



Living Faith
 United Methodist Church
 Pastor Jaime Farias



July Connections 2021

From the Pastor

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. So, if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”
 John 8:32,36 NLT

Freedom is one of the great ideals of mankind. Freedom has always been a moral treasure which nations and individuals have fought against all kind of political oppression, injustice, and slavery. Freedom as political independence status has been also the human fight against any kind of arbitrary exercise of authority or totalitarian power trying to control natural human rights. Liberty, freedom, license, are synonyms, or terms, we use for acts such as speak, think, or assembly without externally imposed restrains. Abraham Lincoln referred to the term freedom when he declared that, “In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free.” Thus, liberty stresses the power of free choice, or free will.

Independence Day is the patriotic celebration when we remember and honor our Founding Fathers who fought against the British Empire to give us the freedom that we all enjoy today as a nation. They wrote the Declaration of Independence where we read, “We hold these truths to with be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

President George Washington used to pray in the mornings, saying,

“O eternal and everlasting God, I presume to present myself this morning before thy Divine majesty, beseeching thee to accept of my humble and hearty thanks, that it hath pleased thy great goodness to keep and preserve me the night past from all the dangers poor mortals are subject to, as has given me sweet and pleasant sleep, whereby I find my body refreshed and comforted for performing the duties of this day, in which I beseech thee to defend me from all perils of body and soul. Direct my thoughts, words, and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb, and purge my hearts by thy Holy Spirit, from the dross of my natural corruption, that I may with more freedom of mind and liberty of will serve thee, the everlasting God, in righteousness and holiness this day, and all the days of my life.”

I truly believe the former first President of the United States of America understood, and practice the true meaning of our Lord Jesus Christ words, “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. So, if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” (John 8:32,36)

Let us celebrate the 4th of July, Independence Day by following the great example of faith and spirit of freedom our Founding Fathers gave us. Yet, let us celebrate our freedom in Christ as well. Jesus has set us free from all sinful oppression. We no longer serve our sinful nature.

Happy Independence Day!

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Pastor Jaime

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OUR MISSION

To make disciples for Jesus Christ to transform the world.
To make disciples for Jesus Christ
to transform the world

OUR VISION

1. To be disciples for Christ
2. To bring others to Christ

OUR GOALS



1. Become and remain Spiritual strong
2. Share God with our community and the world
3. Interact with the Holy Bible daily

Connect with us at: www.livingfaithumc.com



Search: Living Faith UMC

Better Together ~ Invite someone!



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New Prayer Requests

- **Dave Cotton** ~ recovery after knee surgery
- **Grace's niece** ~ involved in an accident/health issues
- **Aaron's coworker** ~ was hit by a car
- **Courtney's brother Jim** ~ recovery from brain surgery
- **Pam** ~ recovery from back surgery
- **Travel mercies** ~ for people who are on the road
- **Joan's sister Kathleen** ~ for healing from bacterial pneumonia infection
- **Joyce ~ neighbor's son Quinn** ~ has multiple issues/upcoming male clinic testing
- **Gene Graham's sister** ~ has cancer and is stopping treatment
- **Thanks** ~ for all of the fathers and mentors in our lives
- **Praise and thanksgiving** ~ wonderful week of VBS & the volunteers who made it happen!
- **Prayer for the rescue efforts and lives altered in the Surfside, Florida condo collapse.**



Ongoing Prayer Requests

- **All who are feeling isolated and lonely**
- **Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.** for his leadership and for modeling life in Christ
- **Transition for LF & All UMC's**
- **Protection from viruses and illnesses going around**
- **Global Ministries of UMC** ~ Prayer for the end of violence against the Asian Community
- **UMC General Board of Church & Society** ~ Prayer for border crisis of migrant children & Asylum seekers
- **Our nation, our leaders** ~ wisdom and discernment
- **Elderly, shut ins**
- **Adeng , Annie, Julie Kristin, and Renson Michael Chen**
- **Pray for Marriages, Families, Relationships**
- **LFUMC, and all of God's churches**

