



# Attica Good News

Good News is the monthly newsletter of the Attica-Williamsport EPC  
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March 2024  
Number 24-03

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.  
More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.  
—Romans 5:10-11 (ESV)



*Vox audita perit, littera scripta manet:* The heard voice perishes, the written letter remains.



## A REPORT FROM OUR STAFF IN ISRAEL

What follows is a report from Mitch Glasser, President of Chosen People Ministries. His full report is far too long for the available space in the March *Good News*, so a link to the full report is provided below. His report offers a window onto the horrors of the war, and the opportunities even horrors can present.

We support Stacey Trobman (Israel) and Robert and Joanna Walter (New York) through Chosen People Ministries.

Friday, March 01, 2024

Dear friend,

This month, I want to honor the selfless work of our team in Israel, especially since October 7.

The barbaric Hamas massacre traumatized the nation and changed Israel forever. The bloodbath shattered Israelis' trust in their leaders and defenses. Given Israel's relatively small size, virtually everyone in Israel knows someone who was murdered, injured, or taken hostage.

Our staff immediately sprang into action. Though they, too, grapple with grief, fear, and the new normal of running to bomb shelters, they are doing all they can to serve others.

The following are just some of the ways our brothers and sisters in Israel are bringing practical aid and the hope of the gospel to Israelis enduring these horrific trials.

Note: At the end of the report page is an opportunity to donate to the CPM relief ministry. Every dollar will help.

For the rest of the report: If you're reading this on your phone, scan the QR code at right. If you're reading it on your computer, click the QR code— it's a link. If you're reading the paper copy, you'll need the full address. It's at the bottom of the back page because there isn't room for it here. Good luck typing it out. Maybe just go get your phone.



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The Stated Meeting of Session was called to order at 7:00 PM on February 15, 2024, by Moderator Kelly Kurth, in the church basement.

The meeting was opened with devotions from Genesis 3 and prayer by Kelly Kurth and the ruling elders present.

Members present: Moderator, Kelly Kurth; Ruling Elders: George Ellsworth, Howard Crawford, Jim Ely, and Jerry Watson Jr. constituting a quorum.

Mark Mason was present as clerk of session.

Reporting that Howard Crawford was elected to session for a 3-year term, and Jody Parient and Elaine Baird were elected for 3-year terms as deacons at the February 11 annual congregational meeting.

Elder, Mark Mason, and moderator, Kelly Kurth, gave a report on the 181st Midwest Presbytery Meeting held at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, OH on February 9 and 10.

The next prayer meeting will be March 3 following a noon luncheon.

Several members are meeting in the church basement for prayer from 7:00 to 8:00 on Wednesday evenings with elder, George Ellsworth.

Prayer leaders following worship for March:

- March 3 Mark Mason and Kim Rayburn
- March 10 Jim and Barb Ely
- March 17 Jerry and Mary Watson
- March 24 Howard and Sallie Crawford
- March 31 Mark Mason and Jo Ann Koekenberg

There were 31 communicants at the February 4 worship service and an average attendance in worship of 33 the last four weeks.

Pulpit Supply for March:

- March 3 Jerry Miller
- March 10 Richard Hammer
- March 17 Jim Ely
- March 24 Hymn Sing
- March 31 Mark Mason

The Men's Fellowship breakfast met on Saturday, February 10 with four attending.

The Women's Fellowship group is meeting on the third Saturday in the church basement for a light breakfast, devotions, and prayer.



The Homeschool Mom's/Kids Group is meeting in the church basement on Wednesday afternoons during the cold weather months.

The adult class is continuing to view and discuss the video series Six Steps to Church Growth.

The junior high class is studying the prophets and kings from 1 Kings to Malachi using material from Great Commission Publications.

Elaine Baird is teaching the preschool class in the nursery.

The congregation enjoyed a potluck fellowship meal on February 4 following morning worship with 25 in attendance. The theme of the lunch was "foods you love."

Attendees gathered following lunch to give the pastor search committee some input on completing the church information form that will be submitted to the EPC for prospective pastors to use in looking for a church. Attendees were asked to give input on church strengths, weaknesses, goals, and what they were looking for in a pastor.

