

**“Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19**

## ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY 2019

ISSUE #58

### Worship With Us SUNDAY

8:00-9:00 - Coffee & Fellowship

8:30-9:00- Prayer Walk & Morning Prayer

9:00-9:45-Adult & Children's Sunday Bible Lesson

### WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 - 11:30

Children's Church

2nd Sunday: Communion

11:30-12:30 Soup

### POTLUCK

January 6th

### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

#### WEDNESDAY

Prayer @ 9:45am

Brown Bag Bible Study

“Revelation” @ Noon

Prayer & Praise Service

January 9th @ 6:30pm

#### THURSDAY

Priority One Volley Ball

January 17th @ 5:30

Worship Dance Class

1:30-2:30

Call Lin @ 935-6245

#### SATURDAY

Men's Breakfast

January 5th @ 8am

### SECRET SISTER POTLUCK/REVEAL

January 19th @ 12:30



It's a surprise!!! Come and find out who's been gifting you in 2018!!!

If you would like to be a part of this fun activity in 2019, come to the luncheon and get connected!!

If you want to participate, but can't attend the event, contact Leanne Perin at 936-4305.

### FEB. 8TH & 9TH

### WOMEN'S



Teresa Shannon is heading up this much-looked-ahead to event. Got questions? Contact her @ 935-8925.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

January 10th @ 3:00pm

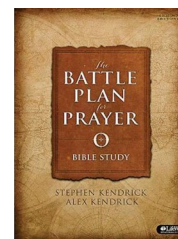
All are welcome! This month they are continuing to ask for donations of winter hats, scarves and especially gloves.

Call Lisa Wallner at 935-6249 or Shar Small @ 509-991-1045 for details. The January mtg. will be held at the home of Carol Stickney, call Carol at 509-563-9725 for directions.

### small groups



On Sunday evenings @ 6pm, Kerry & Loretta Burkey (935-0829) are hosting and leading the small group study of: Emergency Response: Practical ways to help others through challenges.



Greg & Joan Scot (935-6730) Tuesday, Oct 9th at 7pm. This study stems from the movie, “The War Room.”



Join the Women's Yada Yada study Tuesdays at 10am in the ALF Fellowship Hall with Linda Norris (936-0031) facilitating the group with The Good Gift Giver: 21 Days of Unexpected Blessings.



The women of the Chewelah Baptist Church have been invited to join us in the ALF Fellowship Hall! Come early to visit and bring a salad to share! Call Lisa @ 935-6249 or Barb @ 509-247-5059 for details.



We are again at year's end. And such a year it has been. I won't fall into the routine of reciting highlights of the past year in our church and community, though there have been some. Thankfully those did not include many funerals of our immediate

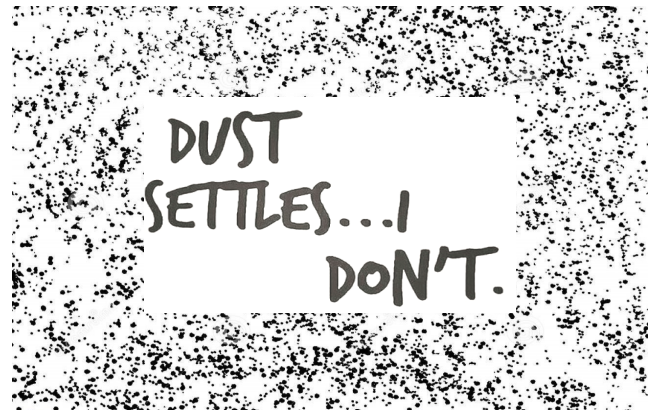
church body. This has certainly been a tumultuous year in our country, with next year likely to be more of the same. As the new year begins, however, I am hopeful that we will see the move of the Holy Spirit many of us have been waiting for. There seems to be a sense of anticipation amongst many believers across our land and world the God is up to something which will become reality in the coming year. I invite all of you to double down in your prayer lives in seeking the Lord for this greater work of the Spirit. I invite you to join us in our scheduled prayer times as well. May we also be preparing our hearts and lives for individual renewal and empowerment. Many a spiritual giant has seen revival come to the body of Christ when they first start seeking it for themselves.

