

KELLOGGSVILLE CONNECTIONS

January, 2019

The Connections is a monthly publication of church news and events. The next one will be published on February 3. The deadline for submissions is the Tuesday before publication.

Upcoming Sundays

January 6

9:00 am: Group Prayer Time

9:30 am: Worship Service (Pastor Martin)

11 am: Discovery

January 13

9:30 am: Worship Service (Pastor Martin)

11 am: Discovery

January 20

Communion

9:30 am: Worship Service (Pastor Martin)

11 am: Discovery

January 27

9:30 am: Worship Service (Becky Tjapkes)

11 am: Discovery

Kelloggsville Church

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You Do ~~You~~ JESUS

During our Sunday morning worship services for the next nine weeks, we will be taking a closer look at the Fruits of the Spirit, and engaging in some self-reflection about how we are following Jesus and producing these “fruits” in our lives.

Jesus often used metaphors to demonstrate how we can discern a follower of Christ from a non-follower. One recurring metaphor was that of a tree and the fruit it produces. In Matthew 7:15-20, for example, we read:



“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.”

When I taught religion classes at the University of Dubuque, a common criticism that my students shared in class was, “Christians do not behave like Christians.” I always understood that to be a reflection by my students that the Christians they knew (or heard about in the news) were not really acting like Jesus. They were not producing the “fruits” of spiritually mature disciples of Christ.

So how do we know if we are becoming spiritually mature disciples or not? How do we measure spiritual growth?

At Kelloggsville, we seek to become disciples of Christ as

we: 1. connect with this church, 2. discover who Jesus is, 3. commit to following Him. That third piece – committing to follow Jesus - is where we truly enter into a “growing” process that leads towards spiritual maturity.

Spiritual growth and maturity should not be confused with how much a person knows about the Bible, how long they’ve been going to church, or how many degrees they have. These can all be good things, but they come with warnings like the one the Apostle Paul gives in I Corinthians 8:1, “Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.” Jesus also speaks to this in

Fruits of the Spirit, cont. from p. 1

Matthew 7:15-16: *“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.”*

These “vicious wolves” that Jesus describes are people who may actually claim to be the most spiritually mature among us, but their actions are smug, arrogant, judgmental, bitter, divisive, critical, and angry. Their fruit betrays their true nature.

True spiritual growth can only come through the Holy Spirit. We cannot achieve spiritual growth simply by reading the Bible more, going to church more, or getting a college degree. Human effort has nothing to do with it! Jesus is very clear about the power that we humans have to make lasting, positive change in our own lives:

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.** (emphasis added) If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words*

remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:5-8, NIV).

In Galatians 5, the Apostle Paul helps us see this as well when he contrasts Spirit-led and non-Spirit-led living. When we rely only our own strength, our “flesh” as the Bible often calls it, we get Galatians 5:19-21 living: *“...sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and*

witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.” When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we get Galatians 5:22-23 living: *“...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”.*

For the next nine weeks we are going to look at each of these positive characteristics – or “fruit” – that the Holy Spirit can produce in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This can never be about perfection, as we are still living on this side of heaven. But if we are following Jesus, we should

be more like Christ than we were. And that’s the point of our series: a call to prayer that we might rely only upon the Holy Spirit to produce the fruits of right living in us.

Let me end with this transforming prayer that John Stott, an influential leader in the worldwide evangelical movement, prayed every morning upon waking. I want to make this our challenge for the next nine weeks, to pray this prayer when we wake up every morning:

HEAVENLY FATHER, I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

LORD JESUS, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

HOLY SPIRIT, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The more we are filled with God’s Spirit, and the more that Spirit ripens its fruit within us, the more we will become like Christ. And, as Jesus said, *“That is to our Father’s glory, that we bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be Jesus disciples.”*

Yours in Christ, -Pastor Martin



Discovery Kicks off a New Year

We hope you will *resolve* to make Discovery a part of your Sunday morning routine in the New Year! Discovery is from 11:00-11:45 AM on Sunday mornings, and our next session is from January 6—February 3. Here is what is being planned:

PreK-5th Grades

The PreK-5th graders will hear about how God's power did amazing things through his servant Elisha. They will also learn and discuss how God provides for all our needs, cares for those who love him, desires to bless even those who don't yet know him, and protects us in ways we could never dream of.

Middle School

The 6th-8th graders will begin a series called *Challenge Accepted*, exploring what it means to be Christ's disciples.

High School

The 9th—12th grade students will begin a series based on the book *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. They will be learning what it takes to truly be a follower of Christ, not “just a fan”.

