

St John Church of Christ

December 27, 2020

Now meeting Online Only

ONLINE



Our online Adult Bible Study continues this morning at 10:30. It's based on John McKeel's recent book, *Peter the Friend of Jesus Speaks*. Our programs are available over the internet starting Sundays at 10:30 for Adult Class and 11:00 for Worship. Just visit

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

and select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:



Happy New Year!

2021

Friendship Evangelism

Friendship and evangelism go together in a most beautiful way. To call someone "friend" is a beautiful epitaph and to call someone friend for all eternity is the sweetest of relationships.

Unfortunately, both friendship and evangelism have fallen on hard times. We are overwhelmed with relationships and bombarded with demands. The frantic pace of life often prevents us from becoming close to anyone and nurturing friendships with the most precious of commodities, time.

One of the great surprises of recent times involves online social networking. It has become far too easy to confuse knowing about someone with knowing someone!

To the ancients, friendship seemed the happiest and most fully human of all loves -- the crown of life and the school of virtue. Moderns, by comparison, ignore it. Why? Could it be that too few genuinely experience it?

Friendship arises out of companionship, but it blossoms when they discover something in common. It may be an insight or an interest that, until that moment, they believed was their special treasure. Hence, the picture of lovers is "face to face," but the image of friends is shoulder to shoulder.

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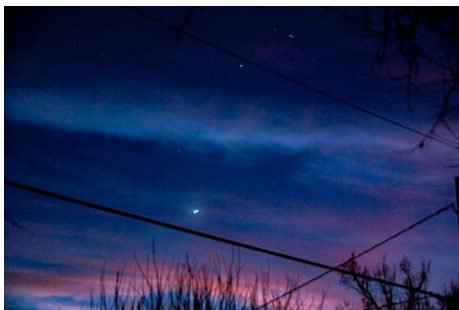
Likewise, evangelism has often been cheapened into just another program. We often relate evangelism with sales, and the joy of sharing the good news becomes crass commercialism. We learn a “technique” or rely on “professionals” without ever realizing we share a relationship with a friend. It begins as we discover God for ourselves and spills over as we introduce others to our eternal Friend.

Even though we have to “socially isolate,” we can still be friends and introduce people to Jesus, our eternal Friend.



“The heavens declare the glory of God”

Kansas night skies are amazing! This past week we were treated to a planetary conjunction. Jupiter and Saturn appeared so close together in their orbits, you could cover them both with your little finger. This won't happen again for 800 years!



News & Prayer Requests

Teddy was taken to the hospital in Hayes after suffering a heart attack Monday night. He had a successful triple bypass Wednesday afternoon. We've all been praying hard for him and especially Carol. Before his surgery, Teddy told me he especially wanted prayers for the love of his life in these difficult times. “It's not the way I was planning to spend Christmas,” he said.

John Turner from Great Bend shares this update on little Maren's condition:

Maren's rash did not improve on Tuesday and its severity led us to the ER. We were admitted into the hospital and today we got a diagnosis: hives brought on by a virus. She will get Benadryl and Zyrtek around the clock to ease the itching and inflammation. Hopefully the virus will run its course sooner than later and the hives will slowly disappear. We are hopeful to be discharged tomorrow (Thursday) and be home in GB come evening time.

She seems to be feeling pretty good as the meds are doing their job.

Meanwhile Alicia and I are on the brink of getting hives ourselves from all the surprises Maren is giving us. Thank you for continued prayers. I'll spare you from pics this time.

God is good,

John

George & Shirley's son-in-law, Rick McGaugh, had a heart attack and will be undergoing bypass surgery. Please keep Krista and their family in prayer. They live in Fayetteville AR.

Paul, John's friend from high school in Washington, continues to deal with his cancer. Paul writes that the chemo has not been effective and has been discontinued while doctors plan the next course of action. “I know that you have kept me on your prayer list in the bulletin so thank everyone for all their prayers and let them know that I appreciate them for doing this for me.” Please continue to pray for Paul and his lovely wife Bernice.

Curtis, in Pratt continues to battle cancer, but is over covid. God is good!

Stan is home from the Mayo Clinic with a new treatment plan. Let's pray it is successful.

Let's give thanks for the many blessings God continually gives us – even in these hard times! We've had many cases of covid in our community, but people are recovering and, finally, a vaccine is on the way.