



JuLY 5th, 2020

In World War 2, the Marines enlisted Navaho speaking Native Americans, to talk in their native language to disburse secret information amongst the marines. Since the Germans didn't know anything about Native American Navaho language, there was no way they could spy on and translate the Allies secret information. They would also send some messages in plain English to give the Nazis misinformation. The result, Hitler's armies had no idea what was the actual plans of the Allied forces.

There is so much information being disbursed today about COVID -19 that it is hard to really know what is true. We don't know 100% what is accurate information out there. We aren't sure what is the true state of things. Everyone is operating by their own belief and perception about what theory they hold to as true. Then, when we come together as a community, we all have our own thoughts about things, our own ideas of what is going on, and we mingle together with a vast array of thoughts and beliefs about it all. How are we to have church and fellowship and togetherness when we all believe differently?

It's been a challenging season for everyone. We are all fatigued by the stress, tension, and worry about it all. Folks have lost their jobs, and others are furloughed, most have been financially impacted by all of this. We are concerned about our loved ones' health

and well being. We do not know what the future holds for schools, for businesses, and our jobs. We wonder if things will get worse before they get better, and we wonder if they will ever get better!

I find that when I don't know what to do, keep it simple, and do what I do know to do. My identity is in Jesus Christ. That means I'm a child of God and a Christian. I am called to operate out of who I am and what I am. All of my relationships are to emanate from this reality. As a result, Scriptures give us certain directives of how to be towards God and towards others. We have the two most known and obvious commands to "love God" and "to love others". However, those commands are to be fleshed out in very practical and everyday actionable ways.

Scripture teaches, "Carry each other's burdens..." in the passage of Galatians 6:1-11. It also tells us in Philippians 2:1-11, that if we have any compassion... "... in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest but each of you to the interest of others." It goes on to clearly indicate that was how Jesus lived and operated and we are called, as followers of Him, to live and operate as He did. Romans 15, goes so far as to teach us, "We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up."

We can't understand all that's going on in our world. Some of it sounds like gibberish, and we are not sure how to translate it all. God does, and we are asked to trust that He is good and He is sovereign and ultimately in control of it all. We are asked to not panic, to trust in Him, and to do what we know to do. Our rights, even our freedoms are not to be more important to us than our love and our care for our brothers and sisters. As Christians, we are always challenged to be humble and to "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." - Ephesians 5:21.

As we gather to worship God this coming Sunday, we are once again challenged with some new COVID-19 restrictions. The Governor of Kansas has mandated that anyone over the age of nine wear a mask while in any public situation. What does this mean for us? We are a church. We operate as a family that is held together by love and trust. We can not and will not mandate that you wear a mask. We can ask you to follow the Scriptures and honor others and care for others. Beyond what the law says or a government says, we are citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. That means we operate by a higher moral code and with a greater compassion for others no matter what society says. We let go of our rights to accommodate others. Jesus said it this way, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." - Matthew 5:41. We are literally told by Jesus to go the extra mile for others! Note, it's a forced first mile!

We do not go the extra mile to be self-righteous, we go the extra mile because there is freedom in it. If we give to someone freely, then they cannot really steal from us. They can not take away from us something that we generously hand to them. It frees us. It keeps others from sin. It frees them. We are asked to help people not get sick.

Do mask work? Maybe? Perhaps a little. It doesn't really matter if it's perceived or real - we are challenged with how we are going to be towards others who may have a different mindset than ourselves (see previous scriptures again, please).

Our official church stance is to follow the scriptures and be Christians to one another no matter what the mandates are or not. Therefore, we are asking all adults to wear a mask while in the lobby of the church before and after the service. Since we have set up the sanctuary to be able to maintain six feet of social distancing, once you enter the sanctuary, you are free to take your mask off for the worship service. With the increase of COVID -19 in our surrounding areas, we need to be mindful of those most vulnerable. I, personally, am caught between wanting to honor the Lord and gather to worship Him and, at the same time, try to keep my family safe and my church family safe. If I have to give up a few minutes of "my freedoms" in order to gather for worship, so be it. I am called to be compassionate and love others more than I love my freedoms.

We are all tired of this. We must endure. We must be kind. We must move forward in a Christ-like manner. We must honor the Lord and love and really live like Jesus ask us to. I love what my buddy, Pastor Aaron Zustiak, says about sacrifice. His definition of sacrifice is, "A sacrifice is giving up something you love, for something you love more." I want to be willing to sacrifice a little inconvenience so others can feel safer to attend. I am to do what I do for others, and in that, I can find freedom and some joy. Some will stay home to be safe. Lord willing, we will provide live streaming for those folks to participate from the safety of their home. Some will come because that is what they will feel led to do. We who will

gather will do our best to create a safe and healthy environment. In our gathering, let us be compassionate and gracious to one another.

