

St John Church of Christ

May 16, 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! Today's class is "Choosing a Bible." Our new study of the Holy Spirit begins in next week.

Worship follows 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)

From Bitter to Better



Things hadn't worked out the way Naomi had planned. She, her husband, and three sons made a move they believed would provide them with a new life. Things had started well, but then one disaster after another befell her. Life had become so hard she wanted to change her name from "Naomi" (which means "pleasant") to "Mara" (which means, "bitter." See Ruth 1:20.)

Life is hard. The world is full of injustice. Bad things happen to good people, but is it inevitable that age sours us? How can we become better instead of bitter?

Cut bitterness off at the roots.

Some people feed their bitter roots, but the Bible teaches us to get rid of bitterness as soon as possible (Hebrews 12:15; Ephesians 4:31).

'Fess up! Of course that's not always possible. Circumstances often blindside us, but Helen G. Lescheid wrote, "Coming to terms with bitterness seems to be the first step toward getting rid of it." That's a two-part process: (1) admit your pain, and (2) stop making excuses for what happened. How many times have you heard someone you love say through clenched teeth, "I'm not angry!" Come on! Admit it before bitterness bites you.

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Become a forgiver. Here is the Christian key: Don't let anyone tie you to the past. Stephen forgave his killers even before they threw the first stone! (Acts chapter 7) Forgiveness is liberating! But if that's true, why don't we forgive people? A simple answer can be, "They hurt me. I want to hurt them," or "I forgave them once and they didn't change. Why should I let them continue to hurt me?" We forget that we have been forgiven!

So what's included in

forgiving? Forgetting for one. Let it go, but there is a time for confrontation. God doesn't expect his children to be doormats. Sometimes we hurt the ones we love and we don't even realize it. Confrontation doesn't have to be hostile. In fact, confrontation always has the goal of restoration. We value the relationship. Love can conquer.

Finally, forgiveness is empowering. Refuse to allow anyone to crush your spirit. Forgive and prove you are indeed a child of God!



Pictures

There were big things happening in Stafford last week at the library. Our members helped support the "Larabee Library Round-Up."



Key Dates

- **Vacation Bible School**
 - May 19 Work Night
 - May 26 Work Night
 - Saturday June 12 One-Day Vacation Bible School!
- **Congregational Birthday Party!**
 - May 23, Potluck and Party after morning services
- **CORE Dinner**
 - May 24, Monday Night
- **VBS JUNE 12th**
- **The St. John Jubilee is coming!**

News & Prayer Requests

Please keep Joe's brother, Rick, in your prayers. He is in the hospital and his sepsis is extremely serious.

Gayle is continuing to have health problems.

We received good news from Paul, John's friend in Washington. There has been some progress with his chemotherapy this week.

Our condolences go out to Curtis' family in Pratt at his passing this past week.

Congratulations to Kayla and the whole class of 2021! They graduated Saturday night.