The next fellowship meal will be March 3.

On motion received Summary Financial Reports from treasurer, Rick Ely and financial secretary, George Ellsworth.

On motion approved moving \$100.00 from Receipts to Service: Utilities:Water.

On motion approved moving \$500.00 from ZXTRA to Service:Bldg Ins.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on March 3 to be served by Mark Mason and Jim Ely.

Reporting that session reviewed the Annual Statistical Report to the EPC.

Reporting that session reviewed the deacons report for 2023.

On motion set February 25 for the installation of church officers.

The next Regular Meeting of Session will be March 21, 7:00 PM.

On motion the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark W. Mason, Clerk







For Valentine’s Day, I took my Favorite Sweetheart for a nice drive in the country, in search of a nice dinner.

Our destination was Eugene, Indiana, an unincorporated town in Vermillion County. Eugene is located just north of the town of Cayuga.

Eugene was originally laid out in 1827. Unlike many small frontier towns named by their founders, the source of the name Eugene is shrouded in the mists of 19<sup>th</sup> century unwritten history. Local legend would have us believe that the name can be traced to a well-oiled local resident who frequently lost his way coming home from his favorite watering hole. Hoping for his wife to come to his rescue, he would wander about calling loudly, “Oh, Jane!” At least that’s what he’s said to have meant. However, his tipsy tongue mangled his diction, and what he’s said to have said sounded more like “Eu Jene.” As unlikely as the folklore version sounds, in the absence of actual facts, the legend will have to do.

Eugene has two major claims to historical significance. One is the Eugene Covered Bridge, a historic Burr Arch Truss covered bridge located just north of town. It was built in 1873, carried county road traffic until 1974, and



has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1994. It spans 180 feet across the Big Vermilion River not far

from its confluence with the Wabash.

Eugene’s second major claim to fame, and the subject of this review, is the **Eugene Covered Bridge Restaurant**. Named, of course, for the Eugene Covered Bridge (you can see the bridge from the parking lot, and it’s just a short walk). The Covered Bridge Restaurant is one of those local gems that attracts their clientele from the immediate vicinity and from many (many!) miles away. We saw license plates in the parking lot from at least three states— one was Minnesota! And it’s only a 30-minute drive from Attica.

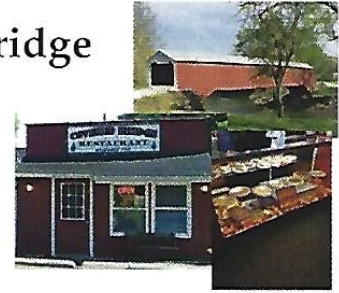
The presentation from the parking lot (curb appeal is the marketing term) is modest and unassuming. The front

## Eugene Covered Bridge Restaurant

5787 N. Main St.  
Cayuga, IN 47928

**8:00 AM - 8 PM**  
**7 DAYS A WEEK**

**Shannon Thomason**  
Owner



765-492-7376  
Cell: 765-505-2469

entrance leads to a dining room with a cashier’s counter and a half-dozen tables. The counter includes a display case with an impressive array of fresh pies, but the pie safe behind the counter puts the counter display in the shade. The current pie list is posted on a white board, subject to change daily, or even hourly. And most of the pies are made in-house.



We were fortunate to find a parking space right by the front door, and an available table just inside. We discovered later that there is also a side entrance by the main parking lot. We also discovered later that the



unpretentious front dining area was barely the tip of the iceberg. Back past the counter and to the left, we found three more large

dining rooms with seating for perhaps a hundred or more (my guess, not an actual count).

Since our visit was Valentine’s Day, the menu featured a Sweetheart Special for Two— an eight-ounce New York strip steak, two sides, and pie for each of us. From the copious list of side dishes, we each chose cranberry salad, which proved to be an excellent choice. Recipes for cranberry salad, (a.k.a. relish, sauce, jam, or even chutney) have been published since the 1796 edition of *American Cookery*, but Native Americans were making their version prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century (those recipes were rarely published). There are hundreds (thousands?) of variations, all of them good, while some are better than others. The Covered Bridge version is one of the really good ones. Our steaks were excellent, cooked exactly to our orders.

