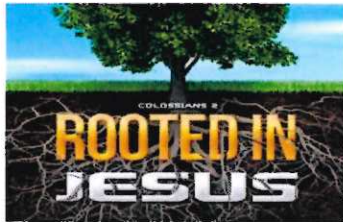




A Little Something



April 28, 2024

**5th Sunday of Easter
Ole Time Gospel Sunday**

Hymns & Songs

Crown Him with Many Crowns
At the Cross
His Eye is on the Sparrow
Wonderful Words of Life

Scripture

**Psalm 22:25-31
Colossians 2:1-7**

Contact the Church

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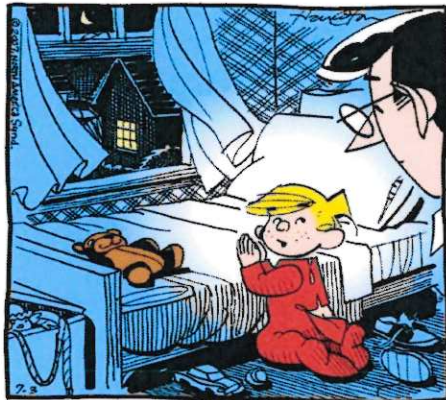
PO Box 611
2238 Pony Creek Rd.
North Bend, OR 97459

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00AM - 12:00 PM



5/03	Sally Simpkins
5/08	Jesiah Grotzke
5/14	Erica Wilson (Leegard)
5/15	Linnae Beechly
5/20	Toni Rempelos
5/20	Avadna Boshears
5/24	Hannah Voloshinov (Cooney)
5/25	Barbara Holloway
5/28	Tracey Clark
5/29	Brynn Blanc
5/29	Phil LaGesse



"I KEEP THE WINDOW OPEN TILL AFTER MY PRAYERS. I GET BETTER RECEPTION WITH IT OPEN."

Fresh & Flourishing

**(Turning Point with
David Jeremiah)**

Blessed is the man who trust in the Lord...For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters.
Jeremiah 17:7-8

Most of us at some point stop growing taller. We reach our maximum height. Not so with trees. A new study has found that trees never stop growing during their lifespans. In fact, as they age, their growth accelerates. The study, published in Nature journal, involved 38 researchers from 29 institutions who said it's the older trees and their massive size that most helps the earth keep its air recycled and clean. (1)

Psalm 92:14 says, "the righteous shall...still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing."

When we're rooted and grounded in Christ, we'll keep growing in spiritual maturity, and God will use us in exciting new ways. This is encapsulated in 2 Peter 1:5-7 where the Lord tells us we should keep growing in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. "For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful" (verse 8).

Whatever your age...keep growing!!

As a tree besides the water, has the Savior planted me; all my fruit shall be in season, I shall live eternally.
Alfred Ackley

(1) N.L. Stephenson, et al. "Rate of tree Carbon Accumulation Increases With Tree Size, Nature.507 (2014):90-93.



**Food Cupboard
May Challenge
Macaroni & Cheese**

**&
Pasta
(any type)**



Sunday, April 28, 2024

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8

Nothing is impossible. The word itself says "I'm possible!"
—Audrey Hepburn

I have a love/hate relationship with gardening. I love the *idea* of gardening, but I hate *doing* the gardening.

I enjoy walking through beautiful gardens like the ones you find in the great cities of the U.S. I have visited Butchart Gardens in Victoria, as well as some awesome gardens in Paris, London and Shanghai.

But there's a dark side to gardening I don't like to think about. Today's Bible reading reminds me that gardening is not all fun and games.

The reading is about vines and fruit. It opens with, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower" (v. 1). Ahhh. It's a nice image.

The reality, however, is that these eight verses are pretty grim. We could say "harsh." After the nice sentiment in verse 1, Jesus gets right to it: "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit."

It gets worse. Even the fruitful branches get "pruned." Think about it. Two blades enclose some part of the branch and cut into it and snap it off.

It gets worse still: "Branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned" (v. 6). If a branch doesn't bear fruit, if it withers on the vine, it's removed and thrown into a smoldering fire.

And think of the plowing and digging of gardening. Think of the plucking, pulling, weeding, and all the work of planting, fertilizing and watering every day.

Yes, as I said, gardening is not all fun and games.

Jesus says that we are the branches. So, as the "branch" of this text, are we ready and willing to look at the dark-side message of this passage? The vinegrower has expectations. Are we willing to submit to the shears? Are we willing for some correction and rebukes? Some pruning? Will we make the most of the nutrients the VineGrower provides?

The Scottish divine, Andrew Murray, has a good perspective on the meaning of this text: "A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. A law can compel work; only love can spontaneously bring forth fruit. Work implies effort and labor; the essential idea of fruit is that *it is the silent, natural, restful produce of our inner life*" (emphasis added).

Will we abide in Jesus?

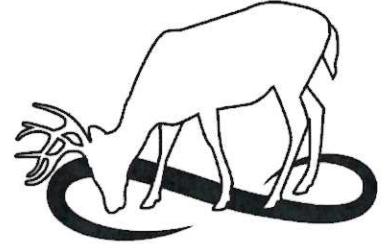
—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, may I be willing to submit to the shears as necessary, so that my life will be laden with fruit that will bless others. Amen.

Verse to Remember

*“As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.”*

—Psalm 42:1



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 10-13

Monday: Judges 13-15

Tuesday: Judges 16-18

Wednesday: Judges 19-21

Thursday: Ruth 1-4

Friday: 1 Samuel 1-3

Saturday: Psalms 40-42

UNSCRAMBLE THE PROVERB!

Directions: Write in the missing word indicated by the ellipsis (...) in the blank provided. Unscramble the words you wrote in the blanks, to reveal another proverb.

When the going gets tough, the tough ... going. _____

People who live in glass houses should ... throw stones. _____

If the cap fits, ... it. _____

When you begin a journey of revenge,
start by digging two graves:
one for your enemy, and one for _____

One person pretends to be ..., yet has nothing;
another pretends to be poor,
yet has great wealth. _____

Good things come ... those who wait. _____

When in Rome, ... as the Romans do. _____

Do not wear ... your welcome. _____

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

MISSING LETTERS

The theme of this puzzle is “young animals.” Here are 14 young animal names without the consonants. Complete each word and cross off each consonant when you use it. (The adult version is in parentheses.)

B CCCCC DD FF GGGG H
J KKK LLLLLL NNNN
PPPP S TTTTTT WW
YYYY

1. _ U _ (BEAR)
2. _ O _ _ I _ _ (GOOSE)
3. _ I _ (GOAT)
4. _ A _ (DOE)
5. O _ _ E _ (OWL)
6. _ O E _ (KANGAROO)
7. _ I _ _ E _ (CAT)
8. _ O _ _ (HORSE)
9. _ A _ _ O _ E (FROG)
10. _ _ I _ _ (HEN)
11. _ U _ _ _ (DOG)
12. _ _ _ _ E _ (SWAN)
13. E A _ _ E _ (EAGLE)
14. _ I _ _ _ (MARE)

SOLUTION: Do not wear yourself out to get rich (Proverbs 23:4, NRSV).

SOLUTION TO MISSING LETTERS:

1. cub
2. gosling
3. kid
4. fawn
5. owlet
6. joey
7. kitten
8. colt
9. tadpole
10. chick
11. puppy
12. cygnet
13. eaglet
14. filly