Requests From June Connection

- **Prayers for the Middle East**
- **Prayer that Ryan Lawson** ~ Autistic boy who is lost in LaVista
- **Prayers that our confirmands** ~ continued growth in their faith.
- **Prayers for our Graduates and their futures.**
- **Healing for Doug Simon's Mom.**
- **Prayers for Laura's daughter, Tia** ~ diagnosed with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome



Dear Living Faith family,

“Konnichiwa” from across the pond! We hope this letter finds you truly well in body and spirit. With the pandemic and its social effects on the world, life seems to have slowed down considerably.

Our ministry in Japan has been limited to personal contacts, church bible studies, and Sunday services. We have not held our home ministry of “TGIFriday” (Thank God It’s Friday) for over one year. However, in the past year we have seen growth and God’s hand steadily at work.

Annie attends and leads a women’s English bible study once a week. This year a Russian student joined and recommitted her life to Christ. She has returned to Russia to continue her college education. This bible study has been a great encouragement of friendship and fellowship for Annie and the other women, who are all from America.

Adeng attends and co-leads a Japanese bible study, which has been meeting online for the past year. He also holds two online Chinese bible studies with small groups, which are eager to grow in Jesus. For one year now Adeng has traveled to Tokyo to preach in a Chinese church, on the first Sunday of every month. The church is a traditional Wesleyan congregation. He is helping the church until they find a new pastor.

Adeng is in his third year of the Doctor of Ministry program with Asbury Theological Seminary. He enjoys learning and studying, but all his effort goes into this endeavor. His fourth year will comprise of writing his dissertation.

Julie and Renson won’t stop growing!! Julie enjoys learning to read and write, and is almost always drawing pictures and sharing them with neighbors and friends. Renson’s one love is the drums! He plays the drums every day and has learned several beats that are compatible to many tunes. He hopes to have a full size drum set one day. And then we have some news: Annie is pregnant with our third miracle baby! God is so gracious and kind to hear our prayers for more children. The due date is February 8, and we are so excited to welcome another Chen!

Thank you for the generous gifts of support you have given. We are encouraged, strengthened, and sustained by God’s grace through you.

Please join us in prayer for:

- A safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery for Annie and baby
- Adeng’s Doctor of Ministry study and dissertation work. May it be used by the Lord to further His kingdom
- Safety for our family during the corona pandemic
- Faith and wisdom to reach out to new people

God bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you, be gracious unto you, and give you his peace.

Love, The Chens

Remember to support Missions with your giving!

VBS 2021!



Thank you to all who helped with our Shipwrecked VBS this summer by praying, planning, supporting financially and participating. You made our Vacation Bible School special for children and adults alike.

You did such a great job!!

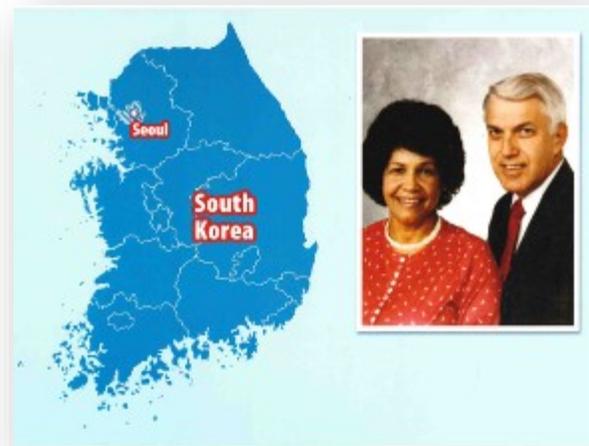
May God bless you as you have blessed those around you in our VBS.