And then came time to decide on dessert. For

**COVERED BRIDGE** CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

John Lundy  
Cary, NC



February 26, 2024

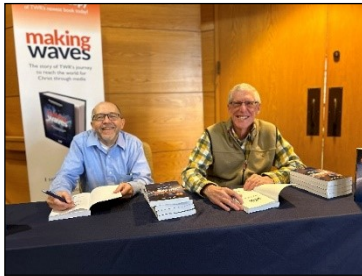
Cary, North Carolina

Dear friends,

February was a momentous month for TWR.

February 22 marked the 70th anniversary of our first radio broadcast, from Tangier, Morocco, with signals pointed across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain. While we celebrated that anniversary here in Cary and at other campuses in the TWR world, President Lauren Libby and a number of our other leaders were hosting a celebration at the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

At the same time, both in Nashville and in Cary, we released advance copies of our new book: *Making Waves: TWR's journey to reach the world for Christ through media*. I had the honor of being co-author of this 295-page book along with Richard Greene, who directed our department before retiring. He retired, but he certainly hasn't stopped working. The photo ↓ shows Richard, at right, and me in a faux book-signing. (We're real, and the books are real, but the book-signing was staged.)



One day later, still at the convention in Nashville, TWR was honored with the Billy Graham Award for Excellence in Christian Communications. This award "is presented to a Christian organization that effectively and creatively uses multiple electronic media technologies in fulfillment of its mission, while maintaining fidelity to the message of love, redemption and hope found in the Holy Scriptures," according to NRB.

But that's not all. Earlier in the week, our partner RTM Brazil was honored with NRB's 2024 International Media Award. RTM means Radio Trans Mundial, and it's the equivalent of TWR in Portuguese and Spanish. RTM Brazil produces 60 radio programs, which are distributed through 45 AM and FM affiliates in 26 states, as well as on 300 web outlets and social media, according to our news release.

Quite a week.

## WARNING! YOUR SUNDIAL IS IN DANGER— AGAIN

The legally sanctioned time thieves are about to make their annual springtide visit to virtually every home and business in the country (Yea for Hawaii and Arizona—they're exempt). At precisely 2:00 AM on March 10, they will steal one entire hour of your sleeping time. This is accomplished by Federal fiat— at 2:00 AM that Sunday morning, it will be 3:00 AM. The perpetuation of this absurdity defies all logic.

If you remember to advise your alarm clock of the impending theft, it won't mind waking you up an hour early. This does NOT necessarily mean that your body will be equally amenable.



The purist will object to the terms 'theft' and 'steal,' pointing out that the ~~stolen~~ 'borrowed' hour will be returned to you in November. **Bah!** It likely will be damaged beyond recognition by that time, and in any case, you'll still have been without the use of it all summer.

**WARNING!** Do not try to reset your sundial. It won't work, and you may fracture the solar system. At 2:00 AM, checking a sundial is a fool's errand anyway.

The good news is that House Bill No. 1289 has been introduced in the 2024 Indiana legislature to exempt Indiana from Daylight Saving Time. The bad news is that it does not move Indiana back to the Central time zone where it belongs, and the bill has not seen any positive action. ☩

It was quite a week for me, too, as I prepared to make a move from one apartment complex to another. On Saturday, moving day, I had the help of 14 teenage boys from a local church along with their three leaders. A couple from my church (who are also from TWR) also helped, but 95% of the labor was provided by the boys. I highly recommend teenage boys for your next move.

The new apartment is smaller, quieter and less expensive than the previous apartment. A trail in a ravine next to my unit leads to a small lake in one direction and a park in the other. It's a good fit for me.

My new address: 105 Walshingham Lane, Apt 1B, Cary, NC 27513.

As always, I am so grateful that God has called me to this work, and so grateful to the body of Attica-Williamsport EPC for helping make it possible for me to be here.