Peace and blessings on you all, Pastor Wes Davis

GRACE KIDS

SUNDAY



Elementary
Memory Verse

**“Come and follow me,” Jesus said.
“I will send you out to fish for people.”**

Mark 1:17

I NEED A MALE SPONSOR FOR CAMP!

I am still seeking a willing guy to come to our 2nd-5th grade camp July 16th-18th and hang out with our awesome boys.

If you are interested please contact MJ today.

BE A VBS LEADER THEY SAID



IT WILL BE FUN THEY SAID

“Dive In At Home” is an eight-week series created to do as a family at home. Each week includes a family lesson that parents can use with both preschool and elementary kids, as well as a preschool video and an elementary video that will help kids “Dive In” to the life of Peter and learn what it means to follow Jesus!

CAMP AND VBS

Camp is only a couple of weeks out, and we have 34 campers signed up! Please be praying hard COVID doesn't escalate so our kids will get to have this awesome experience. I am super excited to hang with them and watch them make friends and worship Jesus together.

However, with the pressures from COVID, we feel it necessary to call an audible on VBS. We have waited as long as we could trying to get the pieces together to make it happen, but with the limitations put on us from COVID and the uncertainty of what is next, we are going to scale VBS down a bit. We are still ironing out details of what it will look like, so more information is on its way very soon.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to volunteer! You are rockstars in my book, and I will likely tap into that help for whatever alternative we decide to do.

I thank you all, and I covet your prayers for wisdom and appreciate your patience as I scramble to create a safe, memorable event for our kids.

I am still in need of one male sponsor. I can't take our boys without make supervision! Can you go, or can you recommend someone to contact me? Help a gal out!

If you need anything, please contact Melissa Smith at mj@gracecommunitychurch.net



GRACE YOUTH

KATALAMBANO

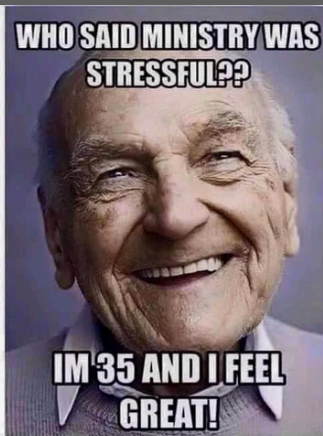
What is "CAT ON A BANJO?" It is actually called "KATALAMBANO" but we give it silly new names at the time.

The truth? It is a Greek word meaning: "to grasp", "to seize hold of", "to understand". It is the name for what was earlier called "MS church". Sunday mornings, all year long, we have a class for the MS students after the worship set. We head to the Youth Room where we study a Gospel Book, and teach tenets of the faith.

Anything from apologetics (being able to defend why they believe in God) to "how to study the Bible". My desire is to both increase and decrease the mystery that is God's word—for student to both love and revere it. Katalambano meets every week **except** the last Sunday of each month which is Family Sunday.



**NO SWIM
THIS WEEK
WITH
AARON
GONE TO
CAMP**



We leave for High School Camp today!

Click the link below for some great information on packing, COVID precautions, and the care the camp is taking to keep the kids safe and COVID free.

https://www.gracecommunitychurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Summer_2020_policies_5-27.pdf

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE DETAILS BELOW TOO.



When will we leave: Camp is 1hr 20 Mins away so we plan to leave the church at 2:00

When will we return: We are scheduled to leave Friday at noon

What to Pack:

Bible & Pen or Mechanical Pencil(s)

Sleeping bag or twin bedding, pillow, & blanket. (Dorms are air-conditioned)

Toiletries, towels & washcloths for shower.

Modest swimwear (girls no bare midriffs), cover-up, sunscreen, & towel for swimming.

Clothing that can get dirty.

Plastic bag for dirty laundry.

Shoes other than flip flops for recreation. (Flip flops expose campers to avoidable injuries to feet and toes.)

Flashlight

HAND SANITIZER (3oz is large enough. They can refill it at camp if needed)

Money for Missions, canteen & T-shirt (shirts are not included in the cost of camp).

Prescription medications in original container, with readable current doctor's instructions.

Bug spray and sun block.

Back pack to keep items in while moving around the camp. (a cheap sack-pack will suffice)

NEWLY ADDED TO THE LIST: hammock, dress clothes for a banquet dinner on Thursday

What not to Pack:

Distractions such as video game systems (Nintendo Switch),
other electronics, etc.

Tobacco, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal sub-stances.

Immodest clothing

Guns (including airsoft/paintball) knives or fireworks

Silly string or other items for pranks.

Please Check out the Maranatha Frequently Asked Questions page (link below) for answers about sending mail, special dietary needs etc...

