

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him;

What saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Genesis 12:1-4; Romans 4:3; John 3:16-18

Welcome to worship! Scripture tells us that “Abraham believed God ... and he was called the friend of God” (James 2:23). It is our desire that all of us know friendship with God. Let our friendship, not only with God, but with one another, become a reality here and now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are starting Easter practice for the children during Sunday School.
- Easter choir practice this evening after church.
- **March 9** - Passion Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Begins
- **March 14** - Zone Rally at Northville. PVBI students will be speaking.
- **March 16** - Palm Sunday (Communion Sunday). A ministerial student from PVBI will be speaking in our services.

Suggested Daily Scripture Reading

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
OT	Leviticus 4:1-5:19	Leviticus 6:1-7:27	Leviticus 7:28-9:6	Leviticus 9:7-10:20
NT	Mark 2:13-3:6	Mark 3:7-30	Mark 3:31-4:25	Mark 4:26-5:20
PSA	Psalms 36:1-12	Psalms 37:1-11	Psalms 37:12-29	Psalms 37:30-40
PROV	Proverbs 17	Proverbs 18	Proverbs 19	Proverbs 20
	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
	Leviticus 11:1-12:8	Leviticus 13:1-59	Leviticus 14:1-57	
	Mark 5:21-43	Mark 6:1-29	Mark 6:30-56	
	Psalms 38:1-22	Psalms 39:1-13	Psalms 40:1-10	
	Proverbs 21	Proverbs 22	Proverbs 23	

*SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 10:00 AM, Morning Worship 11:00 AM, Evening 7:00 PM
— WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 PM — FRIDAY: Women’s Meeting 10:00 AM*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Our sister church to pray for this week is **Ogdensburg**. At present there is no pastor.
- **Charles Kimbrough** (son of pastors in Mississippi) has been falsely imprisoned in Kuwait. He was released this week, but still cannot get out of the country. While in prison he was subjected to beatings and attempted indoctrination into Islamism. Pray for his recovery and help to return to the US.
- Physical Needs:
 - **Sharon Major** (heart problems preventing surgery), **Rowan Fay** (infection and pneumonia), **Darrel Swearingen** (preacher - heart attack), **Pastor Randy Neville** (broken ribs with complications from fall), **Betty** (stomach cancer & diabetes), **Glen Hockmeyer** (lung cancer), **Wayne McCollough** (lymphoma), **an urgent need, Howard Mickle, Don** (liver failure), **Roxanne, Jonathan Bubb, Sr., Mark Vosburgh, Kathy Moltzen**.
 - From the Early Woodlands church, a recent prayer request is for **Helen McCarthy**.
- Continue to pray for:
 - The village of **Middleburgh**, that we will reach people with hungry hearts and have fruitful results in our ministry.
 - Our young people in college, including **Lyndsay France, Seth & Isaac Owens**, and **Keith Posson**. Pray for our students as they study, and also that they can be strong in their faith in the life lessons that come their way.
 - Our service personnel, especially **Ryan Mills** and **Jacob Eggleston** (in Iraq), **Anthony & Joyce Willey** (Italy), **Wesley Lum** (Germany), and **Eric Wells**.
 - *Our missionaries, especially **Bev Fay, the Wellses, the Shermans, and the Hunters**.*
 - Our country, and our President and government leaders, that they may make Godly choices.
- Please let us know of anyone who is ill, facing a time of hospitalization, or would like a home visit.

During the time that Dr. Dale Yocum was our pastor, we heard him speak many times of the mighty faith of the Korean Christians with whom he had worked. He stated that American Christians have not the opportunity to develop such a faith, because we do not, as a rule, have to “pray in” our next meal, or other such necessities. Only when we realize in a personal way that *God* is our source (not the job or other means of support) for everything we receive, may we begin to comprehend that level of faith.

Walking by faith

Susan Southall, of Oklahoma City, says that we Christians sometimes have trouble walking by faith. We live in a world that wants to analyze and plan out everything instead of living in the midst of the experience. This makes it hard for us to live a life of faith because true faith is about living in patient expectation of what God will do in our lives. Often we want to be in control and help God along when it seems that things are not happening!

She suggests Abraham as the model of a person who walked by faith. Abraham set out on his journey without knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8). He trusted God to lead him day by day, step by step.

Perhaps Ms. Southall has a point we should consider. Remember the old joke about the man who made extensive plans regarding every detail of his life? God asked him what he was doing. The man told God of his detailed plans, and you know what happened? God laughed.

That is supposed to be funny, but it makes the point that we really have only one real and ultimate plan to follow — God's plan. It's the plan that will be revealed to us as we walk by faith day by day through life.

Little by little, inch by inch.
By the yard it's hard
By the inch, what a cinch.
Never stare up the stairs, just step up the steps
Little by little, inch by inch.

-Ron Hamilton

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

--Thomas Merton, monk and author