

West Barre Witness

February 2021



From Our Pastor

I had been asked last month to write a short article introducing myself to the congregation and telling you a little bit about Kim and myself. This passage of scripture from 1 Peter 5:2-5 describes what is most important to us when I think of the months ahead when Kim and I will be worshipping with you and serving as your pastors.

Just as shepherds watch over their sheep, you must watch over everyone God has placed in your care. Do it willingly in order to please God, and not simply because you think you must. Let it be something you want to do, instead of something you do merely to make money. Don't be bossy to those people who are in your care, but set an example for them. Then when Christ the Chief Shepherd returns, you will be given a crown that will never lose its glory. (Contemporary English Version)

First of all, I want to say that we are very pleased that we are here because we wanted to be here, we were asked to be here, and we believe God placed us here. We have been affected already by your positive outlook, your organization, your hospitality, your love for the Word of God, and especially everyone's willingness to help any way we have asked. We want to please God, and we feel the same spirit among the congregation. We feel very welcome.

Our greatest goal and motive is to lead by example, and to work together beside you, as we serve God. We pray that no one in our congregation would ever think or say of another of us "I have no need of you." One of Kim's favorite quotations is "celebrate diversity." During our marriage, I have learned more completely from her, what these words mean. I have embraced the fact that different opinions and views actually make us stronger; not weaker. We believe it is so important to

continued....

understand more than one side of an issue, and to empathize with another's perspective. In business, I think they call it "brain-storming." We are stronger, and see things more clearly, when we have as many of us interacting and working together as we can. To move ahead, in unity, with everyone feeling they have had a voice and input in our decisions, makes us stronger still.

Kim and I have decades of experience and education to bring to the table, I promise, but I pray that we will never think we have all the good ideas, or insist that there is only one way to accomplish the will of God in West Barre. Let's work together to encourage and edify each other, and let's go and make disciples for the transformation of the world.

Pastor Jim



LORD OF MY LIFE

Be my daily guide upon my journey.....
Help me find Your purpose for my life
in the everyday.
Let me catch a glimpse of Your glory
in the commonplace.
Make me wise enough to treasure
the here and now
As I trust the future to You.

*God's Love Is A Haven
In The Storms Of Life*

*God's love is like an island
in life's ocean, vast and wide,*

A peaceful, quiet shelter from the restless, rising tide.

*God's love is like a fortress,
and we seek protection there*

*When the waves of tribulation
seem to drown us in despair.*

*God's love is like a sanctuary where
our souls can find sweet rest*

*From the struggle and the tension
of life's fast and futile quest.*

God's love is like a tower rising far above the crowd,

*And God's smile is like the sunshine
breaking through the threatening cloud.*

*God's love is like a beacon
burning bright with faith and prayer*

*And through all the changing scenes of life
we can find a haven there.*

Helen Steiner Rice ©



Church Services



A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

The Lord is my Shepherd ---- that's a Relationship!



Prayer Requests

PRAISE/JOY

Choir

Pastor Jim & Kim

Carolers

Delivering Christmas gifts to families in person

Those with covid & the pandemic

CONCERNS

Family of Ann Preston

Family of John Keding

Family of Family of Rodney Wahl

Family of Olivia Mathes' great Uncle Billy

Cheryl Maxon's friend Kathleen Modd

Doug Hedges

Dan Preston

Alice Mathes' brother-in-law Tom Ashbery

Cheryl Maxon's nephew Joe Riley

Bill & Mary Shuler

Lanor Markle's daughter-in-law Becky

Steve & Bonnie Walt

Joy & Reed Markle

Naomi Caldwell

Kathy Huffman's mother

Hugh & Eleni Dudley



PRAISE/JOY & CONCERN

Karen Markle's cousin Mary Ann Hanley

Matt Grammatico

Be the reason someone smiles today.

Happy February Birthday & Anniversary*

- 5 Bob Collins
- 10 Russell & Cheryl Maxon*
- 14 Bob & Eileen Collins*
- 27 Casey Mull
Bill Shuler



Heaven

Heaven is nicer than here they say,
Heaven is much more fine,
Than all the sunsets of all the world
Standing along in a line.

Heaven is much more lovely
Than the silver song of a bird,
When all the world is still asleep
And the dawn can most be heard.

Heaven is truly the sort of place
Where angels' wings are made from lace,
Spun from the white of the quiet light
Of the moon in its most majestic flight.

And I think it is awfully nice,
That sometimes they call it paradise!

Author Unknown



Ladies Lenten Bible Study Group!

