



God is love and love lives here!

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## Sunday, May 28, 2023, Day of Pentecost

Our newsletter this week is a transcript of an audio devotion by apologist and modern theologian Tim Keller. I have personally followed his work for most of my adult life and was saddened to read of his passing last week. I pray you are encouraged in your faith as you read his words of wisdom.

Keep The Faith, PastorTommy

### God as Our Father

We are moving on to Question 7 of 10 this week: We have passages like [Luke 11:11-13](#) that seem to say a fruitful prayer life requires a foundational conviction that God is my Father, he is totally for me — without hesitation on his part — and he is wholly for my good. Just how key is this conviction for our prayer life?

It has to be foundational or Jesus wouldn't have started the Lord's Prayer with the words "Our Father." Some Bible scholars may find an exception to what I am about to say here, but I don't think Jesus ever addressed God without calling him "Father." So, it must be foundational. And I would say it is foundational because in the word Father — that you are my Father — you essentially have the gospel in miniature. If God is my boss, if he is my employer, then even though he might be a very good boss or a very good employer, nevertheless, in the end he is not unconditionally committed to me. If I act up, he may give me a break or two, but eventually my boss will say, "I am sorry, you are terminated."

### "I really do not know how sinful I am unless I am in the presence of a holy God."

So, if I forget that God is my Father, I may come to him in prayer basically in a mercenary way, saying, "I am going to do this and this and this, and now you owe me this and this and this." First, that destroys the ability to adore God. You are basically in petition. Second, it makes prayer a way of manipulating God.

I have three sons, and I know when they were growing up, they were spiritually always at different places. But if one of them was acting up — if one of them was being a little more disobedient, a little more rebellious or something like that — if anything, as his father, my heart went out to him more. My heart actually got more involved with him, because I am not his boss. I am his father. So when I know that — when I call God "Father," I know I am coming in Jesus's name. I am coming only because of God's grace. I know because Jesus died for me, now God is committed to me.

By the way, to say that God is my Father, and I can always know that he will hear me, and I can rest, and I can adore him, doesn't mean I can sin away. And the reason is, of course, that if you break your boss's rules, that doesn't hurt your boss as much as if you break your father's rules, because that is really trampling on your father's heart. So, calling God "Father" means on the one hand, I'm assured of grace and assured that he is always going to hear me. That makes my petitions stronger. But on the other hand, it also means that I have to confess my sins because this wonderful God who has done all this for me and has brought me into his family at the infinite cost of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ — I need to obey him because of his good grace. To call God "Father" enhances everything you do in prayer. If you don't know that God is your Father, it flattens and reduces and thins out every other kind of prayer.

### Prayer to Self-Awareness

So true. Moving on to Question 8 of 10 — and this is perhaps the thing I was least expecting to learn and was most surprised to see in your book. It now makes sense to me — You say prayer gives us an accurate knowledge of ourselves. Explain this. How does prayer lead to self-knowledge?

#### Scripture & Sermon:

Acts 2:14-21

"Pentecost Sunday  
Everyone"



#### New Concerns

Tommy & Family  
Luis & Jan

#### Continue Prayers for:

Bennie Wyatt  
Gene Estep, JR  
Stevie Bowen  
Family of Connie Cross  
Thomas & Joy  
Scott Warren  
Warren McDow  
Debbie Herrington  
Family of Peggy Holcomb  
Natalie  
Leon and Nancy

#### Wesley Glen Ministries

Mary Prater  
Jim & Mary Leary  
Virginia Eadie  
Hailey Holder Allen  
Bill Reedy  
Sarah Mayer  
Cary Martin  
Mac McNeal  
James McNeal  
Our Country, Leaders, Military

#### Finance Report for

May 21

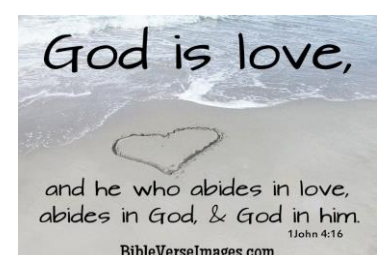
Operating Budget..... \$10,945  
Apportionments..... 2500  
Local Mission.....485  
Total..... \$13,930

#### Worship Attendance:

127

#### Sunday School

61



C.S. Lewis gives this image: If you are a proud person, you will never be able to see God because a proud person who is looking down on everyone cannot see something that is above him, bigger than him. From that image, I get that it is in God's presence that I learn humility. I really do not know how sinful I am unless I am in the presence of a holy God. That is what happened to Isaiah. Do you know the first thing that Isaiah says when he is in the presence of "holy, holy, holy" God in Isaiah 6? He does not say, "Oh, you are so holy." He says, "I am a man of unclean lips" ([Isaiah 6:3-5](#)). So right away, he senses his sin, just like the brighter a light is, the more you can see the dirt on your hands.

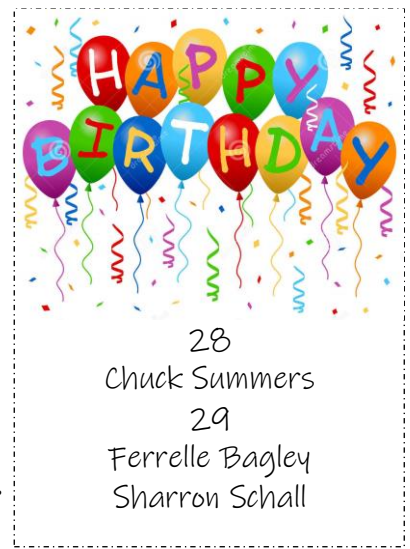
The more beautiful a person is, the more we unbeautiful people see that we are not very good looking. In other words, when you get close to superlativeness, you see your flaws. There is absolutely no way that you will really existentially know that you are a sinner and what is wrong with you unless you draw near to a holy God in prayer.

