

Sunday

10:45 am Hebrews Group
10:45 am Adult Sunday School -
 Journeys in Faith

Monday

5:00 pm Anchored Kids Training (9-18)
6:00 pm Bible Study (Men/Women)

Tuesday

6:30 am Men's Bible Study
4:30 pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday

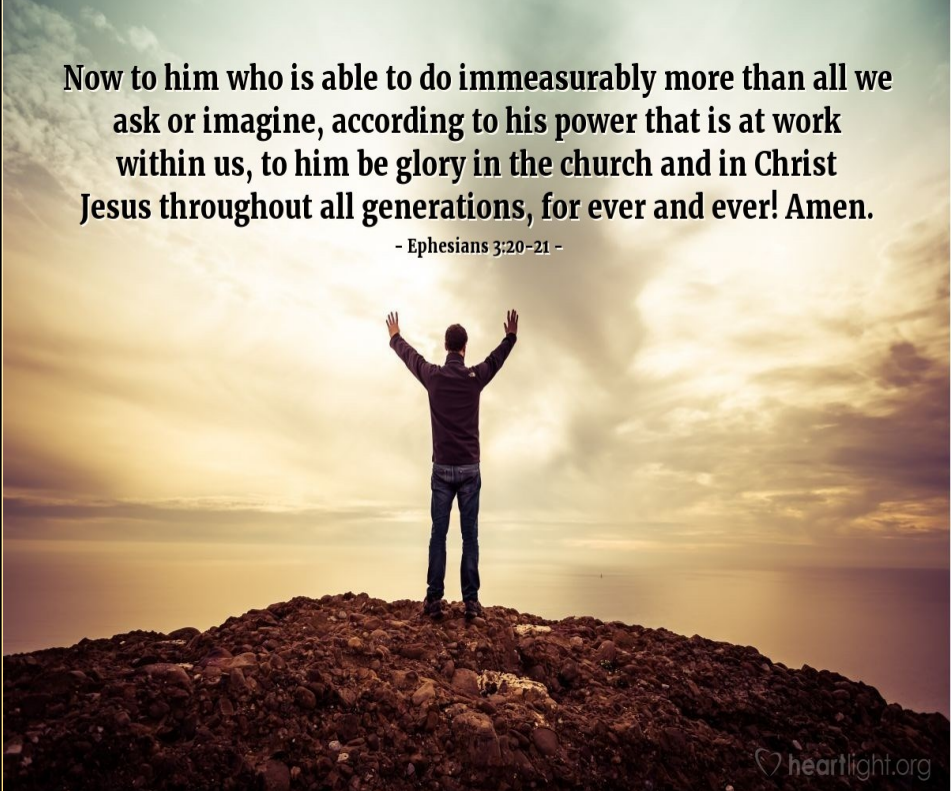
10:00 am Sisters In Christ
4:30 pm Anchored Kids
5:30 pm Men's bible study
6:00 pm Bells
7:00 pm Choir

Men's Bible Study has started a new series called "The Promised Land!" It makes no difference if this is your first time, or if you are a seasoned student of the Bible, because everyone will enjoy this Ray VanderLaan DVD series! We meet on Tuesday mornings from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Contact Pete Paulson 217-433-2934 for information. Look forward to seeing you there!

Financials through 8-31-23

YTD Income* \$493,541.64
YTD Expenses \$392,631.81
*Includes sale of parsonage

Sermon Notes



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- Ephesians 3:20-21 -

heartlight.org

September 17, 2023

Prelude -“Grand March in G” by G.F. Handel

Introit –Redeemer and King – Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

***Opening Hymn**

UMH # 400 –Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Announcements

Congregational Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Anthem - Come with Me Into the Fields –Chancel Choir

Draw Me Close To You

Way Maker

(Offering)

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” Handbells

UMH #95 Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

***Scripture**

Matthew 9:35-38 & Ephesians 3:20-21

***Scripture Response & UMH#393-Spirit of the Living God**

Message

Do You have a Dream for the Kingdom of God? What is Your Dream?

***Closing Hymn**

UMH # 451 –Be Thou My Vision

***Benediction**

Postlude -“Recessional” by Isabelle Ritter

***Congregation please stand as able**

Liturgist: **Dianne Shaw**

Rev. Dr. Arun Paul - arun@decaturgrace.org

(Worship is recorded for T.V. viewing and other social media platforms)

Congregational Prayer

O Father Eternal, O loving and gracious God, we come before You in thanksgiving for the creation around us that produces such plentiful and nourishing fruit for our sustenance and physical growth. You alone are the source of every good gift. Your hand, O Lord, created all of nature.

We thank You, O Lord, for Your generous outpouring of gifts to human life.

But we know, Lord, that man cannot live on bread alone. There is a spiritual hunger in this world that goes far beyond the belly, and there is a spiritual thirst that needs to be quenched. The harvest is abundant, Lord, and the people around us who are unchurched and unbelieving are plentiful. In this city, Lord, there are many who need to know You and Your love for them.

Open our eyes to see the harvest, Lord, Open our eyes

Give us the expectancy and hopefulness of Christ as we look at the community around us. We need the eyes of Christ to see the lostness around us and the compassion of Christ to feel love for those who are lost.

Send us, O Lord, into the fields. Send us.

There is an immediacy to the harvest of the fields. Unharvested grain will spoil. The unloved and untaught will be lost, as well. And You tell us that this harvest is abundant; there are more than we expect in the fields of our ministry. The harvest is greater than one person can reap alone. Give us a sense of purpose, a sense of hope, and a sense of urgency so that the harvest will, indeed, be a plentiful one.

Help us, O God, to pray that the workers be plentiful, as well as the harvest. Let each of us answer, “Lord, send me!”

But we need You, O Father, to equip us and prepare us to go out into the harvest. Through prayer and through the study of Your Word, O God, give us the tools to be where we need to be and to say what we need to say to be Your hands and Your heart in the fields around us. Help us roll up our sleeves, but help us pray for Your preparation first. We begin today by praying the prayer Your own dear Son taught us before He gave Himself for the sake of us and those still in the fields:

Our Father . . .

(The Lord’s Prayer follows)

The Prayer Room is open before, during and after today’s service. Members of the Prayer Team are available to pray with you after the Service.