Hi! I'm Kim Heiler, Pastor Jim's wife, and I am interested in leading a Ladies' Lenten Bible Study group via Zoom (easy to use!) on Monday evenings, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. We would begin on Monday, February 22nd (with a 'test' Zoom meeting on Monday, February 15th at 5:30 pm). We will be using the daily devotional book "Pauses for Lent: 40 Days" by Trevor Hudson, and the cost of the book will be covered for you by the Worship Fund Budget (the book is \$9). Each day of Lent, the book has us focus and think about a single word and how that word is relevant to our time of Lent and the coming of the Easter Season. Each day has a short scripture passage, a paragraph of reflection, and then a suggestion for a daily practice. We would start reading the book on Day 1 on the first day of Lent (Wed., Feb. 17th), one page per day, throughout the 40 days of Lent. Our Zoom Devotional meetings would be each Monday evening during Lent at 5:30 pm. We'll have 6 Monday meetings during the Lenten season.

During each meeting, we would be able to talk about the book and what especially interested each of us during the week's readings. We could share and support each other and end with a prayer time. The general goal of the Bible study is to help us understand the value of the Lenten season and prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter.

Zoom is easy to use. There are three options: by telephone (hear and listen), by smart phone (hear, listen and see), and by computer/tablet (hear, listen and see). Thus, you do not need a tablet or computer to participate – your regular telephone will work just fine! On Monday, Feb. 15th, we'll have a 'test' meeting where you can practice getting onto a Zoom meeting. You will receive an email each week ahead of time (for smart phones and computer/tablet users) that has a link to the meeting. If you are calling in by telephone, you dial a telephone number and then enter the meeting number.

If you would like to participate in the Ladies' Lenten Bible Study group, please give your name, email address (if you have one) and your phone number to Lanor. Lanor will order the books and distribute them to you. I will coordinate setting up the Zoom meetings and answering your question about how to get into the Zoom meeting.

If you have questions, feel free to get in touch with me or Lanor. I look forward to meeting and praying with you!

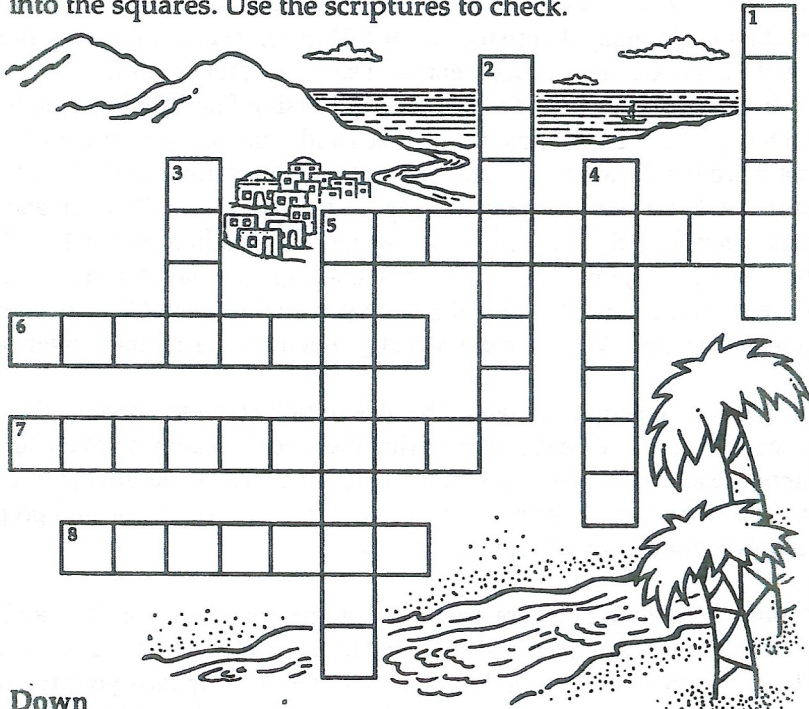
Kim



Just for Kids

Places in Jesus' life

Find these important places in the life of Jesus. Fit them into the squares. Use the scriptures to check.



Down

1. The river where Jesus was baptized. (Matthew 3:13)
2. Where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:1)
3. Where the first miracle was performed. (John 2:11)
4. Where Jesus called Philip to follow him. (John 1:43)
5. Where Jesus was born. (Luke 2:4)

Across

5. Where Jesus fed the 5000. (Luke 9:10)
6. Where Jesus grew up. (Luke 2:39)
7. Where Jesus went to the temple at age 12. (Luke 2:41)
8. Where Jesus talked to Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1)

Answers:

Down 1. Jordan 2. Bethany 3. Cana 4. Galilee 5. Bethlehem Across 5. Bethsaida 6. Nazareth 7. Jerusalem 8. Jericho.