*So is this why we don't pray? We don't want to see the dirt on us?*

Yes. Prayer is very humbling. For example, if I am really upset, I find it very hard to stay upset when I get in God's presence, because I say, "Look, Lord, you know you are wise, and I really don't need to be this upset. You know what you are doing. It is very hard to stay on a kind of high-horse, self-righteous spot and then turn around and pray. It just knocks you off your horse right away.

[Tim Keller](#) is an author, theologian, and apologist. He was the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, New York, and is a co-founder of The Gospel Coalition.

*Keep The Faith, Pastor Tommy*



Bible Reading Plan	
<b>Week of May 28<sup>th</sup>:</b>	
Sunday.....	1 Corinthians 16
Monday.....	2 Corinthians 1
Tuesday.....	2 Cor 2
Wednesday.....	2 Cor 3
Thursday.....	2 Cor 4
Friday.....	2 Cor 5
Saturday.....	2 Cor 6

## Disaffiliation Update/The Grey Area

Hey Church! We are officially approved through the South Georgia Annual Conference in our disaffiliation. This past Sunday at 4:54 Centerville UMC, by majority vote, was given the opportunity to leave as approved through the book of discipline and was among 193 other churches to do so. Right now, we are in a period of what we are calling the "grey area". We are officially "The Well at Centerville" but still have business to attend to as "Centerville UMC". Below are a few tasks and updates for each that we are working through so that you can keep up with us over the next few weeks as we finalize our work. Please keep in mind that all deadlines are leading up to June 9th which is when our current DS will be here for a final walk through of the property. If you have any questions, please let us know.

### Centerville UMC Tasks

- Removing all UMC signage
- closing social media pages
- converting electronic files
- walk through with DS on June 9th

### The Well at Centerville

- New signage installed/Week of May 28th
- New website/will be live this week
- New Social Media/We are live on Facebook and Instagram! Please like and follow these pages! Both are "The Well at Centerville". Links to these will be on our new website.
- Live Streaming/We will begin our live streaming on the new Facebook page June 11
- Bank Accounts/These are open and ready. If you are giving online this will automatically go to the new accounts. If you are giving in person all checks can be made to "The Well at Centerville"
- T Shirts have been Ordered
- Celebration Service on June 11/We are working on arrangements for this service
- Vendor Changes/Updating our name and information with vendors

Keep the Faith, Pastor Tommy

## Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- \* *The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of The Well at Centerville and our new beginning by Sherrie Shell*
- \* *In memory of Connie Cross by Barbara Hilliard, Margaret Henley, Nancy & Leon Hudson, Debbie Gray, Rose McCarren, Trudy Baggett, Jimmy & Mary Sammons*
- \* *In memory of Bruce Hunnicutt by Margaret Henley*



## Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry June 14, 11a... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for May30- Lynn Mayfield, Nancy Brechin, Cheri Cox
- Our Open Door Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday 9a-noon. **Items needed: Men's sneakers and sandals; Size 1 (newborn) diapers; travel size- shampoo/conditioner, soap, lotion, toothpaste/mouthwash, sanitizer, sanitary pads/liners.**
- The Clothes Closet will be open Saturday, June 24, 9a-12noon.

WEAR RED FOR

Pentecost

Acts 2:14-21

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.

<sup>15</sup> "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day;

<sup>16</sup> but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'and it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup> even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> 'and I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> 'the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.

<sup>21</sup> 'and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

# Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

## This Week's Schedule:

**Sunday- May 28**

**Day of Pentecost**

### Ushers

8:30a W.C. Hester, Michael Walston  
 10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
 Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter  
 Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
 8:30a Early Worship  
 9:15a Sunday School  
 10:30a Worship



### Greeters

10:30a Lynn Mayfield, Cynthia Boutwell

### Communion Servers

Harry Siemen, Eli Odum  
 Patsy Spinks, Cynthia Boutwell



### Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

### Assisting with Children

**Sunday- May 28**

Nursery- Brittany Conyers, Laura McKenzie  
 Children- Kelly Evans, Katie Odum

**Sunday- June 4**

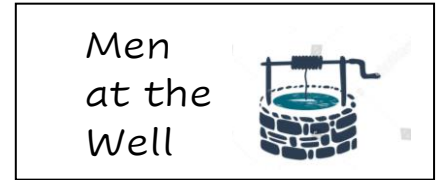
Nursery- Brooke McKeever, Laura McKenzie  
 Children- Lynn Miller, Nancy Hudson



**Monday- May 29**

**Office Closed**  
**Memorial Day**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



**Tuesday- May 30**

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet  
 9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
 10:00a Partners in Prayer  
 10:00a Yoga  
 7:30 p Narcotics Anonymous



**Wednesday- May 31**

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
 Friendship Circle to Royal Gardens  
 6:30p Choir Practice  
 7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



**Thursday- June 1**

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
 10:00a Yoga  
 5:30p Dulcimers  
 6:30p Handbells  
 7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



**Friday- June 2**

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

**Saturday- June 3**

Biblical Historical Museum Trip  
 7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



## Sunday School

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

### Sunday School Class

Seekers  
 Issues & Answers  
 New Beginnings  
 Christian Fellowship  
 Youth  
 Pilgrims

### Lenten Studies

Spiritual Warfare  
 Matthew  
 The Parables  
 Romans  
 Why/How Should I Read the Bible  
 Gospel Comparisons  
 for major events in Jesus' life

### Teacher

Kathy Rutke  
 Katie Odum  
 Nancy Hudson  
 Don Schall  
 Eric & Gloria Nelson  
 Kathy Blanchard