Under the mercy,

John





# Cupboard Corner

The theme for our March Fellowship Luncheon was announced as "Green." That's a great theme for March, in honor of

St. Patrick. It probably elicits thoughts of the Emerald Isle (thanks to William Drennan's Poem *When Erin First Rose*). In reference to food for a carry-in luncheon, it may educe suggestions of leafy green vegetables, salads, cucumbers, zucchini, or maybe Green Eggs and Ham. It is unlikely that the first thought of green entrées would be **SOUP**. But then, it's also unlikely that a retired computer tech (whose culinary expertise is mostly in consumption rather than production) should be in the vaunted position of Food Editor for a world-class periodical. Go figure.

This treat (and a real treat it is!) is not a quick-fix for a hurry-up supper. If you include the time for soaking the peas, preparation time may run as much as 24 hours. Fortunately, most of that time does not require the chef's active participation. Soaking, for example, can readily be accomplished while the chef sleeps. Cooking, once the ingredients are in the pot, does require some hands-on attention. Two to four hours into the cooking cycle, the chef must manually reset the slow cooker dial from 'High' to 'Low.' The toughest part of the project comes when it's time to remove the bones from the ham. (It's surprising how many bones there are in a ham hock.)

The end result is well worth the time and effort. Served with grilled cheese sandwiches, bread sticks, or cheese and crackers, it's a hearty meal for any season.

Official Disclaimer: This soup is in no way related to the famous London fog that goes by the same name. Pea soup was a popular item for street vendors in ancient Athens as early as 500 BC. London didn't exist until the Romans founded it in 47 AD.

## Slow-Cooker Split Pea Soup

Prep 15 MIN  
(Possibly optimistic)

Total Time  
10 - 12 Hours

Servings  
8

### Ingredients

- 3 cups water
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1-pound dried split peas, sorted, and rinsed (soaking overnight recommended)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 3 carrots, cut into ¼ inch slices
- 3 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 pounds smoked ham hocks



### Directions

Place all ingredients except ham in a 5-quart slow cooker. Stir to combine. Then add ham. (If you add the ham hocks before stirring, stirring will be difficult and only minimally effective.)

Cover and cook on High 2-4 hours, then on Low 8 hours (or until peas are tender). If peas were not soaked, add about 2 hours cooking time.

Remove ham from cooker and separate the meat from the bones. Discard the bones and skin. If the meat isn't adequately shredded in the separation process, shred any chunks into bite sized pieces.

Return shredded ham to soup and stir well before serving to ensure all ingredients are evenly distributed. ☩

# EMERGENCY!



**A RECENT 911 CALL PROVED TO BE A TRULY LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY. AN ORDINARY CITIZEN MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS HAD BEEN BRUTALLY EXPOSED TO AN OPINION DIFFERING SLIGHTLY FROM HIS OWN.**

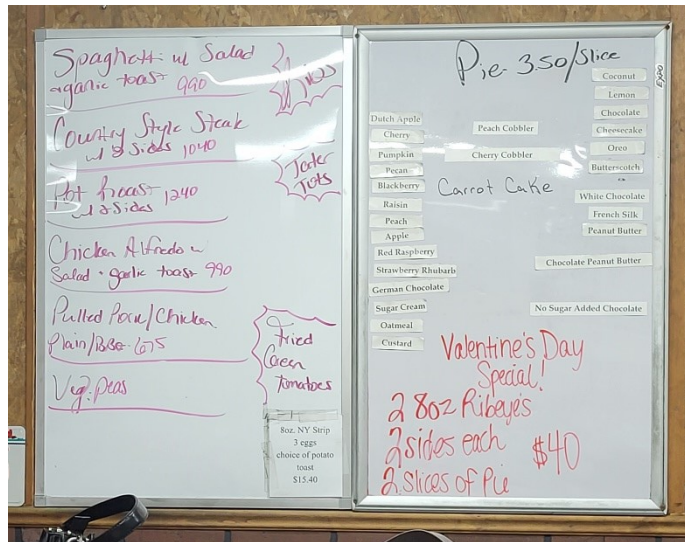
**LIKE ALL HIS PEERS, HE HAD BEEN INDOCTRINATED WITH THE FACTS AS THEY HAD BEEN ADULTERATED TO MATCH THE CULTURE'S LIKING, AND HE WAS THEREFORE LOGIC-DEFENSE DEFICIENT. HE'S STILL IN CRITICAL CONDITION.**

**THE PERPETRATOR WAS BROWBEATEN INTO SILENCE AND EXILED TO OSTRACIZIVIA.**

# COVERED BRIDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Valentine's Day there were 25 kinds of pie on the board (28 if you count the cobbler and carrot cake!) to choose from, so that decision process was no piece of cake— it was pie, remember. (Actually, on that day, it could have been a piece of [carrot] cake.)



