

St John Church of Christ

April 4, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here. Bible classes begin at 10:00. For kids, the Pete & Penelope, our children's puppet program is followed by songs and classes.

Our Bible is the most amazing book of all time. Although it was written by dozens of people over a period of 1,600 years, we believe the Author is God. Adults, join us in the auditorium, for a new, six-week series, which explains "How We Got the Bible." This week, John presents a "Bible Book Report."

Worship begins promptly at 11:00

If you are unable to be with us in person, our worship is shared through our website:

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

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

[St. John Church of Christ](http://St.John Church of Christ)

Taking a Stand

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:10).

You've weighed the alternatives, and you've made a decision. All that remains is to take that first step. I've always loved the story of Shamgar, and not many people know it. Shamgar is mentioned in two verses in the Bible - and they aren't even side-by-side. Both are found in the book of Judges.

Deborah describes the desperate times Israel was facing:

"In the days of Shamgar ... the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways. The villagers ceased in Israel." Desperate times indeed! Commerce stopped. No goods flowed from the country into the villages. There were no villages! Someone had to do something. Everyone knew that, and probably everyone complained about it.

What were the alternatives? The Philistines overran Israel. Whenever there was a crop to be harvested - here come the Philistines. They had to be stopped. Everyone agreed on



that, but how? What could be done? You never encountered a lone Philistine. There were hundreds of them, and they were men of war. The Israelites were farmers. They didn't stand a chance, or so they thought.

One day one man decided to take a stand. He was done waiting. He was done complaining. His name was Shamgar:

After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel (Judges 3:31).

Like many passages in the Bible, we are tempted to skim over this verse lightly, but I want to challenge you to stop and think about it for a while. Use your sanctified imagination to picture it in your mind.

Shamgar was by himself, all alone facing 600 heavily armed Philistines.

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No one would have called him a coward if you turned and ran. That was the smart thing to do, but instead, armed only with a pointed stick (an oxgoad is used to “encourage” the oxen to keep moving by poking them in their hindquarters), Shamgar took on the marauding Philistines.

Now the interesting thing is the only thing worse than 600 heavily armed Philistines is 599 angry Philistines. Shamgar struck down the first one, and he couldn’t stop. He was committed. He took his stand and finished the fight that day, “and he also saved Israel.”

In the sermon this morning, Peter was restored after his fall, but restoration isn’t about putting us back into the package. We have been released to do great things for God, and He gives us the strength to do it.

What was the difference between the forgiven Peter beside the Sea of Galilee (John 21) and Peter the firebrand of Pentecost? On Sunday, the day of Pentecost, God strengthened Peter with the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit has been given to every Christian (Acts 2:38). We, like Shamgar, need to take our stand. God will supply us with the weapons and the strength!



*Ships sail East, and ships sail West,
while the selfsame breezes blow.
It’s the set of the sail, and not the gale
that determines the way they go.*



Key Dates

- **Vacation Bible School**
- April 21 VBS Planning
- April 28 Work Night
- May 5 Work Night
- May 12 Work Night
- May 19 Work Night
- May 26 Work Night
- Saturday June 5 One-Day Vacation Bible School!
- **Silver Maple Bible Camp**
- April 24 Work Day

- **Congregational Birthday Party!**
- May 23, Potluck and Party after morning services

- **CORE Dinner**
- May 24, Monday Night



Photograph by Jan McKeel

News & Prayer Requests

We have had a number of knee surgeries among our members this month. Marilyn, Lisa, and Orvalee continue to recover from their surgeries.

Please pray for Gentry Rodriguez. The effects of recent major surgery have kept him out of work.

Joy has asked us to pray for her friend, Becky, who is awaiting the results of a recent biopsy.

Gayle is continuing to have bleeding problems and has been in the hospital in Pratt. Please pray that the doctors can find the source of her blood loss.

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

Please begin praying about VBS and Silver Maple Bible Camp programs coming this coming summer.