-Damaris



Children's Worship Service



Teachers: Aydee Rader, Damaris Martinez

DATE	LESSON
July 4	Part 1 John Becomes an Orphan
July 11	Part 2 John Hears the Gospel
July 18	Part 3 John Gives His Life to God
July 25	Part 4 John and Lois Marry and Head for California
August 1	Part 5 John's Work in South Korea Begins

Sundays at 9 AM ~ Children ages 5-12

KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday in July at 10:00 AM
For Kids 3 Years—5th Grade

New Series



MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

**"For my thoughts are not
your thoughts, neither
are your ways my ways,"
declares the Lord.**

Isaiah 55:8

Sunday School - 10 am

DATE	BIG IDEA	LESSON	SCRIPTURES
UNUSUAL			
July 4	God uses unlikely people.	David Becomes King	1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
July 11	God gives unexplainable joy.	David Dances Before the Ark	II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; (I Peter 1:8-9)
July 18	God does unexpected things.	God's Promise to David	II Samuel 7:1-14a; (Psalm 89:20-37)
July 25	God's love is unchangeable.	David and Bathsheba	II Samuel 11:1-15; (Psalm 51)

Youth Mission Trip



2021 Youth Mission Trip:

Working with Urban Plunge to serve those in need in Kansas City.

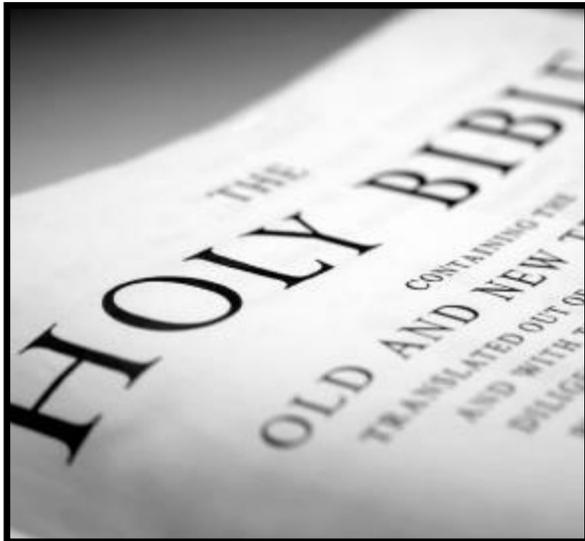
Location: Kansas City

Dates: July 5th-July 9th

Your prayers are appreciated!

*Prayer partners, please remember to give your prayer letter to Lynn.

Adult Sunday School Classes



**Read through the Bible,
Study Together
Adult Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room**



**Adult Sunday School
The Book of James
9:00 a.m.
Room D**

Adult Wednesday Bible Studies

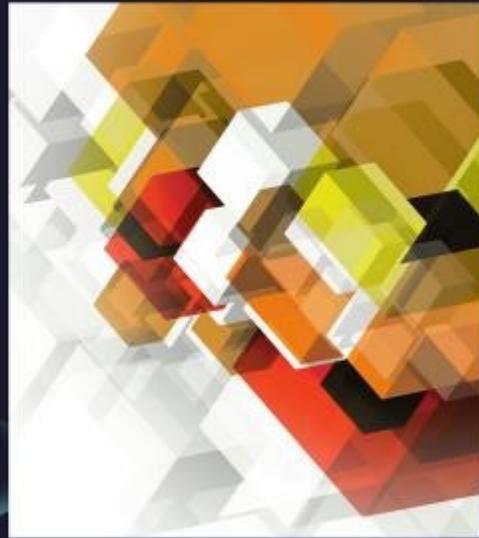
Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 6:30 a.m.
At Vidlaks Restaurant



Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m.
At church & on Zoom

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Pastor Jaime's
Sermons' Series