I chose the strawberry rhubarb pie, and my sweetie opted for the oatmeal pie. She chose that one because she has fond memories of the oatmeal pie her mother used to make. The difference being that in her house it was known as 'Mock Pecan Pie.' Both of our pies were a great success, the oatmeal pie having been pronounced 'almost' as good as Mother used to make.

Debbie was our server Wednesday evening. She is friendly and welcoming, and has mastered the fine art of being attentive without being obtrusive, a talent not as universal as it once was.

The interior decor of the Covered Bridge Restaurant is decidedly rustic. We found a collection of chain-saw carved bears holding **WELCOME** signs. There were photographs and plaques on several walls recounting significant local historical events. But the most conspicuous theme for (every wall of)



the restaurant is the massive (might we say colossal?) collection of state license plates. Some are current, some are recent, some are vintage historic. Some are local, some are from around the state or farther away. Even Alaska and Hawaii are represented. Most are standard



## Deputy Liam Ricketts

At the end of February, Liam Ricketts, great-grandson of Raymond and Bev Childress, was sworn

in as an Honorary Deputy Sheriff in Tippecanoe County.

It has long been one of Liam's dreams to ride in a squad car with a police officer on patrol. Sheriff Bob Goldsmith and his staff made Liam's dream come true on February 28. He got to watch a K9 demo, he drove the bomb squad robot, he went on a patrol car ride-along, and took a tour of dispatch. Then everyone enjoyed a pizza party with the Sheriff, deputies, and support staff. There were broad smiles all around.

plates, but there are many vanity plates with messages ranging from humorous to obscure to completely inscrutable. I'm pretty sure a count of 'thousands' is a safe guess. They cover almost every wall, although there is one room with some bare space left. The photo shows a mere sampling.

The food is excellent, the prices are reasonable, and the staff is always happy to serve you. If you're in search of an evening out on a Friday, an early supper

might help beat the crowd. Sunday dinner can get a bit backed up with the after-church regulars, but a later lunch or an earlier supper will usually dodge that obstacle. If you're looking for a pleasant meal specializing in Hoosier Comfort Food (and **PIE!**), The Eugene Covered Bridge Restaurant should definitely be on your list of regular stops.



# The Problem Is...

—Elder George Ellsworth, Editor

Pray then like this:

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth  
as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread,  
and **forgive us our debts**, as we also **have  
forgiven our debtors**.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.*

**Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV)**

I remember (from a very young age) tripping over the word ‘debtors’ in the Lord’s Prayer. And then I discovered that in the Lutheran Church, the same prayer used the word ‘trespasses.’ I grew up in the country. I knew what a ‘NO TRESPASSING’ sign meant, so I thought I knew what it was to trespass. I also thought I knew what a debtor was, and I didn’t see how they could be the same thing.

And then I discovered that the same prayer, as reported by Luke, used ‘forgive us our sins’ and ‘as we forgive everyone who is indebted to us’ or ‘... everyone who sins against us.’

A ‘debt’ is something owed, and a ‘debtor’ is the one who owes. Matthew’s use of ‘debt’ and ‘debtor’ is a figurative reference to something we have done (or left undone) in violation of God’s statutes (the definition of ‘sin’), for which we owe Him a debt we cannot ever hope to pay. Matthew’s metaphorical meaning is confirmed in his next two verses:

*For if you forgive men when they **sin** against you,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you.  
But if you do not forgive men their **sins**, your  
Father will not forgive your **sins**.*

**Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)**

Trespass, according to Merriam-Webster, is ‘a breaking of a moral or legal code’ or ‘a failure to uphold the requirements of law, duty, or obligation.’ So, to trespass is sin. To sin is to become indebted to God. I love the way words work.