<http://maranathabiblecamp.org/summer-camp/faqs>

We encourage parents to send mail to the students. Especially if it has perfume or hearts written all over it. Boxes (care packages) are also allowed. We usually make them tell a joke or sing a song to get their mail. This will be a new fun experience for them, just plan ahead and send it early so it gets there in time!!

Camper Name & Session
c/o Maranatha Bible Camp
18131 Highway WW
Everton, MO 65646





GRACEWOMEN

The women's group is doing a 6 week Bible study this summer on Wednesday nights.

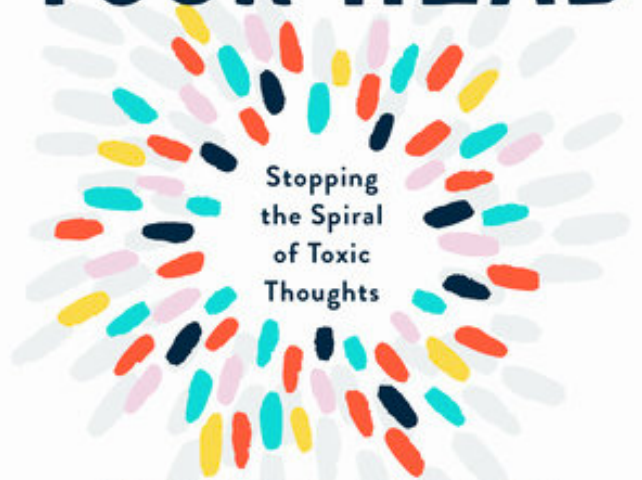
6:30pm at the church.

We are reading the book "Get Out of Your Head" by Jennie Allen, a study of Philippians. We watch a short video and discuss questions through small groups.

A study guide and book will need to be purchased and the cost is \$30 for both. Anyone concerned about the cost please speak with Holly Kufahl. There will be a sign-up sheet at the information booth after church and we can order these items for you.

Come enjoy fellowship and snacks with other women as we become more aware of our toxic thought patterns and ways to change them.

GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD



Stopping
the Spiral
of Toxic
Thoughts

JENNIE ALLEN

Best-Selling Author of *Nothing to Prove*

SUMMER WEDNESDAY VIDEO SERIES

Clark Hall is leading a video series @ 7pm in the North KidMin classroom (room "D") All are welcome.



Pastor Wes Davis 620-674-2436 wes@gracecommunitychurch.net

Youth Pastor Aaron Zustiak 417-529-8702 aaron@gracecommunitychurch.net

Kidmin Director MJ Smith 765-617-5106. mj@gracecommunitychurch.net

Office Admin Alene Dugger 620-848-4077 office@gracecommunitychurch.net

Website: gracecommunitychurch.net



High School July 5th - 10th

(completed 9th-10th grades)

\$100 Due by June 22

Middle School July 26th - 31st

(completed 6th-8th grades)

\$100 Due by June 22

Elementary July 16th - 18th

(completed 2nd-5th grade)

\$50 Due by June 22

Elementary Day Camp July 11th

(this is a new camp for K-1st grades)

\$35

HOW TO REGISTER

It seems nothing is ever as easy as we want it to be. So, we have a few special instructions for registering this year:

1. No PAPER forms. Due to COVID concerns all registrations are digital this year.

As normal there are two registrations for camp; one for the camp and another for Grace.

- Register with Grace on the Church Center app (download instructions are below) In the events tab, choose the camp for your student. Tap "register" at the bottom and follow the prompts.
- To register with the Camp click the link below to be redirected to the registration page.

<http://maranathabiblecamp.org/summer-camp/summer-registration>

2. NOTICE!!!! HERE IS THE MESSY PART!!

Parents of new freshman or incoming 5th/6th graders! MBC asks what grade your student is entering. Please answer according to the camp they are attending, not their actual grade. For example: Incoming freshmen will register as "incoming 8th graders" on the MBC site If you select "9th grade" only the HS option will be available.

(thanks to the Feldkamps, for pointing this out!)

3. AT THE END OF REGISTERING (with MBC), THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT. CHOOSE "pay by check" AND PAY THE CHURCH (WE WILL MAKE ONE PAYMENT TO THE CAMP.)

HOW TO PAY

To pay the church for camp, you can either pay digitally via the church app, or by check. If paying by check please put it in an envelope clearly marked for CAMP REGISTRATION and mark "CAMP FEES". or "CAMP" on the memo.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER WITHOUT THE APP

(This is our first time doing registration digitally. Please bear through the growing pains with us as we are all learning something new.)

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP <https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/430120>

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP <https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/430076>

2nd -5th GRADE CAMP <https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/429646>

BEGINNER DAY CAMP <https://gracecommunityriverton.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/429630>