

St John Church of Christ

March 13, 2022

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 in the Fellowship Hall.

Our new adult class continues in the auditorium this morning! John is previewing the class he has been invited to teach in Singapore at the Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) next month. 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](#)

Good News from Ukraine



Last Sunday we had a special prayer for the safety of the Christians in the Ukraine. We prayed specifically for Mike Soto and his family. The Sotos left Port Angeles, Washington to plant a church in Mykolaiv, Ukraine last July. The work was going very well, but then Russia invaded the country.

It was an agonizing decision for them: stay or go? As the Russians surrounded the city, Mike and his family began the perilous journey to Romania. We just received this email from them:

"We made it to Romania. As we left Mykolaiv, there were 800+ Russian military vehicles surrounding the city. But heard that the Mykolaiv defense destroyed

them all. Our friends say its quiet this morning.

"We made it safely near the Border of Romania last night and stayed the night. It was quite a journey, but nowhere near what the Ukrainians are going through. On our way, we witnessed an attempt [to] shoot down a Russian fighter and [that] damage right in front of us. We are safe.

"Ukrainians are displaced and in much pain. But they are strong. We need to be in constant prayer for them and Ukraine and the world.

"We will be meeting up with Albert Cook, a missionary of 20 years in Romania. We are considering helping with Refugees here

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in Romania. (Sorry for typos, I am hurrying to send this, we are in a refugee tent.) The Romanians are absolutely amazing people. I have posted things on Instagram @sotosofhim that way you may see what some of the Ukrainians are going through. Our border crossing was at Port Isaccea. We had no wait, went straight through with no problems, [but] we did hear that there are 8,000-10,000 at other crossings in Romania. Our hearts hurt. We are grateful for your prayers [and], we are safe, so please please turn your focus on the dear Ukrainians.

“We had a good night of sleep, and feel much more clear headed. Many have asked, “What now?” That is a fantastic question. We are still trying to process [what happened in] Ukraine right now and the last couple of weeks have been heartbreaking. Andrea, kids, and I would love to return to Ukraine to help rebuild and bring them hope. For the moment, we are going to stay in Europe for this next week, to pray, rest and help with refugees if possible. Yesterday, on our trip, I met two Ukrainians: grandma (Tanya) and a granddaughter (Yana). They were quite distraught, and so we tried to comfort them and invited them to travel with us to Bucharest to find a train [so] they would head to Germany to be with family. They accepted and rode with us. We love seeing God working!

“We are considering taking the kids for three days to Italy as a distraction. There is a missionary there willing to take us in [for a] while there. They are doing very well, and I pray that they understand that Jesus is worth it and

that they are not holding onto something we don't know about in their minds. They seem joyful and still want to go back. Again, God is comforting them. The things they saw when we left Mykolaiv and traveled were mindblowing,



but they were strong. Being young enough, it even fascinated them. It is nice to hear them say, “we have a crazy adventure to hold onto for the rest of our lives, and all for Jesus.” We are striving to teach them how this can embolden them for missions everywhere, even in the US.

“Albert Cook (missionary in Bucharest) was gracious enough to bring another brother to pick us up at the border. We are in a flat that was owned by his in-laws. We thank God for this connection and for many of you referring him to us.

“Olya and others in Ukraine would love for us to return, but are grateful we left. They had a terrifying night of explosions and noise, but once again the city of Mykolaiv was defended. Praise God. Alexei (our brother in the church in Mykolaiv) still remains there as he is a director of a factory. His family (wife and two kids) were able to get to Latvia. Pray for them, I cannot imagine being

separated from my family.

“Again, thank you for all your love and support! It has truly helped me as a father and husband to lead my family to safety. We are often in tears of joy for your love and outpouring. Some have asked about funds, for the time being if you don't mind sending it to our link at our sponsoring church: <https://sangerchurch.org/ukraine-mission-effort>

“There is an electronic button to donate. We hope to use some to help with the Ukrainians traveling and we may need the extra as we left 80% of our belongings. But our God is amazing and may provide victory for Ukraine.”

Blessings,
Mike

Prayer Requests

Gayle and Marilyn are both home after their recent hospital visits.

Don't forget our homebound members:

Dena
Don Rugan
George and Shirley

Key Dates

Birthdays and Anniversaries

3/13: Misty Blakeslee Rudy
3/13: Gary Hornbaker
3/15: Joe Cornwell
3/16: Adam Holmes
3/20: Angel Johnson
3/20: Mara Feril
3/25: Lory Willinger
3/25: Kay Kinnamon