to be, then how can we know who He is? If He is who He is, then who in the world can reveal Him to us? We can only reason of His existence and nature so far. We can only trust our experience to an extent. We can only rely on the witness of others to the degree we can trust them.

For Bible Christians, the reality, the requirement, and our redemption is revealed incarnately, in revelation, and immediately. Jesus said, "He that



PASTOR RICK JONES

Please turn off the ringers on your cell phones. You are welcome to text PR a question 314-607-1424.

hath seen me hath seen the Father." Want to know God? Know Christ!

"These things have we written that your joy may be full!" the Apostle John affirms. Indeed the 66 books of the Old and New Testament are "given by inspiration of God and are profitable." The True God is known in Christ--God incarnate. He is known in His Word--God breathed "inspired" Scripture. And He is known immediately--without mediation--through the witness of His Holy Spirit. "The Spirit bears witness with our Spirit..."

Hope that is based on fiction is disheartening at best. The kindergarten student who hopes to score a perfect 36 on their ACT (a test high school student take for college admission) will undoubtedly quit the test after the first few questions. "It's hopeless" they will cry.



But the God of the Word--written and in the flesh--sparks hope in the heart of the hopeless. His demands are unyielding and absolute, but the God who Is offers hope by opening to us the door of possibility! The history of God's redemption is proof that not only will "the faith be sight" but "hope will be realized!"

Adam and Eve is there hope?

Cain, is there hope?

Noah, is there hope?

Moses, is there hope?

Joshua, is there hope?

Ruth, is there hope?

David, is there hope?

Daniel, is there hope?

Isaiah, is there hope?

Joseph and Mary, is there hope?

Peter is there hope?

John in exile on Patmos, is there hope?

Persecuted and martyrs, is there hope?

YES THERE IS HOPE FOR ALL OF THESE AND MORE! THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU!

The angels sang on the hillsides of Bethlehem, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace good will to men!" They announced the greatest news in the world! The hope of the ages was born! "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the LORD!"

Feeling hopeless...look up! look to the Savior! look to the glorious future He has prepared for the sheep of his pasture!

A THRILL OF HOPE, THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES!

Yes we do!

ONWARD7

FCCSTL-LIVE

FAITH COMMUNITY



CHRISTMAS 2019

a Thrill of Hope!

THE PEOPLE THAT SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT!

Spiritual. Biblical. Loving.



FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH

2969 N. Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Ann, MO 63074 - Pastor Rick Jones - Telephone (314) 607-1424
www.FCCStLouis.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

Welcome to FCC!

We trust you sense God's presence and that you feel very welcome here.
Please let us know how we may help you.

11:00 a.m.

MORNING WORSHIP

& SUNDAY SCHOOL for
PRE-SCHOOL thru HIGH SCHOOL
FREE NURSERY

4:00 PM
Teen Play Rehearsal

6:00PM

EVENING PRAISE & PREACHING

Think **HIGHER**
LOVE Deeper
Live **GREATER**

- THE APOSTLES CREED -

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; descended into the grave, the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Scriptures of the Month

Each month we are encouraging God's people to memorize a passage of Scripture
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ISAIAH 9:6

FCC NEWSLINE

Important Announcements and Updates

■ **THANK YOU FOR COMING!** We are very honored that you have come and hope that you will feel at home here at FCC! We would love to keep in touch. Please text (314) 607-1424 or e-mail: PastorRick@FCCSt-Louis.org, or fill out a contact card on our welcome table.

■ LOOKING FORWARD THIS WEEK

Tonight, 4p TEEN PLAY REHEARSAL
Tonight, 6p PS! - Preaching & Singing!
Tuesday, 7a Meet-Up @ McDonalds on Page/Ashby
Wednesday, 6p TEEN PLAY REHEARSAL
Wednesday, 7p BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER
Thursday, 6pm Leadership Meeting
Friday, 7p FCC TEENMEET Play Rehearsal
Saturday, 10a CALLING & Church Decorating
Sunday, Dec. 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

■ **THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD** We come now to the last month of the year thankful for God's provision, and praying that He will supply our needs. Our giving is \$18,000 behind last year at this time. We appreciate so much the generosity. DEBT FREE CAMPAIGN: We have \$8,025 in pledges and gifts our way to \$50,000 this year.

Mon. of Dec.	Monthly Need	2019 Total	2019 Goal
\$1,624.00	\$9,000.00	\$107,060.00	\$150,000

■ **LADIES FELLOWSHIP** was a wonderful blessing as a dozen gathered for breakfast, Bible study, and a fun gift exchange.

■ **TEEN PLAY REHEARSAL WILL BE TONIGHT AT 4PM**

■ **MARK YOU CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS:**

Children's Christmas Prog, Sun. Dec 15, 11a

Christmas Caroling - Friday, Dec. 20 6p

Teen Christmas Play - Saturday, Dec. 21 6p

Christmas Candlelight Service - Sun. Dec 22, 6p

■ **THANK YOU FOR BEING A CARING CONGREGATION** It is easy to be so overwhelmed with our own situation that we fail to see the needs around us. You are very thoughtful!



FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH 2969 N LINDBERGH, ST ANN, MO 63074 TEL (314) 607-1424

FCC PRAYER & PRAISE

Reports of Answered Prayers and Your Requests

- TAMMY LEWIS
- AL LOCKHART
- GRANNY FARMER
- JIM NORTH family.
- JOHN BIONDO
- ALBERTA WALKER
- RUTH GEORGE
- NEIL GOODRICH
- NORMA & JD GILLHAM
- THE ROBINSON FAMILY
- CHRISTINE BLACK'S NIECE
- JIM WILSON'S FAMILY
- RON FEGER
- BILLY BARNES' FATHER
- ANN MATLOCK
- CHRISTY DODSON
- JOE & BECKY GOBER
- YVONNE MASON
- SIS. BEVERLY NELSON
- JANE FEGER'S FAMILY
- KAYLA FEGER and her baby
- KAREN MYER
- MARK JENNINGS
- HOWARD GERDES Family

