

St John Church of Christ

February 6, 2022

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



A Week Without Words

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 in the Fellowship Hall.

What is this thing we call "worship"? The answer might surprise you. "Basic Training" continues in the auditorium this morning. ? Join us at 10:00 A.M. for class. Worship follows at 11:00 A.M.

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Photo by Tina Flour

There is a delightful old joke about a monk who took a vow of silence. He was only allowed to speak to the head of the monastery once every year. Then, at the end of the first year, he was asked, "Brother, do you have anything to say?" to which he answered, "The beds are hard!"

Another year passed, and he was asked, "Brother, do you have anything to say?" to which he answered, "The food is bad!"

Finally, another year passed, and he was asked, "Brother, do you have any-

thing to say?" to which he answered, "I quit!"

The head of the order shrugged his shoulders and replied, "Well, I'm not surprised. All you've done since you got here is complain."

A few years ago, I came down with a terrible sore throat and couldn't speak for over a week. I hardly got out of bed so I found myself channel surfing. I've watched more TV during that week than I had in the previous five years. I'm afraid I nearly became a "Swamp

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People” addict! (That’s a television show about hunting alligators in the swamps of Louisiana where the main characters are Cajuns who race around in boats shouting, “Choot ’em! Choot ’em!”)

It was an interesting experience. For example, people shouted from across the house, “John, do you want anything?” That’s nice, but I couldn’t yell back, “I’d love a Fudgsicle!” Or, it was natural when I whispered; people would whisper back to me like we’re keeping some grand secret.

It’s a great challenge for a preacher to lose his voice! Imagine what it would be like if suddenly all the preachers lost their voices? Before you add that to your prayer list, a friend of mine observed, “Well, they could still send text messages!” That may be, but an unspoken dread most ministers share is a kind of discouragement that causes us to wonder if we are doing any good? Is anyone really listening to what we have to say? Are we relevant or just tolerated?

In Tim Hansel’s wonderful book, *Holy Sweat*, he shared this story about the devil having a garage sale:

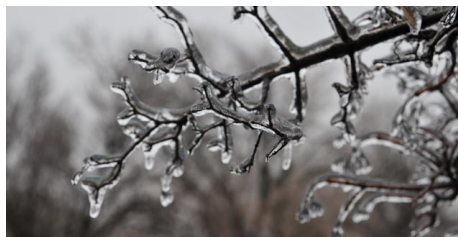
He was selling quite a few tools he had used over the

centuries. Some were barely used, others a little worn. But one was almost totally worn out. Some bargain-hunting soul picked up the worn-out tool and asked, “What is this?”

The devil replied, “Ooooh, that’s been my favorite tool from the beginning. When nothing else works, I always use that.” And he laughed devilishly.

The bargain hunter looked closer and saw, scratched on the tool’s side, the word “Discouragement.”

The challenge for preachers is two-fold. The first is not to give up but to continue to speak out. Noah preached for over 100 years, and no one except his own family listened to what he had to say, yet he is called a man of God. The second challenge is the far more critical imperative. The famine isn’t of preachers but of “hearing the words of the Lord.” It isn’t enough to just speak. We must be sure of our message! Now excuse me while I gargle again and try to find my voice for today’s sermon.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

2/3: Anissa Potter

2/6: Garland Mansel

2/18: Hannah Sallee

2/21: Shirley Shelton

3/1: Orrin Feril

3/1: Dylan Huffman

3/5: Destiny Huffman

3/11: Orvalee Aldrich

3/12: Meagan Feril



It’s been a busy week in the hospitals! Following his surgery, Terry is being taken to Dodge City for rehabilitation. Meanwhile Marilyn has been in the Stafford hospital and Dena has been in the hospital in Kansas City.

Gail has been struggling with covid and the family is making some difficult decisions and has asked for our prayers.

Please pray for Kay, Dixie and Nancy as all three wrestle with back pain. Pray their pain will be manageable and that they can find relief quickly!

Finally, don’t forget our home-bound members:

Gail

Don

Garland and Dena

Don

George and Shirley