

**Welcome!**

We're a bible-based and non-denominational congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls. All are welcome! Please participate in our worship services and classes.

- Sun..... 10:00 am.....Bible Study (at the church and live stream)
- Sun..... 11:00 am.....Worship Service (at the church and live stream)
- Wed..... 7:00 pm .....Bible Study (at the church - small group format)
- Thurs ..... 7:00 pm .....Men’s Prayer Group (at the church 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays)

Due to the revised information and guidance from Eastern Idaho Public Health and the State regarding the pandemic, our elders have decided to no longer require we wear masks coming in and going out of the building. They do continue to strongly recommend we wear masks and, as before, if you are showing symptoms, please participate at home via live stream – the link as well as additional information are found on our web page.

<https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite>.

Love  
Peace  
Joy

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<b><u>Missionaries &amp; Supported Works</u></b>		
Clio Eldred – <a href="http://www.RefugeinChrist.net">www.RefugeinChrist.net</a>	Glenn Langston - Blind Ministry	
Nathan and Alvin Luther – Philippines	Ghana West Africa Water Project	
Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durres, Albania – <a href="http://www.missionalbania.com">www.missionalbania.com</a>		

## **TODAY- I CHOOSE**

It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming. In a few moments the day will arrive. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of the solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose. And so, I choose.

I choose love...No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

I choose joy...I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical... the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I choose peace...I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I choose patience...I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I will invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fists at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I choose kindness...I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. I will be kind to the rich for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind for that is how God has treated me.

I choose goodness...I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I boast. I will confess before I accuse. I choose goodness.

I choose faithfulness...Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My spouse will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I choose gentleness...Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

I choose self-control...I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23**

## **LIVING JOY-FILLED LIVES**

Scripture assures us that Joy arises from a right relationship with God.

Still, many believers struggle to live in a manner that conveys the Joy promised by scripture and exhibited by Jesus. Remember, in revealing Jesus' coming birth, Luke declares it is an event that brings "good tidings of great joy!" (Luke 2:10)

Luke also wrote about the amazing and miraculous response of Joy exhibited by the pre-born "John the Baptist" who, upon hearing his mother speak of his cousin Jesus' impending birth, "leaped for joy" while still in his mother's womb." (Luke 1:44) Luke also writes about Mary's song revealing her joy over being chosen by God to be Jesus' earthly mother. (Luke 1:47)

Unfortunately, we often overlook the importance of Joy in our Christian walk, even though the scriptures clearly declare Jesus was a joy-filled warrior, daily demonstrating Joy through His ministry. Recall the stir Jesus caused as He celebrated at the wedding feast. (Mark 2:18ff) Luke even records His adversaries accused Him of being too joyful. (Luke 7:34)

It is important to recall how Jesus shared this Joy through His ministry, promising disciples a lifetime of Joy. (John 15:11) Jesus' promises were not just for first-century believers; they remain in place for today's disciples. To that point, Jesus made Joy a central theme in many of His parables.

Joy was also a defining characteristic of the first-century church: "who met and fellowshiped in gladness and the joy of the Lord." (Acts 2:46) Paul emphasizes this tenant; writing to Rome telling the disciples that "joy in the Holy Spirit" is a distinguishing mark of the kingdom of God. (Romans 14:17)

Joy is not just a New Testament phenomenon. Since the days of Abraham, who rejoiced to see the birth of Jesus, Joy has been manifested by those who had a right relationship with God. (John 8:57-59) David's relationship with God inspired him to dance with Joy. (2 Samuel 6:14) And, of course, Nehemiah instructed the Israelites that the Joy of the Lord would be their strength after returning to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon. (Nehemiah: 8:10)

Finally, it is important to repeatedly bring to mind that Joy is a fundamental fruit of the Spirit. God's Joy should continually be present in those who know and abide in Him. "Therefore let us rejoice in the Lord always. . ." (Philippians 4:4)

In service to our Lord,

—Rod Ellison, Randolph Church of Christ

## Calendar

- Mar 7**      **Baby Shower!** Please help celebrate Michaels and Haley's next ray of sunshine, Madeline Mae!! Stay and visit or just drop on by to say congratulations or grab a piece of cake. Haley does request no diapers or wipes unless otherwise noted – she's registered at Walmart, Target, and Amazon. Hope to see you there between 2:30 and 4:00 pm at the building.
- May 13-15**    **Plan Now To Attend The 2021 Men's Retreat!** Our main speaker, Carlus Gupton, is a professor at Harding Graduate School. We believe you will find his teaching valuable and timely. Our other three presenters are all seasoned speakers and will have much to add to our experience. Bob Queenan is coordinating this year – please let him know if you're attending and about possible ride share options.

## Announcements

- Our church gets to serve lunch at the Idaho Falls Soup Kitchen about twice a year. Mike Cannon has been doing a great job of coordinating this for the past many years; if there's anyone ready to give Mike a break, please contact Bob Queenan.
- There's a draft church directory in the foyer. Please provide Gary Hunt with any changes to addresses or phone numbers. He will update and make copies available in a few weeks.
- **Mountain States Children's Home:** This month we're collecting Sweetened Condensed Milk; Evaporated Milk; Cream Of Chicken, Mushroom, and Celery Soups.
- Please send bulletin updates to [bob\\_queenan@yahoo.com](mailto:bob_queenan@yahoo.com).



## Prayers and Praise

Angie Joiner's Mom Ms. Nona, for health and encouragement.  
Barry Joiner for a local job.  
Brenda and Bob's neighbor Jim, working thru a relapse of cancer.  
Children that Kelsey is helping at her work.  
Crystal DeLong for encouragement.  
For all those of our congregation sheltering at home.  
Gene Deans lost his youngest sister unexpectedly – prayers for him & his family  
Jared Allbritten for future guidance and work.  
Jean Edwards' sister Sandra, coping with a very aggressive cancer relapse.  
John Young, staying with the Hunts while Marlene recovers.  
Lindy, for healing from surgery.  
Marlene Young, for recovery from ankle and knee surgeries.  
Nicole and the boys just need encouragement.  
Ryan Burns, who's making some important decisions  
Teri Burns for challenges with RA.  
Terri Pope needs prayers.  
For our widows: Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye and Millie.  
For our country and nations leadership.  
And for all those serving in our military, as well as our own:  
Jordan Allbritten & Thomas Mullinaux