



# North Garland

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**We Strive to Be: A church devoted to making disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together in knowledge and relationship with God and each other.**

**Today's Events:**

Listening Session with the elders during adult's class  
No LTC Practice

**Upcoming Events:**

- Feb 7** – Meal: Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Brownies
- Feb 10** – Fundraising Dinner for the Philippine Church Plant
- Feb 14** – Pizza, Caesar Salad, Fruit Salad, Dessert
- Feb 20** – Serve lunch at the Alva Bible Chair
- Feb 21** – Meal: Chicken Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Dessert
- Feb 24** – Cheryl Siders Memorial: 10:00 a.m. at North Garland
- Feb 25** – Jones' Baby Shower: 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship building
- Feb 28** – Meal: Mexican Casserole, Chips & Salsa, Cole Slaw, Dessert
- March 6** – Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Brownies
- March 13** – Meal: Sweet & Sour Chicken, Fried Rice, Vegetable Stir Fry, Fruit Salad, Dessert
- March 19** – Save the Date: Golden Girls Party! More info to come.
- March 20** – Meal: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert
- March 27** – Meal: Chicken Stuffing Casserole, Pasta Salad, Hot Rolls, Dessert
- April 3** – Meal: Baked Potatoes, Green Salad, Brownies
- April 10** – Meal: Pizza, Caesar Salad, Fruit Salad, Dessert
- April 17** – Meal: Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Baked Beans, Dessert
- April 24** – Meal: Sour Cream Chicken Tortillas, Cole Slaw, Relish Tray, Dessert
- April 30** – Serve lunch at the Alva Bible Chair

**Order of Worship**

<b>Pilgrim's Praise</b> .....	<b>Chris Taylor</b>
<b>Song Leader/Welcome</b> .....	<b>Jim Coker</b>
<b>Prayer</b> .....	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Communion Talk</b> .....	<b>Dan Kent</b>
<b>Sermon: Better God's Way</b> .....	<b>Erik Granberg</b>
<b>Shepherd's Prayer</b> .....	<b>Dan Kent</b>
<b>Nursery</b> .....	<b>Cheryl Kent</b>
<b>Sound Booth/Slides</b> .....	<b>Kira/Amarah Granberg</b>

**Sermon Scripture:**  
Deuteronomy 4:39-40

**Sermon Thought:**

In today's scripture obedience is commanded of the Israelites to follow God. Right after that, the reason is given, "that it may go well with you and your children." Our sermon series, "Better God's way," will look at the idea that God's way really does lead to a better life. Not just in the life to come, but in the here and now and in ways that even the secular world acknowledges.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. In your own life, how has following God made your life better?
2. Following God doesn't mean life will be perfect either, what are the struggles in following his ways?
3. What do you wish more people knew about the goodness of God's ways?

**Be Advised**

Be advised, there will be construction on Chestnut for about a month with road closures. There will also be big equipment being parked on part of our property during this construction.

**Men's and Women's Involvement Forms for 2024**

If you haven't received one of the involvement forms for this year yet, please pick one up at the welcome center in the church lobby, fill it out, and **return it by TODAY**. There are many other activities (including mission work and community outreach) in which our congregation is involved. We hope you will also choose to be involved with some of them as they become available.

**The Westview Boys' Home Grocery Truck will be here TOMORROW!**

**They need:**

Egg Noodles	Mustard/Ketchup	Ramen Noodles	Fruit Snacks
Brownie Mix	Assorted Hot Sauces	Beef Broth	Bisquick/Pancake Mix
Cocoa Powder	100% Assorted Juice	BBQ Sauce	Crunchy Peanut Butter
Kidney Beans	Enchilada Sauce	Napkins	Kleenex

Please put your groceries in the corner box in the foyer.