God bless you in this new year,  
Pastor John

## Verse of the Month

Ephesians 3:20

*“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...”*



So much is happening around the new year that picking a verse of the month is a challenge. We have all the “new” emphasis associated with the new year. We have Epiphany kicking of the year as well, with its emphasis on seeing the light, as it were. I have picked a verse from Ephesians chapter 3 which is familiar to many, telling us of God's power being

able to do far more than we normally actually expect. This verse, as is usually the case, did not get written in a vacuum but is in context of what goes before and after. Preceding it is a passage sometimes used on Epiphany (Jan. 6) telling of a revelation for the ages. This is something which has not been known until Jesus completed his earthly ministry and the Church was born. As such, the world was given new light, or understanding, and some incredible truth. Since we live thousands of years later, this truth has been passed down to us and is not so new. However, we will explore this a bit this month to see if we can dig to some greater depth into God's mystery now solved in Jesus.



Carol will be leaving on March 8<sup>th</sup> with her daughter, Wendy, and granddaughter, Anna, for Myanmar. They will first stay in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where Wendy will take an extended education class in Thai massage to keep her



**Carol Stickney**

Massage Therapy license current and Carol and Anna hope to visit our Free Methodist International Child Care Hostel for Lahu Tribe children. While there they will meet with our FM missionaries as well.

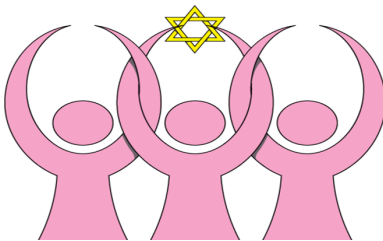
Then they will fly to Myanmar's old capital, Yangon, where they will visit the different FMC ministries there, the Bible College and Boarding School, as well as the ACE school, where Carol worked in the mornings to provide her work visa while she ministered during her two year's in Myanmar.

They will attend the FMC of Yangon, Light and Life FMC and be part of the service. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Wendy and Anna will head back to the U.S. and Carol will go with the Superintendent, Pastor Pa Kep, and others to Kalamyo to attend the annual meeting of the Free Methodist Church of Myanmar. There will also be a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the FMC of Myanmar.

Carol and Nu Hta, Pa Kep's wife, will then take a van with other women up the mountain to Hakha, the Chin State Capital, (a 10-14 hour trip, depending on the road conditions) to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> FMC women's conference. After that, Carol has been invited to visit another FMC in a village close to the Indian border, then she hopes to go with Pastor Pa Kep and others from America to the new Capital, Naypyidaw, and possibly visit other churches and church plants before returning home on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Carol is praying for the funds to be able to take with her 5 phones on which the Chin Bible can be downloaded. The cost will be about \$1,000.00. *The printed Chin bible is unlawful in Myanmar.* Imagine that!

Please consider contributing to this so very worthy endeavor.



**MESSIANIC DANCE CLASS** has been on an extended hiatus as the teacher, Lin Ortega has been healing and recovering from cancer. We give thanks and praise to Jehovah Rophe-God is our Healer, for His everlasting mercy and grace for her recovery! She would like to thank all of you that have carried her through this trial through prayer, meals, transportation, running errands for her and love.

Messianic dance is praise and worship dance that combines Israeli folk and contemporary worship music to choreographed dances. Historians have found that dance was a significant component of the Temple worship in the time of Yeshua (Jesus' Hebrew name). There are many references to the dance as a form of worship in the Old Testament. One such occurrence is in 2 Sam. 6:14 where David led the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem when he "danced before the LORD with all his might." This is why Messianic Dance is sometimes referred to as Davidic dance.

The classes are going to be starting back up this month! We would like to encourage everyone to consider joining us in worshipping our Lord in song and dance. Young and old, men and women are all welcome. No need for previous dance experience!

Classes will be starting back up the middle of January . Classes will be Thursday's from 1:30-2:30 starting January 10th in the church basement. If you have questions, give Lin a call at 935.6245.





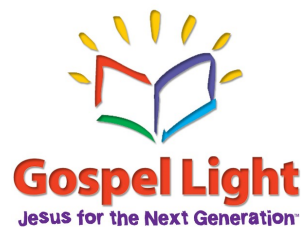
Sunday School is from  
9:00 - 9:45 for all ages.