It doesn’t require a PhD in political science to recognize that we have problems in our country. We have become a nation of polar opposites. We have unchecked violence in our streets— road rage, wanton murder, mass shootings— to name a few. Our legislative branch is so rigidly hidebound they can’t agree on anything useful— be it foreign aid, border protection, national defense, or even funding the daily operation of the government.

According to conventional wisdom, identifying a problem is supposed to be half the battle. That arithmetic only works if you understand that half the battle takes 95% of the work, and the other half of the battle takes the other 95%.

We are told (and told and told) that our problems are complex. We believe it, because we have been told

(and told and told) that it’s the **TRUTH**. We believe it because our attention is persistently focused on the **symptoms** rather than the **cause**.

- Road rage can stem from a failure to signal a lane change, tardiness in yielding the hammer lane to a speeding violator, or any of hundreds of more serious (real or perceived) offenses.
- Any social interaction can become a dispute that devolves into violence and murder.
- A family conversation over Thanksgiving Dinner can result in a family rift that may never heal.
- A difference of opinion (on virtually any matter) can become a physical altercation, even in the halls of congress.

Why?

Look back at the **red highlighted** phrase in the prayer at top of the page. In essentially all of these examples, the missing element is forgiveness. It is a fact of human nature that we will not all think the same. Nor should we. Every invention/discovery that smooths our lives— from fire and the wheel to computers and airplanes— started with somebody who thought differently (sometimes in the face of open hostility).

Lacking the ability or willingness to forgive, man will tend to view everyone who manifests an opinion/action/belief different from his own as an enemy. A stiff-necked, unforgiving spirit tolerates no view but its own.

A forgiving spirit will readily acknowledge that he who differs is created in the Image of the same God as himself; he is not necessarily an adversary, and right or wrong, he is entitled to respect—and the opportunity to speak. He may even be right, and an instant violent response would deny us the chance to know that.

So, why the ubiquitous nature of this unforgiving spirit?

The real answer is in the **blue highlight** in the prayer above: “...**forgive us our debts**...”

We have raised generations of people who have never known God’s forgiveness, and they therefore have no concept of what it means to forgive. No man can extend to another what he himself has never known. When God’s laws are not taught, when a concerted effort has been made to obliterate the Word and even God Himself from the culture, man’s fallen (sinful) nature escalates unchecked. Even the most obtuse observer must surely see the dots— but connecting them is another matter.

One point of clarity is appropriate here. The quoted line in the Lord’s Prayer can easily be misread:

*...and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

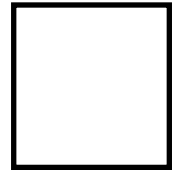
Cursory reading of this line might make it sound like God only forgives us *after* we have first forgiven others. While it is true that unforgiveness on our part impedes God’s desire to forgive us, it is truth beyond question that God made the first move:

*...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. —Romans 5:8 (ESV)*

Absent that, there would be no hope for any of us. ✠

Attica-Williamsport Evangelical  
 Presbyterian Church  
 300 East Main Street  
 Attica, Indiana 47918

Address Service Requested  
 3/01/2024



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**BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH**

DOB	Name
3/07	Mary Watson
3/11	Barbara Snelling
3/22	Victoria S. Tanner
3/22	Avah Magnolia Watson
3/23	Brenda Ann Gates

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH**

Anniversary Date	Number	Celebrating Couple
3/31/84	40	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rayburn

**IF TWO PEOPLE AGREE ON EVERYTHING, ONE OF THEM IS UNNECESSARY. —Winston Churchill**

**Sunday:**  
 Sunday School 9:00 am  
 Fellowship Coffee 10:00 am  
 Morning Worship 10:30 am

**Every First Sunday**  
 Fellowship Dinner and  
 Congregational Prayer 12:00 Noon

**Weekly Small Group Meetings—  
 Call for Schedules and locations**



**Note:** Please send Birthday or Anniversary corrections to the editor, in writing—by e-mail if possible.