Adults

Adults (post-HS age and up) will have five stand-alone seminars in five weeks, featuring guest speakers from within and without the church:

January 6: *Sport. Faith. Life: Who won? And Why do I Care?*, with Dr. Brian Bolt. Sport is a part of ordinary life that does not seem so ordinary. The experience draws us in and brings us back, day after day, season after season. We love to

play—and yes, to win, or at least to invest enough of ourselves to have a chance. God's world includes the myth-like space where sport resides, where we celebrate our humanness, our desire to be excellent, and our need to belong. We need to play sport the way we live life, depending on our Creator in every moment and in every action. Sport gives us opportunities to both be wary of our own desires and to delight in the good things that God has made. Brian is a professor of kinesiology and the men's golf coach at Calvin College. Bolt is the co-director of the Sport and Christianity Group which authored the “Declaration on Sport and the Christian Life” and is directing the 2019 Global Congress on Sport and Christianity. His recent book, *Sport. Faith. Life.*, was published in 2018.

January 13: *Seeing is Believing: The Influence of Religious Art on Biblical Interpretation*, with Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen. In this session, Dr. Amanda Benckhuysen, Professor of Old Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary, will lead us through an exploration of religious art on Genesis 2-3 and discuss how art has impacted our interpretation of the story of Adam and Eve.

January 20: *Which Bible translation is the best? A good answer to a bad question*, with Dr. Lisa Hoogeboom. The book on our bedside tables and in our pews that many of us know simply as “the Bible” did not miraculously appear in the English King James Version. In this class, we will explore questions like “Why do they keep changing my beloved Bible?”, “Are translators capitulating to the cultural whims

of the day?”, and “Why the changes in gender language?” Along the way, we will connect these questions and topics to the very nature of God and of his Word. Lisa is a professor of biblical and intercultural studies at Kuyper College. She also teaches New Testament Greek in Calvin Theological Seminary's distance learning program.

January 27: *Biblical Financial Principles* with George Wit. George will help us take a look at our money through the lens of the Bible. How do we spend, save, and give in light of the Bible's teaching? George is a Certified Financial Planner™ with 20 years of experience at Ameriprise Financial. He and his wife Karen, along with their two children, Ben and Ava, are members of Kelloggsville Church.

February 3: *Trauma-Informed Ministry* with Rev. Emily Vanden Heuvel. A new buzz-word being thrown around schools, health care facilities and churches is “trauma-informed”. For those in ministry, the word “trauma-informed” can be confusing to the local church's mission. How should the church respond? Emily has been working for over 20 years in ministry, the last 12 years as chaplain in a residential facility offering spiritual support to the children who live on campus. Her husband is a teacher at South Christian High School and they have two children.

Please also note that the nursery is open and staffed for infants and children ages 0-3 during Discovery.

January Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY/SATURDAY
JANUARY 6 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:00 am: Group Prayer Time 9:30 am: Worship 11:00 am: Discovery 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	7 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club	8 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	9 9:30 am: Joy Club 3 pm: Griv Prep Student Bible Study 6 pm: Deacon 7 pm: Council	10 8:15 am: Griv Prep Prayer Group 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	11/12 Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
13 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 11:00 am: Discovery 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	14 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club 6:30/8 pm: Women2 Women Bible Study	15 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC 7 pm: Men's Network Bible Study	16 3 pm: Griv Prep Student Bible Study 6:45 pm: Cadets 6:45 pm: Gems 7 pm: Shepherd Leaders	17 8:15 am: Griv Prep Moms in Prayer 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	18/19 Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
20 Communion 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 11:00 am: Discovery 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	21 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club	22 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	23 9:30 am: Joy Club 3 pm: Griv Prep Student Bible Study 7 pm: Elders	24 8:15 am: Griv Prep Moms in Prayer 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	25/26 Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group
27 8:30 am: Chin Sunday School 9:30 am: Worship 11:00 am: Discovery 12:30 pm: French Service 1 pm: Chin Service	28 3:30 pm: Kids' Life Bible Club 6:30/8 pm: Women2 Women Bible Study	29 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	30 3 pm: Griv Prep Student Bible Study 6:15 pm: Cadets/ Gems Potluck Supper and Derby Car Races	31 5:30-8 pm: Alliance FC	FEBRUARY 1/2 Sat: 5-8 pm: French Prayer Group Sat: 5-10 pm: Chin Choir/ Youth Group

Birthdays to Celebrate

Birthdays of Members 70+

January

01 Char DenHouten
 08 Carol Hoffman
 08 Gloria Van Putten
 22 Dick Bolt
 26 Carrie Herrema (85)
 30 Shirley DeWaard

Birthdays of Members 70+

February

12 Joyce Swanson (85)
 14 Jennie Hoekstra (98)



Staff/Missionary Birthdays

January

28 Pastor Martin Benckhuysen

February

26 Angie Sliedrecht