

3611 E. County Line Rd, Lutz, FL 33559 - 813.909.4646

May 7, 2023



CHURCH OF CHRIST
NORTH TAMPA

Sunday

Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study
7:00 p.m.

**Welcome
Visitors**

We hope you find our worship service enriching and inspiring. Please let us know if you have questions about our church family or how we may serve you in your quest for God.

HE SAVED US

not because of righteous things
we had done, but because of

HIS MERCY

He saved us through the washing
of rebirth and renewal by the

HOLY SPIRIT

- Titus 3:5



Mini-Golf on Friday, May 19th at 7:30pm At Groves Mini-Golf

If you want to grab dinner beforehand, plan to meet at 5:45pm at Cracker Barrel. Text Jeannie or Theresa so they can do call ahead seating for the appropriate number of people.



Teacher Appreciation Brunch
Saturday, May 20
10:30am at Building

*Contact Kristi Chatham or Vikki Minor
for more information.*



Graduation and Move-Up Sunday
Sunday, May 21 at Building



Life Group Recess Opportunity
Viewing of ***The Chosen*** at the Building 5pm-6pm
Sunday Nights—June 4, 2023—continuing until Life
Groups begin in September 2023.



Teacher and Teacher Assistant Volunteers for Middle Schoolers Needed Beginning in June

Prayers are being answered as God blesses us with an increased number of kids coming to our classes. In June, we plan to open a Middle School class for kids in grades 6 through 8, in lieu of having a combined class of 6th through 12th graders. We need teachers and teacher helpers for the Middle School class. Please contact Neil or Kari Pomerence or Bill Hemphill if you want to learn more.

DYNAMIC YOUTH
invites you to



CFBC Central Florida
Bible Camp

Bring a Friend Promotion:

**Bring a friend to camp and get
50% off registration for you AND
your friend!!**

When: June 18th - Session 1

Registration and More Details

Available at:

cfbiblecamp.org

DYNAMIC YOUTH Coming Up...

WCHS FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)
Fields of Faith
Friday May 19th, 5pm



Game Night
Saturday, May 20th
6pm at the Church Building

Central Florida Bible Camp
June 18-24



For May, macaroni & cheese, ketchup & mustard are requested. Other non-perishable items are also welcome. Monetary donations allow MOH to purchase meats and produce. If you give a check, make it payable to North Tampa Church of Christ and designate MOH in the note section of your check. We will send one check from the church to MOH at intervals, depending on the number of donations. Your generosity is very appreciated and vital to providing meals for hungry people in need.

Scripture Reading

May 7, 2023

Titus 3:3-7

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Why Did I Get Mercy?

What is Mercy?

One definition of Mercy is the situation where we _____ what we deserve. What are some examples of this kind of mercy?

Biblical Examples

What are some examples of Biblical characters showing mercy to another, or receiving mercy from God?

- God did not destroy Adam and Eve when they sinned
- God did not destroy Cain when he killed his brother
- Joseph spared his brothers
- David spared the life of Saul
- God did not destroy David when he sinned with Bathsheba.

In all of these cases, punishment would be justified, but mercy was given instead.

How Does Mercy Work?

God's Mercy allows us to skip our spiritual _____ from God, and still have access to the promised spiritual _____. (It doesn't mean we get off without any earthly punishment that may be due.)

TIT 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Did you see the incredible line in that passage? Paul says OUR LIVES WERE SAVED by God's mercy!

Receiving Mercy Requires _____ Mercy

James and Matthew both give us a very sobering message about mercy. If we don't show mercy to others, we won't receive mercy from God. Do you need God's mercy? I do!

JAS 2:12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

MT 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Ignoring the Role of Mercy?

In Matthew 23:23-24, Jesus confronted the Pharisees at the temple just prior to his crucifixion. Here, he chastised them for their lack of understanding of the relative importance of mercy as opposed to strict adherence to the law; in this case, tithing.

MT 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Those strong words should have convicted their hearts. But they had already hardened their hearts.

Demonstrating Mercy: What _____ Jesus Do?

- Preach and Teach
- Minister to the sick
- Listen to people in need
- Associate with social outcasts and sinners

How could he do this? Easy. **He loved them like his own _____.**

The Mercy of Jesus: The Adulterous Woman

There is a well-known story of a woman caught in adultery. (John 8:1-11)

1. The woman is accused. The man is not. But they both deserved death, according to the law.
2. The Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus. They were trying to force Jesus to take a stand that would get him in trouble. His choices were:
 - a) Condemn the woman to death. But that would violate Roman law, which required a civil trial.
 - b) Allow the woman freedom. But that would violate God's law, which required death.