Scripture

You are invited to read the following Scriptures prior to Worship Services

Sunday, July 4th

The Powerful Anointing of The Holy Spirit

Isaiah 42: 1-7

Isaiah 61: 1-3

Sunday, July 11th

The Power of The Holy Spirit & God's Mission

Genesis 12:1-3

Exodus 19:4-6

Sunday, July 18th

The Power of The Holy Spirit Working Renewal & Restoration

Ezekiel 36:13-36

Sunday, July 25th

The Holy Spirit: Power & Spiritual Revival

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Joel 2: 28-32



HELP NEEDED

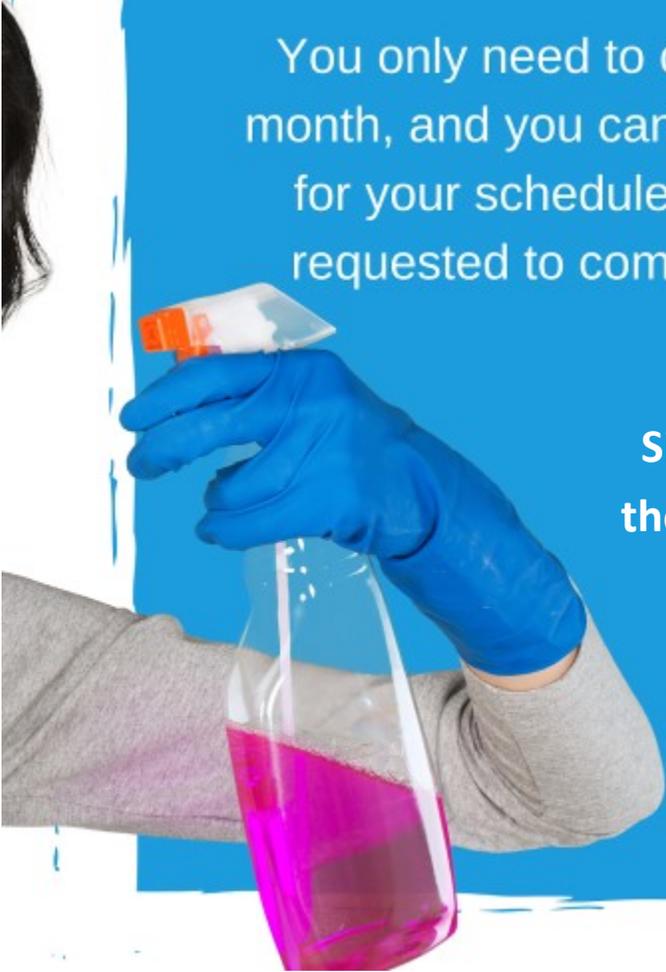
**Vacuuming & emptying trash
in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday
School Rooms (except F & G)
and empty Kitchen Trash**

We clean our own church. Can you help?

You only need to commit about 2 hours per month, and you can clean at a time that works for your schedule. (Currently cleaners are requested to come Thursday - Saturday)

**Sign up on the bulletin board,
the emailed Google Form link ,
or call Laura in the office -
402.393.2321**

Thanks!!!!





2021 Iglesia Comunitaria Children's Summer Lunch Program

(formerly known as Niño's Con Vida)

Would your church, youth group, women's group, men's group, small group, or an individual like to partner with Iglesia Comunitaria? Through this summer program the children who attend, many of which are first generation Americans, are provided with a safe friendly environment and nutritious meals. We are asking for your partnership reaching our goal to provide a nutritious lunch meal for the children and volunteers each weekday from July 1st and July 30th. With your help we know we can accomplish this goal and bridge the gap over the summer with their public education.

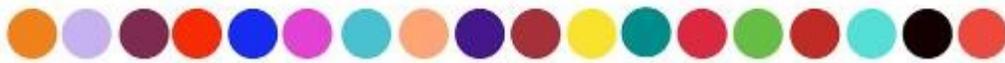
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c4eabaf29a2fe3-20211>

- **Preparation of the meal:**
 - May be done onsite at Omaha Grace
 - Can be prepared in advance and brought to Omaha Grace
 - A meal can be ordered and delivered (ex. pizza, burgers etc.) to Omaha Grace
- **Location:**
 - Omaha Grace is located at 2418 E St, Omaha, NE 68107
- **How many & what time:**
 - There will be 30 children and 7 adults in attendance M-F during the month of July for a total of 37 each day
 - The plan should be to have the kids eating at 12 (noon) each day.
 - Time listed on the signup is 11:30AM-1:00PM is an approximation of setup, serve & cleanup and time but may vary by group, volunteer and/or meal.

