

# St John Church of Christ

February 28, 2021

Worship  
Service

Premiers  
Sunday at 11:00



## Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here with us!  
We've been in quarantine for  
so long, it's good to be back.

Our Adult Bible Class is still  
being shared online at 10:30.  
Just visit

[www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org)

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

[St. John Church of Christ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

## The Drip

Sermons from Sailing

I loved the sound of the rain drumming on the cabin roof as our sailboat gently rocked on the bay. The oil lamps cast a golden glow, and the stereo quietly filled the cabin with music. It's a great time to recline on the settee and read a good book or just meditate. That is until I began hearing the inevitable drip.

It's so quiet. I'm tempted to ignore it. Just focus on the rain or the music. Don't listen to the drip ... drip ... drip. Try to think about something else. Concentrate on the book, the story, happy memories—anything but the drip ... drip ... drip. It's not like the boat is going to sink. There isn't a flood pouring in. No cannonball has pierced our hull. It's not like we hit a rock, and I've got to spring into action and man the pumps. It's just a ... drip ... drip ... drip. It won't work. I've got to hunt it down, mop up the mess, and put an end to it. There will be no peace until the drip is silenced.

There are some questions in life that are like that, too. We can



try to drown them out or ignore them, but eventually, we have to face them.

"Why am I here?" "Is there anything after this life?" "Is this all there is?" "Does anybody care?" These questions don't seem as urgent as, say, taking out the trash or getting new tires put on your car, but eventually, you'll have to face them. We don't have the "pig's advantage." (Mr. Pig doesn't realize he is piggy today and bacon tomorrow.) As human beings, we must ask these questions.

Some of my friends dismiss the questions as "irrelevant." "So what? It doesn't matter." But I say that it does. If life has a purpose, then it follows that I should discover that purpose for me to get

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Photo by Joy Sallee

the most out of life.

“But life doesn’t have a purpose, John!” my friend might object.

“And how do you know that? The very fact that we can ask the question hints that there is an answer.”

He shouts, “Then I decide what the purpose is. I give my life meaning!”

“That’s noble in a John-Waynish kind of way. But it sounds more like you’ve put your fingers in your ears and are trying to avoid the hard work of finding the answers.”

The sun has come out, and the drips have gone away, but that doesn’t mean I can ignore them. It’s time to get out the calk and seal the leaks. Likewise, isn’t it time to begin the quest and discover the purpose in life?

*From my book, Changing Tacks: Lessons I’ve Learned from an Old Wooden Boat.*



## Memories Are Made of Mishaps

John McKeel

When I was preparing to conduct my first wedding, I visited my old friend and minister, Maurice Meredith. He walked me through the ceremony one more time. We reviewed the protocols and the vows. Then he gave me a bit of invaluable advice. “When it comes time to exchange the rings – if everything has gone smoothly – drop the rings.”

“What?” I protested.

“Drop the rings. Otherwise,

they won’t have anything to remember.”

Maurice was right. You see, we don’t remember perfection. Memories are made of mishaps!

When faced with a “failure,” the first question to ask is, “Have I really failed?”

How many filaments did Edison burn up inventing the light bulb?

Col. Sanders was rejected how many times before he sold his first chicken franchise? (The answer is 1,009.)

The first iron plow (1797) was rejected by New Jersey farmers because they felt it poisoned the land and stimulated the growth of weeds.

Joshua Coppersmith was arrested in Boston for trying to sell stock in the telephone. After all, “All well-informed people know that it is impossible to transmit the human voice over a wire.”

One of the most famous bad judges of good chances was Mark Twain, who squandered a fortune in hare-brained schemes that led him to financial ruin, but with steady strength of mind he firmly rejected an appeal from a poor but brilliant inventor who asked him to invest only \$500 in his invention in exchange for a large share in the new company. Twain saw no future in the contraption, so he sent Alexander Graham Bell on his way.

There is an old Jewish saying, “If one man calls thee a donkey, pay him no mind. If three men call thee a donkey, get thee a saddle.”

Failure is often just an unexpected opportunity! In Chinese, the word for “crisis” has two char-

acters – one meaning danger and the other opportunity (Clinbell, *The Intimate Marriage*).

An optimist believes when he has worn out the soles of his shoes, he’s back on his feet again.

Finally, when you do make a mistake, admit it, accept the consequences and go on. Don’t let the past rob you of the future!

## News & Prayer Requests

Marilyn’s surgery went well last Thursday and she is very appreciative of your prayers on her behalf..

Please continue to pray for John’s friend, Paul, as he battles cancer in Washington state, and let’s continue to pray for Curtis in Pratt as he wrestles with cancer.

Don’t forget to pray for little Emersyn, the daughter of Billy and Brianna Milton of Hudson and for Mauren the daughter of the Turner’s in Great Bend. We are receiving good reports on the progress of both little girls.

### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Although David and Nancy Rice have been attending since last spring, we haven’t had an opportunity to welcome them to the family because of the pandemic. That has changed!

#### David and Nancy Rice

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