

A Word from the Pastor

“...for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”

(Philippians 4:11)

Suppose they made a special thermometer, but instead of measuring your temperature, it gave an accurate reading of your level of contentment. What would yours read right now? What degree of satisfaction and peace are you experiencing? Before you respond, let's be clear on some things. Contentment does not mean that we are ignoring our own pain or grief, or that we are indifferent to the suffering and injustice and strife in the world. There is also such a thing as “holy discontent,” when our spirits are angered by the things that anger God, and we should find ways to act on that discontent as a way of pointing to the glory and goodness of God's kingdom.

The contentment Paul is speaking of is personal. He continues: *“I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.”* We need to remember that Paul wrote these words from a Roman prison. This would hardly seem to be the setting for Paul to be saying, in essence, that he was living “his best life now,” but he would have resoundingly affirmed that. He believed he was right where God had placed him, for the purpose of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he rejoiced to be a part of what God was doing in that place and time.

And what was Paul's secret? *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* (Phil.4:13) This may be one of the most mis-applied verses in Scripture, but the presence of Christ was the foundation of Paul's contentment, and the fountain of all his joy, regardless of his circumstances.

When we let go of our idea of what we think God should be doing for us, and embrace whatever situation he has placed us in, then we can discover this same contentment, this same peace, this same joy. We don't pretend we are not suffering, but we offer our suffering as a sacrifice of praise to God, who sustains us and redeems us in the midst of our trials. I pray your contentment thermometer has a high reading every day, as you rejoice in Christ who strengthens you.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ed



THE WINDOW VIEW



2020

SAIN  **ANDREW**
Presbyterian Church

Following Christ
Serving in Love
Engaging the World

happy
Birthday

August

BIRTHDAYS

August 6 Debbie Long
August 9 Cope Flicek
August 9 Leanne Massey
August 15 Paul Stroebel
August 16 Joseph Lesniewski
August 20 Barbara Crout
August 20 George Dunaway
August 20 Joe McKeown
August 22 Mary Logan
August 26 Lawrence Wilson



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Back Porch Devotionals

As you know, Rev. Ed has been providing short devotionals through the church Facebook page each week, Monday – Friday, since the pandemic began. Up to now, all have been taken from the book of Psalms. Beginning Monday, 8/3, a new series will begin from the book of Philippians. Read and study Philippians on your own as we go, and be refreshed by God's word. A link to these devotionals is emailed each day; if you know of others who would like to be included, please let Rev. Ed know.



Bible in a Year Readings

August



Aug 1	2 Chronicles 35-36, Psalm 28, Mark 7	Aug 16	Est 6-10, Psalm 42, Luke 6
Aug 2	Ezra 1-2, Psalm 29, Mark 8	Aug 17	Job 1, Psalm 43, Luke 7
Aug 3	Ezra 3-5, Psalm 30, Mark 9	Aug 18	Job 2-4, Psalm 44, Luke 8
Aug 4	Ezra 6-7, Psalm 31, Mark 10	Aug 19	Job 5-6, Psalm 45, Luke 9
Aug 5	Ezra 8-10, Psalm 32, Mark 11	Aug 20	Job 7-8, Psalm 46, Luke 10
Aug 6	Neh 1, Psalm 33, Mark 12	Aug 21	Job 9-10, Psalm 47, Luke 11
Aug 7	Neh 2-3, Psalm 34, Mark 13	Aug 22	Job 11-12, Psalm 48, Luke 12
Aug 8	Neh 4-6, Psalm 35, Mark 14	Aug 23	Job 13-14, Psalm 49, Luke 13
Aug 9	Neh 7, Psalm 36, Mark 15	Aug 24	Job 15-16, Psalm 50, Luke 14
Aug 10	Neh 8-9, Psalm 37:1-22, Mark 16	Aug 25	Job 17-19, Psalm 51, Luke 15
Aug 11	Neh 10, Psalm 37:23-40, Luke 1	Aug 26	Job 20-21, Psalm 52, Luke 16
Aug 12	Neh 11, Psalm 38, Luke 2	Aug 27	Job 22-23, Psalm 53, Luke 17
Aug 13	Neh 12-13, Psalm 39, Luke 3	Aug 28	Job 24-26, Psalm 54, Luke 18
Aug 14	Est 1-2, Psalm 40, Luke 4	Aug 29	Job 27-28, Psalm 55, Luke 19
Aug 15	Est 3-5, Psalm 41, Luke 5	Aug 30	Job 29-30, Psalm 56, Luke 20
		Aug 31	Job 31-32, Psalm 57, Luke 21



iCare, which is one of the organizations St. Andrew supports, has their annual Praise Under the Stars planned for September 26, 2020. The Silent Auction which features themed baskets was so popular last year it's happening again this year. St. Andrew donated several baskets last year. If you are interested in sponsoring a basket, contributing gift cards, want to financially support this fabulous event, have questions or need more information please email Jessica at jessica@i-caare4.org. You can also contact Anne Iverson at zebragal@bellsouth.net or 706-855-9433 (NOTE: If Praise Under the Stars is cancelled or postponed, iCare is planning to do the Silent Auction online.)

When Will We Re-Open the Church?

That's a great question, and the honest answer is, "We don't know." The best data available continues to show that gathering with others in close proximity in an enclosed space is one of the higher-risk activities for the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. This is particularly so for a congregation that is predominantly older, with many having existing health concerns.

There are numerous reports of churches that did re-open, and have now closed again due to an outbreak of the virus, which in a number of cases resulted in death. The Session is monitoring this closely, but at this juncture we do not believe it would be wise to get back together in person.

For now, we will continue with online worship only. The services are posted on Facebook, YouTube, and on our website. If you are having difficulty accessing the service, please let us know so as many as possible can participate.

We are continuing with our Wednesday Prayer Gathering, which meets at 10am, outside at the Augusta Community Prayer Garden. You can bring your own lawn chair, or we will provide a chair for you, and face masks are encouraged. In addition to lifting up our hearts to God in prayer, it is also a wonderful time of fellowship (appropriately distanced), and all are welcome. (Almost all: Obviously, if you are feeling ill, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, please refrain from attending.)

Please continue to reach out to one another, by phone or text or email or even good old-fashioned "snail mail," to keep us connected to one another during this strange and challenging time. Also be on the lookout for any neighbors who might need assistance; if there is anything St. Andrew can do to help, please let us know.