**Any Questions please contact Pastor Juan Carlos Veloso
at (531) 389-2184 or by email at jcveloso@greatplainsumc.org.**



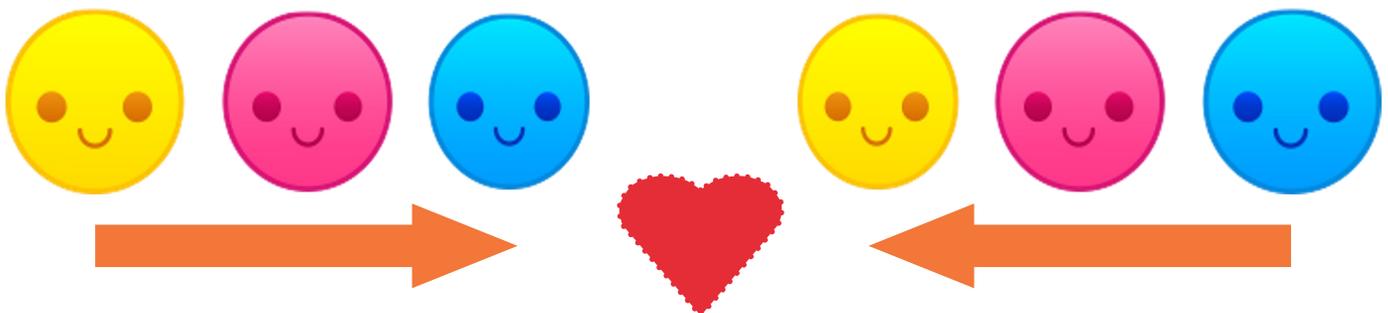
COMING SOON



Great News!

The Young At Heart Group is resuming meeting!

- Beginning the 3rd Tuesday of September (9/21)
- Mark your calendars
- More details to come
- See you soon!



Possible upcoming event on 8/14!

Please let Laura in the church office know if you are interested. A group of 10 is needed for the discounted pricing.

402-393-2321

info@livingfaithumc.com



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT



GAME DETAILS

NEW PRE-GAME CONCERT
5:30PM EARLY GATES



SATURDAY AUGUST 14 | 7:05 PM

The Mike Harvat Band



NEW RATE
\$10
TICKETS
FOR GROUPS
OF 10+

**POST-GAME
FIREWORKS**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DRU SAUER
402.738.5138 | DRUS@OMAHASTORMCHASERS.COM



CHURCH CALENDAR



July 4 Sun	9 AM 9:45 AM 10 AM 10:10 AM	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Coffee Fellowship Time Children's Sunday School Worship & Holy Communion INDEPENDENCE DAY
June 5 Mon	All Week	Youth Mission Trip to KC
July 6 Tues	7 PM	Worship Team Practice
July 7 Wed	6:30 AM 9:30 AM 7 PM	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Discipleship Essentials ~ Zoom
July 11 Sun	9 AM 9:45 AM 10 AM 10:10 AM All Week	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Coffee Fellowship Time Children's Sunday School Worship Boy Scout Trip to WI
July 13 Tues	6:30 7 PM	Finance Committee ~ CR Worship Team Practice
July 14 Wed	6:30 AM 9:30 AM 7 PM	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Discipleship Essentials ~ Zoom

July 18 Sun	9 AM 9:45 AM 10 AM 10:10 AM	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Coffee Fellowship Time Children's Sunday School Worship
July 19 Mon	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
July 20 Tues	7 PM	Worship Team Practice
July 21 Wed	6:30 AM 9:30 AM 7 PM	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Discipleship Essentials ~ Zoom
July 25 Sun	9 AM 9:45 AM 10 AM 10:10 AM	Children's Worship Service Adult/Youth Sunday School Coffee Fellowship Time Children's Sunday School Worship
July 26 Mon	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 405 ~ FH
July 27 Tues	7 PM	Worship Team Practice
July 28 Wed	6:30 AM 9:30 AM 7 PM	Men's Bible Study ~ Vidlaks Women's Bible Study ~ Room D Discipleship Essentials ~ Zoom





