

# St John Church of Christ

July 11, 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, Pete & Penelope, our children's puppet program, is followed by songs and classes.

How much do you know about the Holy Spirit? For most people, the Spirit seems mysterious and, perhaps, a little frightening, but this is the Age of the Spirit! Join us for Bible Class at 10:00 and learn to appreciate the Spirit of God. 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](http://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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv3a1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1k1)

## I Hate Sand



*Photo by Billy Pasco on Unsplash*

I think I can be totally honest with you. I hate sand. When I was eleven years old, my Boy Scout troop spent two weeks camping on a sandbar of an island in Pensacola Bay. It was delightful! There were old Civil War forts to explore, and the water was glorious. I love the ocean, and we swam, and body surfed all day long. But there was sand. There was sand everywhere. At the time, I didn't mind, but after two weeks of sand in my sleeping bag, sand in my shorts, sand between my toes, sand in my food - I had had enough! Now I cringe at the very thought of sand getting in my shoes.

It's a real handicap. My grandchildren love the beach, but to watch them rolling in the sand, to put these sweet sugar cookies back in my car - well, it's just too much. I love scuba diving and boogie boarding and swimming, but to do it, I have to cross... the SAND. Sand is becoming a barrier to my happiness!

When God called Moses (Exodus 3:4 ff.), he told Moses to "take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." Why did God say that? Were Moses' sandals dirty,

*Continued on the back page*

# Coco & Tish Big News from Oaxaca

Continued from front page

We pray all are healthy and beginning to return to post-COVID normal, whatever that might be in your area! Here in Mexico our allowed activities rely on a stoplight system: Red-stay home, Orange-limited activities, Yellow-with caution, Green-FREEDOM (with masks). This month in Oaxaca we achieved Green status, which the Lord perfectly provided just in time for a visit from my mom and Emily's return home for the summer! We were able to go out more often than normal and enjoy a bit of "fresh" air.

COVID-19 affected ministry in so many ways that I imagine are similar to what everyone else has experienced. It also gave us time to reflect on what priorities we have in our lives and readjust activities accordingly. If you follow us on Facebook (we really hope you do!) today, at the half year mark of 2021, we will be announcing a new family ministry page (we are tweaking the logo) that we hope will help provide ministry updates and better our communication. (We are also asking that if you read this newsletter, you would pop us a quick message, just to let us know that our email list is updated.)

†The congregation, during this time, has been persevering and we have had 4 baptisms in these 6 months. The church has a strong group of men for leadership who are ready to teach and take on areas that Jorge has been helping. The congregation now has their own land and small building and are able to provide some economical support for Jorge's Co-leader, Toño. We are satisfied that we have been able to be part of the congregation and participate through preaching, teaching, small groups, Zoom classes, etc... and are blessed to see how they have grown NOT because of our efforts, but through Christ who is at work in them and us!

So, what is the Big News from Oaxaca? We have reached a point in our ministry with the San Pedro congregation where we feel able to venture out and pursue new fields for kingdom growth. For several years I (Latisha) have had a heart calling to reach the women and babies in lower income areas. A wise brother once mentioned to us, "The only

way to reach them, is to go to them. They can't afford to come to the City." Right before the Pandemic hit, I was able to travel to a mountain region where a fellow midwife lives and see first-hand the need of quality maternity care for the women in the surrounding villages. We have been praying since then and investigating the possibility of opening a birth center much like Casa Compasiva in a strategic larger town called Tlaxiaco. It is a town 3 1/2 hours from the capital where we are now, and the pregnant women from all surrounding villages are required to travel in labor or at 38 weeks pregnancy to that city of Tlaxiaco where they are at mercy of the crowded government hospital. These hospitals are famous for women being turned away and birthing in the toilets or out on the lawn, overuse of cesarean sections to move women through faster, and placing IUDs (intrauterine device birth control) without consent/knowledge of the women. The mission would be to provide quality maternal care based on communication and compassion for the women and families in the region and at the same time provide spiritual support for them with the goal of presenting Christ in a simple and practical way. With God's grace the Gospel will be spread to these families and the Kingdom will continue to grow.



*I was able to visit this region in March 2020 with the Casa Compasiva team and provide reproductive health education to the women.*

## News & Prayer Requests

Fred is recovering nicely from his triple bypass and is staying with his daughter in Great Bend.

or was it because God didn't want anything to come between him and Moses? I've often wondered if it had been me, would I have taken my shoes off and felt the sand between my toes?

Do you feel close to God, or is something coming between you and intimate fellowship with him? I once saw a sign in front of the church that warned: "If you are letting a hypocrite come between you and God - he's closer to God than you are!"

What is the spiritual sand that is keeping you from enjoying fellowship with the Lord? Are you afraid of change? Is there something in your life - work or an "entangling sin" (Hebrews 12:10)? Are you too busy to stop and feel the warm sand of fellowship between your toes? Are you worried about getting too close to someone, and you'd rather keep those Christians at arm's length?



## Ladies' Day Tea, July 31st

The ladies of the Lyons church of Christ invite you and your friends to join us Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> for a day of fellowship. Details are posted in the foyer.

## Leisure Homestead

Join us every Sunday morning at 9:30 for prayers, songs, and a devotional with the residents at the assisted living center