The Adult Sunday School is studying the Book of John. It has been a wonderful opportunity and Pastor Brenda is leading us in familiar stories, but opening up the scriptures in new and profoundly soul reviving opportunities to draw closer to our Lord.

Kerry Burkey will be teaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Kerry is starting back up learning about famous people in the Bible and how their decisions impacted their lives after their pause for Christmas.

Loretta Burkey will continue teaching the High School Class (8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades). Loretta will be continuing the study in "Grapple" after the December study of Advent and Christmas.

We would like to thank all the teachers, substitute teachers, youth volunteers, nursery attendants and special event volunteers over the past year that have stepped up and helped make our programs successful over the past year. May God bless all of you for your faithfulness and dedication.



A hearty "THANK YOU" to Lin Ortega for all her hours of singing practice with Children's Church to prepare for the Christmas program on Dec. 23rd.

The animal costumes she provided were a perfect accompaniment to "The Friendly Beasts" Kudos to those that were there singing and smiling.

We hope that those who were ill are recovering and that we will see them in January as we continue our through the Bible timeline lessons during Children's Church.

# A Bruised Reed He will not Break

Imagine a crocodile falling a 600lb. wildebeests, drowning, and tearing it apart with it's powerful jaws and teeth. Now, switch to those same jaws tenderly caring for their eggs. Same jaws, same teeth.

This example gets us close to what the Bible means by gentleness. It is not the absence of strength, but the application of strength to a tender situation.

Only Jesus demonstrates ultimate strength and applies that same unique strength in the most tender ways. The same Jesus who has the power not only to throw down tables in the temple courtyard, or to expel demons from the possessed, or even to call a dead man out of a grave — this Jesus also shows tenderness to those who are most delicate and fragile.

“He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in  
the streets;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not  
quench,  
until he brings justice to victory;  
and in his name the Gentiles will  
hope.”

Matthew 12:19–21

**“If you think of all the things he could break, you will begin to see the wonder  
of what he won't break.”**

There was none stronger than Jesus. He was fearless before those who opposed him. He never once hesitated to say what needed to be said, even when he knew it would provoke violent opposition. He confronted those who needed to be called out. And he claimed victory over sin and death. This was no weak man.

Part of the wonder is that Jesus is able to combine what we so easily separate. In our experience, those who are gentlest tend to lack strength and force when it is called for, while those who are strongest tend to lack the capacity for gentleness and restraint. But Jesus shows perfect gentleness and awesome strength. No one is crushed by mistake. There is never any friendly fire or collateral damage.

**He Loves You More** This combination is why he is such a good Savior to turn to. He is strong and mighty to save: he can take on the strongest of our foes and always be certain to prevail. No spiritual force arrayed against us can survive. And yet he is delicate and careful with us. There is no wound or vulnerability he doesn't understand or handle with the utmost care. He is someone we can trust with our most tender bruises and fragility. He will not be clumsy with us. He won't steamroll us. He can apply his unimaginable strength to us with affection and sensitivity.

All of us are people who have both sinned and been sinned against. Some of this will have left us with deep wounds that seem unfathomable even to us. But Jesus knows us fully and understands us entirely.

**NEED PRAYER?**

**CALL THE PRAYER CHAIN:**

**LOLITA LYON 935-8244**

**OR**

**MARY KNAPP 936-0319**

He loves us more than we love ourselves. He is even more committed to our ultimate joy than we are.

In our pain and confusion, in our weakness and mess, we come to him assured that he alone is trustworthy. He has the power and capacity to help us, and the tenderness and care to want to. We can trust him with our deepest pains and bruises. There is none more fearsome, but none gentler.

**Abundant Life Fellowship**

**LOVE GOD.**

**LOVE PEOPLE.**

**MAKE DISCIPLES.**



**Pastor John Southwick: Office and Community Hours:  
Monday- Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm**

**Assoc. Pastor Brenda Nagunst: Hours vary**

**Business Office: Tues, Wed, Fri: 8am-noon**

**Contact Info: (509) 935-8029**

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