

"The Gospel According to Luke: He Was Dead and Is Alive; He Was Lost and Is Found"
Luke 15:11-32

"As Christians, we know we should share our faith with others. However, most often we don't until we feel horribly guilty — then we feel the need to force ourselves upon some poor, unsuspecting soul. We can never forget that evangelism is a way of life, a spiritual discipline, not a guilt driven burden." (John Leonard)

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price....Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live." (Isaiah 55:1-3)

"Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, 'Remove the filthy garments from him.' And to him He said, 'Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments. And I said, 'Let them put a clean turban on his head.'" (Zechariah 3:3-5)

- When we practice grace and mercy, we are in awe of grace and mercy:
 - *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)*
 - *"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)*
 - *"You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Matthew 18:32-33)*
- Luke 15:11-32:
 - 15:11-16: The root of all sin is desiring self-rule. A life apart from God and His loving authority.
 - 15:17-19: Sin seen properly makes us feel our unworthiness and embrace God's grace and mercy.
 - 15:20-24: The love of God is not vindictive, harsh, shaming, or slow to forgive. It is compassionate, embracing, and quick to forgive.
 - 15:25-32: Someone who is self-righteous cannot see their need for grace and mercy, and therefore has no desire to see grace and mercy extended.
- True Repentance:
 - True repentance perceives self properly: a sinner in need of grace and mercy.
 - True repentance takes sin seriously, expressed in sorrow over sin.
 - True repentance takes full ownership of their actions with no excuses or blaming.
 - True repentance leads to reformation/transformation.
 - True repentance is more bothered by our sins than the sins of others.

Announcements:

★**VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Slides Team. If you have any questions about this or are interested in serving on this team, please see Elder Jake or Shanelle.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch NEXT Sunday, December 14th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up to bring something for the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is TONIGHT, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full time of prayer.

★*For all other announcements, please see the December Newsletter!*

Account Balance: \$48,117.90 October Balance: \$50,476.46 CD Balance: \$33,592.13	Weekly Budget: \$3,471 Monthly Budget: \$15,043
Total Giving: November 2	\$3,410.00
Total Giving: November 9	\$2,720.04
Total Giving: November 16	\$8,671.33
Total Giving: November 23	\$1,220.00
Total Giving for November:	\$16,021.37