**Prayer Requests:**

**Siders Family** – pray for them as they grieve the loss of Cheryl. Her memorial will be here at NG, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Mary Bales** – friend of Jovita Lang; was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

**Next Week’s (2/11/24) Servants:**

**Song Leader**

**/Welcome:** Robb Mills

**Pilgrim’s Praise:** Erik Granberg

**Communion**

**Talk:** Brian Wright

**Shepherd’s**

**Prayer:** Terry Sherrill

**Sound Booth/**

**Slides:** Jim Coker

**Nursery:** Jeanita Meek

**Greeters For**

**February:** Jacqueline Anderson  
Wyatt Unruh

**This Week’s Birthdays**

7<sup>th</sup>.....Beverly Carroll

**Anniversaries**

7<sup>th</sup>.....Curtis & Sue Diel

**TIME IN THE TENT**

by **Kim Butts**

*“Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent” (Exodus 33:11).*

It is always amazing and such a blessing to read over a passage of scripture and see something I have never observed previously. Meditating on the word gives God an opportunity to hit the pause button and make me take notice of something that challenges and encourages me. I have read the account of Moses and the Tent of Meeting in Exodus 33 countless times...but today when I read it, I gravitated toward the last part of verse 11: “When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.”

It was as if I suddenly felt God urging me to pay attention to Joshua in the midst of a passage talking about the intimate relationship between God and Moses...which is the relationship I have always focused on in the past. So, I decided to sit with this verse for a season. I found myself asking many hypothetical questions. Why did Moses take Joshua with him to the Tent? Did Joshua actually go *into* the tent, as implied in the wording of the Scripture, or was he sitting just outside as most servants would likely do? Was Joshua able to hear the conversations between God and Moses? Certainly he would have, whether he was inside or just outside. Why would Joshua, who was the servant of Moses, not accompany Moses back to the camp? How long did he stay at the Tent of Meeting before returning to the service of Moses? And, why didn’t Moses seem to care that Joshua stayed behind? Did Moses instruct him to stay there? We don’t have the answers to those questions specifically, but recognizing that Joshua the servant was also the protégé, mentee and ultimate successor of Moses, his “extra” time in the Tent seems to have even greater significance.

Not only did Joshua stay in the Tent, but scripture says he “would not depart” from it...in other words, he *refused* to leave. Was this time in the presence of God preparation and on the job training for Joshua’s soon to be leadership position, even though he didn’t really know all that God had in mind at the time? Perhaps Joshua was simply spending time in God’s presence to know Him better because the beauty and majesty of God was so compelling that this young leader couldn’t resist soaking and worshiping the One who had obviously captivated his heart.

It seems to me that God has His eye upon Joshua because of the purity and sincerity of his devotion and his commitment to obedience. He had been one of the twelve spies charged with checking out the land flowing with milk and honey. Joshua had found favor with God and with Moses for having courage, along with Caleb, to speak out to the rebellious and fearful Israelites that if the Lord was pleased with them, He would make a way for them to enter the Promised Land. Even though the task seemed daunting because of the fierce tribes who lived there, Joshua believed God’s promise and that He would give His people what they needed to succeed.

We see God’s plan unfold when Moses had, in a brief moment of prideful disobedience, forfeited his privilege of entering the Promised Land. As a result, in Numbers 27:18-20 the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hands on him; and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey him.” It would be Joshua who would now lead the people into the Promised Land.

Later, after the death of Moses, God reveals His specific plans to Joshua. We do not have any scriptural proof that God actually spoke to Joshua until after the death of Moses, when He commanded Joshua to cross the Jordan. However, it is my feeling that Joshua knew the Lord’s voice well, for he had spent time in the Tent of Meeting, soaking in the presence of God. When God gave Joshua his instructions, He also encouraged him: “No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:5-9).

Have you been lingering in the “tent” with God? Most of us would admit to being pulled in many different directions, even though we no longer have to go to a physical tent to meet with the Father. God has made it possible to meet with Him in any given moment because He has made His home with us. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we are now the dwelling place of God. And just like Joshua, we do not need to be afraid because God will not fail us if we will be “strong and courageous.”

Shared by **Brent Dittmeyer**