July 3rd	Ron Blue
July 4th	Terry Elwood
July 7th	Terry Smith
July 11th	Nikki Elwood
July 17th	Donna Wallin
July 31st	Donald Weber

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Blair Purkiss (See Genesis 5:27) 07-18-2006

BACK IN THE PRE-FLOOD HEYDAY OF THE BIRTHDAY CARD INDUSTRY

WELCOME

Baby Girl

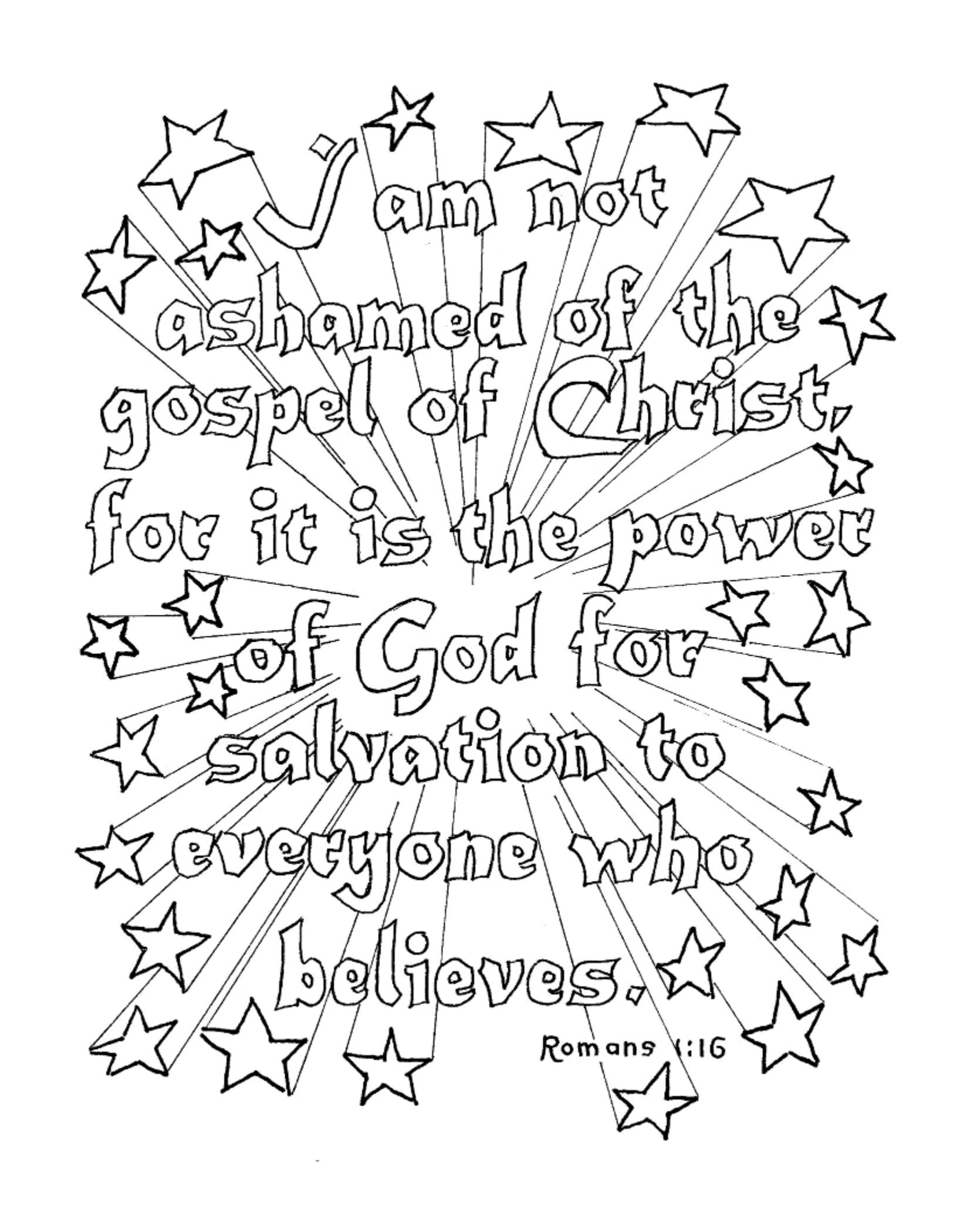


Eleanor May Sell

Born: June 20, 2021 @ 12:40 am

Weighing: 6.8 lbs.

Proud Parents: Nick & Nancy Sell



I am not
ashamed of the
gospel of Christ,
for it is the power
of God for
salvation to
everyone who
believes.

Romans 1:16

PROTOCOL FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIONS:

After prayerful discussion and consideration of updated CDC guidelines, current COVID rates in our area and consideration of the population we serve, the Living Faith Church Council agreed to the following update of our COVID protocols:

Effective 5/25/2021:

1. IN CONSIDERATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY VACCINATED OR CANNOT BE VACCINATED, LIVING FAITH ENCOURAGES, BUT DOES NOT REQUIRE, ALL ATTENDEES, REGARDLESS OF AGE TO CONTINUE WEARING YOUR MASK TO WORSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS AT THE CHURCH.
2. CHILDREN REMAIN SEATED WITH FAMILY
3. ENTER/EXIT MAIN DOOR ONLY
4. RETURNING TO USE OF BIBLES AND HYMNALS
5. TITHES & OFFERINGS IN DESIGNATED BOX IN WORSHIP AREA
6. BULLETINS WILL BE ON TABLE AT ENTRANCE TO WORSHIP AREA
7. ATTENDANCE SHEETS WILL BE PLACED AT SEATING AREAS (Please place attendance sheets in box in the lobby.)
8. CONGREGANTS MAY SING THROUGH MASK
9. LIVING FAITH WILL RETURN TO FELLOWSHIP TIMES AND ALLOWING FOOD AND BEVERAGES AS PART OF ACTIVITIES. THIS WILL START 5/30/21

We continue to pray for a return to normalcy. We understand that people, of good will, can and do have conflicting views on these important issues and that is fine. It is okay to disagree. As a church family, we ask that we continue to treat each other with grace, love, and respect. We will continue to love our neighbor and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to the best of our ability.

