

THE JUNCTION

November-December Newsletter for:

The First Congregational Church of Bureau

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First Congregational Church

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Why Church Attendance and Involvement is Important for a Christian

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” 2 Thessalonians 1:2-3.

Life is busy! There is no doubt this life can wear us out just trying to keep up with it.; responsibilities at work, in our families, pulling us in a constant tug of war, all demanding our time, talent, and often our money. Then, the weekend comes and I haven't been to church in a while so I pull every ounce of energy together to go see my church family and what does the preacher talk about? The need for us to be in church! So let me start with this disclaimer – this message isn't a “*Shame on you!*” for missing now and then but rather an honest look at the importance of being involved in the Church.

Even though the trend for America today seems to be staying at home on Sundays, it's vital for the Christian to attend and be involved in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. God wants His children actively involved in His Church so they can meditate on His message, fellowship with His family, and worship Him with one another.

Our Father chose to inspire a few people with His message and they were told to share it with the rest of us. As God's children, we're instructed to listen carefully to the Word of the Lord and meditate on the message. It's through understanding God's Word that we come to know Him, better understand Him, and what He calls us to do. When we don't attend, we miss the personal message He has for each one. The sharing of God's Word, after all, is how we are revived. Why? Because God's Word is Christ revealed!

Another reason to be involved with in Church is for the fellowship and encouragement of believers. He is leading us to love one another because we were fashioned for fellowship and created to commune. We were not meant to live alone. How can anyone love another unless they spend time with that person? We were designed for companionship and as we come together, we are able to do so much more with much less effort.

We must not forget, it's God's design for us to worship Him corporately. There's power in numbers and it lowers our thoughts of “self” and distractions from the world when we come together, directing our energies toward the One true God. Worship is designed to honor God, witness to the world, and bless the believer. When we put God in His rightful place in our lives, and when we answer His call to be witnesses to the world by attending His Church and getting involved, we then receive the blessing of the Lord that meets our every need and so much more.

In these days of fast paced lifestyles with no time to get away, it's tempting to stay home and do our own thing; however, it's essential for the Christian to be actively engaged in the Church. **We need to listen to the Lord, bond with other believers and praise the only One who is worthy!**

Jesus answered His Father's call to save us from sin when He willingly laid down His life. Only I can answer the call He has for me, and only you can answer the call God has on your life. We as believers need to set aside some time each week to be a part of what He is calling us to do. In doing so, we will be better equipped to handle whatever the world throws at us!

In His Love,

Pastor Jack

YOUTH ACTION

KIDS KLUB

Kids Klub has resumed, and the Children are working on their awards: Bible Readings; Chapters 1-4 in Jonah; quiet time award, which will be sent home and is to be done over a period of a month or more; Saying the books of the Old Testament forward and backwards; and for extra credit they need to memorize Isaiah 53: 1-9.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumed Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Classes are for three years thru adult. We have a snack and fellowship time at 10:00. Children will be rewarded for perfect attendance, monthly and quarterly.

PUPPET MINISTRY

The Puppet ministry has also resumed. They meet on Wednesday evening 5:30 to 6:30. In September the Puppeteers and their leaders went to Des Moines, Iowa for a day of workshops, presentations, and competitions. It was a long day, but they learned much, and we look forward to seeing them perform on Dec. 18th at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH ACTION

Rev. Allen is starting to work on our 125th Anniversary, if anyone is interested in helping on this committee, let him know. The year 2012 will be 125 years for First Congregational of Bureau. If you have any memorabilia that he might use, inform him of this.

Womens Fellowship will be having a bingo night for their November 9th meeting. Please bring one nice gift of around \$5.00, and a white elephant gift. It is a fun night so bring a friend and enjoy. Everyone wins something.

On December 14th they will be hosting the annual Family Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.. All are invited to join and then we will listen to some Christmas music, and sing a few Christmas carols.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas program will be December 18th at 7:00 p.m.. The children will perform with puppets and music. Come and enjoy.

CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

MISSION FIELD

Road Map Ministries headed by Stan Tinker and a five member board are seeking to start a Radio station for Bureau County. They are in the fund raising stage. It will be called WUNT channel 88.3 F.M. We need to pass the word of this great work and help raise funds. If you can help in any way, you can contact our church, and we'll get you in touch with the right people.

	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
Nov. 6	David Schindel	Lois Lawler	Allison T. & David S.
Nov. 13	Mary Miller	David Schindel	Barry B. & David S.
Nov. 20	Mary Miller	Marilyn Burkman	Marilyn B. & Mary M.
Nov. 27	Marilyn Burkman	Mary Miller	Keith B. & Barry B.
Dec. 4	Mary Miller	David Schindel	Marilyn B. & Barry B.
Dec. 11	David Schindel	Eleanor Miller	Mary M. & Keith
Dec. 18	Lois Lawler	Mary Miller	Jim & Eleanor M.
Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS NO SERVICES (Sat. night Christmas Eve Service)		

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Mike Carlson	13. Kay Taylor
7. Penny Polson	23. Michael Stites
10. Alice Schindel	25. Tyler Senders
10. Rob Burkman	27. Denise Burkman
11. Barb Michael	28. Shawn Burkman
12. Michael Keisler	28. Judy Schmitt
29. Robert Jones	

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Savanna Anderson	15. Victor Voice
2. Barry Burkman	23. Michael McCan
2. Kahlan Keisler	24. Berneice Johnston
5. Marilyn Burkman	28. Katie Burkman
11. Jim Miller	30. Keith Burkman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 Puppet Ministry 5:15 p.m.

Nov. 4, 18 Kids Klub 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 8 Worship and Evangelism meeting 6:30 p.m.

Nov. 9 Womens Fellowship Bingo Night 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 30 Church Board Meeting

Dec. 7, 14 Puppet Ministry

Dec. 2, 9, 16 Kids Klub

Dec. 14 Womens Fellowship Family Potluck and Christmas Music

Dec. 18 Christmas Program 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 24 Christmas Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.