



Morning Star Church of Christ

4249 River Street
Willoughby, OH 44095

(440) 254-6207
March 11, 2007

Welcome to The Morning Star Church of Christ. Our church meets at The Willoughby Christian Church. Sunday Bible classes are at 11:00 a.m. and services are at 12:15 p.m. Thursday Bible classes are at 7:00 p.m. for adults and children.

Food for the Journey

For the past two weeks, I have been preaching a sermon series entitled *The Renewal of Hope*. Most of you are familiar with the purpose of this series and the reason why I am preaching it – I am reminding us of the hope that is in Christianity and how we can make that hope a living reality in our daily living.

Today in my sermon, I am going to begin discussing the spiritual discipline of self-examination. Self-examination is exactly what its name suggests: we take a close, probing, look at ourselves to see where we are strong and where we are weak. It's a process where we remove our blinders and our short-sightedness and we see ourselves as we really are. For many, this process suggests guilt and an unhealthy focus on our weaknesses and shortcomings; it suggests berating ourselves and self-condemnation.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. While it includes moments of honesty and the acceptance of our weaknesses, its overall goal is purification, transformation, regeneration, and the birth of hope. Its overall goal is to set us on the path to a new life, a life in which we have truly broken with our past and can claim the foundational elements of Christian hope. Those foundational elements, you will remember from my past sermons, are freedom from bondage, a new start in a new life, and the promise of a better tomorrow followed by eternity spent in God's presence.

Throughout the years, several Christian writers have described this process, and I would like to share with you some of their insights. The following quotes are from some who have walked this path and have seen self-examination for what it truly is: the path to a deeper and more intimate relationship with God.

The whole point of self-examination is to become more *God-centered* by observing the moments when we are or are not so.

Self-examination is not morbid introspection or self-condemnation, but the honest, fearless confrontation of the self, and its abandonment to God in trust.

The most overlooked feature of genuine humility is the quiet acceptance of our strengths – those qualities God-given which are just as surely ours as our limitations and weaknesses.

As we continue this series, walk with me on this journey and allow God to lovingly show you who you really are so he can make you what you were created to be.

Have a great week for the Lord!

THOSE SERVING FOR TODAY'S SERVICES:

Today's preaching will be done by Micheal West. The usher will be Aaron West. Song leader will be Bob Bonnell. Mike Tankersley has opening prayer, Micheal West has prayer of intercession and Larry Wilhelm has closing prayer. Mahlon Tennant has communion and Larry Wilhelm, Aaron West and Josh Meeks will assist him. Alternate assistant will be Ken Allen.

IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUESTS

- ?? Lisa Labonette (Jean Addison's niece) passed away this week.
- ?? Eugene Price has been diagnosed with lung cancer and will be going for further testing next week.
- ?? Danette (friend of Amy Burwell) will be having a biopsy on her thyroid.
- ?? Steve Cirino (friend of Bob Bonnell and Norm Meeks) cut off his index finger.
- ?? Flo Wilhelm has been diagnosed with neuralgia.
- ?? Kathi Addison is having some health problems.
- ?? Alice Addison is recuperating from hip replacement.
- ?? Augie Bruno (friend of Dan Spence) has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- ?? Daisy Tankersley is having surgery March 15.
- ?? Matt and April Adaire (Daisy Tankersley's daughter and son-in-law) are looking for employment.
- ?? Dennis Tankersley (Daisy's husband) will be incarcerated for two years. Please send him a card at Dennis Tankersley 522-146, c/o Lorain Co. I.N.S.T., 2075 S. Avon Beldon Road, Crafton, OH 44044.
- ?? Myndi Allen's mother is still experiencing some health issues and will be going to see a doctor at the Cleveland Clinic .
- ?? Rachel Wiant (Dan's niece in law) has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

ON-GOING PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following people who are suffering from cancer:

Nancy (sister of Flo Wilhelm's sister in law, Valerie Evans' stepsister (Mary), Marge Tennant's brother-in-law, Dave Wojcik (friend of Ken Allen), Myndi Allen's Uncle Sherm and Aunt Peg, David Ward (friend of Norm Meeks), Eddy (friend of the Wilhelms), John Russell's wife (friend of John Addison), Harold Tidd's daughter, Bob Glover

Please pray for the following people who are having health problems:

Arturo Rea, Valerie Evans' father, Glenn Dunlop (friend of Norm Meeks), Larry Wilhelm's Aunt Sue, Norm Meeks' father, Jim Zukoski, Mike Lackner's sister, Marge Tennant's niece, Bryn Wolanski, Ruth Bell, June Young, Florence Nichols, Rachel and Brian Petti, Marge Tennant, Myndi Allen, Gladys Skidmore, Ruth Glover, Mike Lackner

Please keep Chris Zukoski in your prayers as he is in Iraq again.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 11: Regular potluck after services
- March 16: Family Enrichment at the Allen's house at 7:00 p.m.
- March 18: Potluck at Cici's after services
- March 20: Rusty Bell's birthday
- March 20: Rachel Petti's birthday
- March 20: Eugene Price's birthday
- March 21: Larry Wilhelm's birthday
- March 21: Jerad Allen's birthday
- March 22: Amy Burwell's birthday
- March 25: Regular potluck after services
- March 29: Jim Zukoski's birthday
- March 31: Rick Takac's birthday
- March 31: June Young's birthday

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ?? The food pantry needs restocked. Please bring in any non-perishable items.
- ?? The amount collected on March 4, 2007 was \$659.00 and there were 45 people in attendance.
- ?? The website for Morning Star Church of Christ is www.morningstarchurchofchrist.org.

Please give the following prayer request or concern to the person with prayer of intercession:

Please put your suggestions on improving the worship services below and place in the can by the song books.