Who is at higher risk?



Older adults



People who
have serious
chronic medical
conditions

Heart Disease
Diabetes
Lung Disease



Supplies to have at home:

- Necessary medication – ask healthcare provider about obtaining extra
 - If extra is not possible – consider using mail order
- Be sure to have over the counter medicines and medical supplies to treat fever and other symptoms
- Have enough household items and groceries on hand
 - Grocery stores with 'at-risk' hours
 - Consider ways of getting food brought to your house



Everyday Precautions

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - If soap and water is not available – use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching high touch surfaces in public places (elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking, etc)
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs
- Stay home as much as possible



Symptoms and emergency warning signs:

- Pay attention to COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, and shortness of breath)
- Emergency warning signs:
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - Persistent pain or pressure in chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face



If you get sick

- Stay home and call your doctor
- Consult with your health care provider for more information
- Stay in touch with others by phone or email
- Determine who can care for you if your caregiver gets sick
- Know when to get emergency help

Need more information?

Douglas County Health Department
COVID-19 Information Line
(402) 444-3400
www.douglascountyhealth.com

United Way
Resource Hotline
211

Nebraska Department of Health and
Human Services Information Line
(402) 552-6645

Giving Opportunities

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:7



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List of Participating TAGG Businesses on Bulletin Board