3. Instead, Jesus basically used a simple tactic to divert their attention away from the woman and away from Jesus, and direct it back to the condition of their own souls. He offered a pointed answer to their question. *"If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."*
4. Ultimately, they all left, and Jesus was alone with the woman. Seeing that no one condemned her, Jesus told her two things:
 - a. She is not _____. Jesus forgave her sin – no condemnation! **This is mercy.**
 - b. She needs to _____. **Mercy does not equate to acceptance of sin.**

So, How is God's Mercy Carried Out?

How is God's mercy carried out today? We don't have prophets to tell us what to do. But we have:

- God's Word (the Bible)
- Direct communication (prayer)
- The Holy Spirit indwelling

I believe God intends to have his mercy demonstrated by people like us. Christians are God's instruments on earth. We are called to act like Jesus, and not wait for others to do it, or expect God to reach down from heaven to do it himself. Are we known for loving the lost, and helping the helpless?

How Important is Mercy to Jesus?

- In the story of the rich young ruler, Jesus tells the man that one of the commandments that must be kept is to love your _____. (Matt 19:17-19)
- Later on, the Pharisees questioned Jesus about which commandments are the most important. Again, Jesus mentions that loving your neighbor ranks #2. (Mark 12:28-33)

- Finally, another man asks Jesus for the meaning of that law. Who is my neighbor? In other words, "Who is it I am supposed to love, and how do I show that?" (Luke 10:25-37) So, Jesus told him the story of the good Samaritan. That story ends with Jesus asking

LK 10:36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

LK 10:37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

So, Jesus sums up the key point of this very important law. The one who shows mercy is that one who truly loves his neighbor. The one who loves his neighbor is the one who is serving a need for his neighbor.

Are we fulfilling law of loving our neighbor? It's the second most important law! I believe Jesus was telling us that we can't truly love God without loving our neighbor. And loving your neighbor means showing kindness and mercy to those around us.



Don't forget the Mount Dora Children's Home Dinner this weekend and Silent Auction at the Bryan Glazer Family JCC. Silent Auction from 4:30-5:45pm. Dinner at 6:00pm. If you have tickets, please attend and enjoy the festivities.

Life Groups Notes – May 7

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Scripture: Daniel 3

Let someone read the story, then someone else retell the story in their own words.

How does the faith of these three young men compare to what we see among Christians today? Have you ever asked yourself “what would I do in this situation?”

Many believe we are coming into a time when Christians may be persecuted for their faith. How can we use this story to strengthen our faith, and be prepared for what might come?

We don't know how old these three young men are, but it is traditionally believed that they are very young. Allow the young people in the group to share some stories of when their belief in Jesus might have been challenged.

When Nebuchadnezzar saw that God had spared the three boys, he proclaimed that the God of Heaven should be revered throughout his land. Discuss the idea of faith based on witnessing a miracle versus the thought in Hebrews 11:1 that faith is the “assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”.



Statistics

April 30, 2023

Sunday School	107
Worship	166
Contribution	\$7,776
Bldg. Fund	\$155,758

TXT2GIVE

**Quick & Easy
Mobile Giving**

Text **GIVE** and the **AMOUNT**

813-642-7288

Elders

Monte Betz
615-306-5090

Bill Hemphill
813-504-2523

Kris Kent
239-287-0390

John Shackelford
703-798-8632

John Wharton
865-599-6571

Deacons

Lee Chatham
251-533-2924

Richard Hammonds
813-924-6717

Paul Matches
813-390-0787

Neil Pomeranke
813-500-1779

Bob Ray
440-223-9357

Staff

Pulpit Minister
Neal Pharr
813-220-3073

***Youth Services
Coordinator***
Kari Pomeranke
813-500-9170

Administrator
Sandy West
813-909-4646

Audio Visual Tech
Joel Ellis
813-333-3578

***Children's Ministry
Co-Leaders***
Kristi Chatham
251-533-2851

Vikki Minor
210-601-6220



THOSE WHO SERVE

Worship Assignment	May 7	May 14	May 21
Coordinator	Peter Franco	Bob Ray	Peter Franco
Usher	Nathan Baker	Logan Pomeranke	Harrison Hammonds
Greeting & Announcements	John Wharton	John Wharton	John Wharton
Scripture Reading & Opening Prayer	Jason Smith	Byron Boyer	Lucas Clinton
Communion & Offering	Lee Chatham	Brent Byrd	Jan Blackwell
Closing Prayer	Logan Pomeranke	Carl House	David Tomlinson
Nursery	Caroline Dumas Evelyn Davila	Karen Matches Sandy Boyer	Kim Byrd Nancy Pharr
Coffee Ministry	Lupe Runions	Charlotte Kent	Patti Bass
Greeters	Linda Vines LeeAndra Griffin	Linda Vines LeeAndra Griffin	Linda Vines LeeAndra Griffin