

# St John Church of Christ

June 14, 2020

## ONLINE

### Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Join Pete and Penelope online at 10:00 A.M.

### Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

Today we reach the top step on "The Stairway to Love" (2 Peter 1:3 - 7). What makes Christian love special?

## LIVE & ONLINE

### Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

You can join us live at the building or online at:

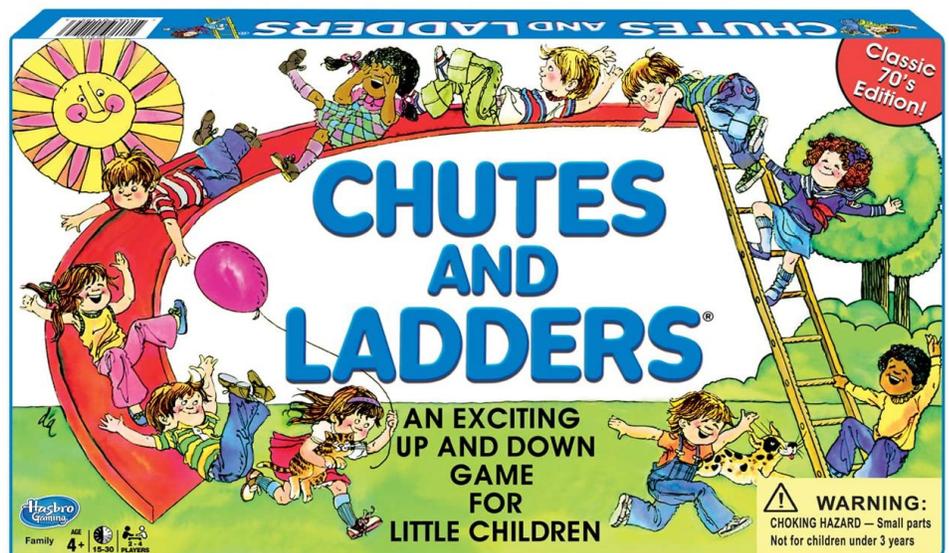
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOPdVv3YaCn-L1QnT2BftQA>

There are simple links to follow from our website: <https://StJohnChurchofChrist.org>.

*Note: We are transitioning to YouTube rather than Facebook for our broadcasts.*

John's sermon this week is entitled: "Agents of Healing: A Parable About Mercy."

# Someone to Help Me Remember



In 1 Kings 4:3, three men are listed: "Elihoreph and Ahijah the sons of Shisha were secretaries; Jehoshaphat, the son of Ahilud was recorder." Ahilud was the one who literally "remembered things," and I could use his help!

My mind is crammed with interesting bits of helpful information, fascinating facts, or even peoples' names. Still, I am constantly forgetting what I already know, and that gets me into trouble. Have you ever forgotten a birthday or an anniversary? Or to pay a bill, say "thank you" or a critical formula? As important as learning something new is, what good is it if you just as quickly forget what you learned?

Jude, the youngest brother of Jesus, understood this point. In the First Century, he was writing to a group of Christians. He wasn't writing to tell them something new. Jude said, "Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it" (Jude 5). The people he was writing to just forgot. Paul told Timothy and Titus a vital part of their ministry was to "Remind them of these things" (2 Timothy 2:14) and "Remind them to be ..." (Titus 3:1). Although both young men were preachers, perhaps their most important ministry was to help people remember what they had already learned. At the close of his life, the Apos-

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tle Peter was dedicated to helping Christians remember (2 Peter 1:12). The Ephesian church had forgotten their first love (Revelation 2:4), and Jesus commanded them to remember, repent, and do the works they had done at first.

Oft times, when a troubled couple comes to me for counseling, I'll ask them to bring their wedding album with them, and we'll look at the pictures together and remember how things were – and how they can be again!

That, of course, is the key. We can't live in the past because, frankly, our memories are too selective. Things were never as bad or as good as we remember. However, if we use our memories as a springboard into the future, then we have something to hang on to. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy:

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ... But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might

display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life

(1 Timothy 1:12 ff).

Likewise, the author of Hebrews said,

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions,

(Hebrews 10:32 - 34).

One of the first games I can remember playing as a child was called "Chutes and Ladders." As you roll the dice and move your marker around the board, you might land on a "ladder" that let you jump ahead, but also you might land on a "chute" that caused you to slide down and fall behind. The past is like that. As long as we use our past as a ladder to the future, we won't slide helplessly into the past.



### For Your Prayers

Due to the pandemic, many tests and procedures were delayed. Since restrictions are loosening up, we have many people to add to our prayer list this week.

- Terry is preparing for his hip surgery.
- Shelly had a procedure this week.
- Curtis is in Chicago to meet with specialists.
- Carol is meeting with doctors to determine the next steps to resolve the pain in her hand.
- Orvalee has also been seeing specialists.
- Jerry is suffering and the doctors are trying to diagnose the issue.
- Please continue to pray for little 2-year-old Maren in Great Bend.

In addition, let's continue to pray for our country and all of the turmoil we are facing as a nation.

We also want to remember our Church family around the world, especially in Mexico and India as they face the challenges brought on by this pandemic.



More Kansas wildflowers beside the roads this week.