

Leaping for JOY on Your Worst Day

ANY PHILOSOPHY of life will work as long as everything is coming up roses. The challenge is to find a way in life that works just as well in bad times. Hardly any do.

Apparently Jesus taught his beatitudes in different versions at different times. Luke records this one:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.” (Luke 6:20-23)

Poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted, rejected. Wow! How low can you go? You may not be there now but sometime you will be. In that crisis, good-timn'-pep talks won't work. Feel-good phrases will be empty. Flimsy philosophies will fail. Worldly friends will melt away.

But, our rock-steady God will not leave you. Jesus will walk with you. True Christian friends will stand by. God's Word will still tell you the truth, both the good news and the bad. You will have a rock on which to stand.

GOD holds your reward. Not your love life, the lottery, the bank, the stock market, or your job. His promises aren't dependent on good circumstances and a happy life. They work in every situation, easy life or hard, long life or short.

Christian, you've got hold of something solid. Don't be tempted to let your grip slip. Jesus says, ***“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world”*** (John 16:33). Hold on to him and you can be fearless. You can live each day in the confidence that whatever happens, “I'm safe with God and he holds my reward!”

Mark

First WINTER Fellowship Meal TODAY: A warm, delicious meal will be shared with “Western-Themed” Foods like Chili, Sloppy Joes, Shepherd's Pie, Vegetables, Breads/Rolls, Desserts etc. **Team 3** is in charge!

Serving at “New Visions”: There will be an important *meeting* after Worship **TODAY** for those serving the homeless meal at “New Visions.” On **Monday, Jan. 25th** we will be cooking and serving a big breakfast meal for these cold and hungry souls.

THIS is Our Month of “Prayer & Fasting”! Please Sign-up with an anonymous check-mark on the day you will pray and fast. KEEP the prayers going!

Youth Group: will meet at the Deptford Mall on **Friday, January 22nd, from 7:00-9:00** for dessert and a scavenger hunt. We will meet in the Food Court. See Scott & Chris with any questions (228-9202).

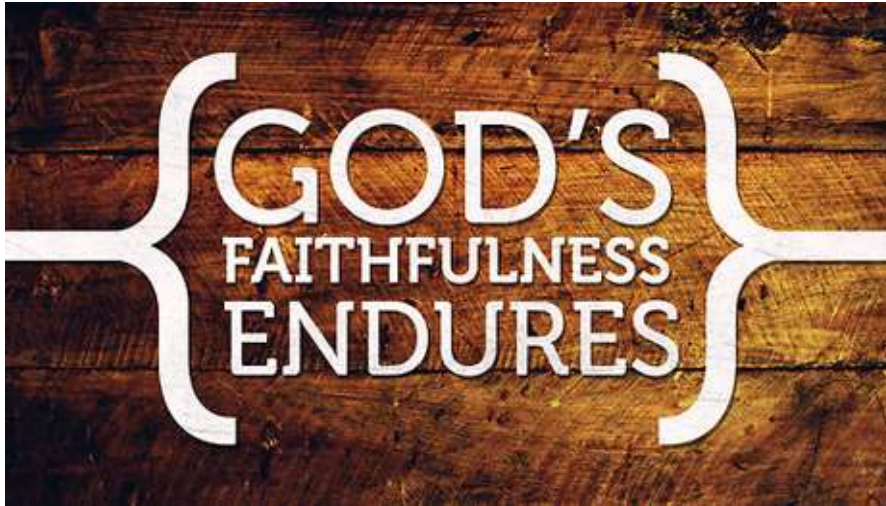
Cathedral Kitchen: Our next date to serve is Jan. 28th, 3:30-5:30PM. See Vivian with any questions.

Elders Planning Meeting: is Friday, January 29th at the Goen's home.

OOPS! Note:

1. The Dave Williams/Jack Swinehart LIFE Group meets on Sundays at 6:00 PM, **Not 6:30 PM.**
2. The Francoeur/Churchill LIFE Group meets on Sundays at 6:30, **Not 6:00 PM.**

Did YOU Know that in February, we will be at the HALF-WAY POINT in paying off our Church Mortgage? God has been FAITHFUL!



Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: David Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Josh Henderson (Psalm 139:11-18)

Opening Prayer: Tate Perazzelli

Lord's Supper: Carl Smith, Tony Sr., Bret Goen, Tommy Walker

Scripture Before Message: Jiony Colon (Rev 3:10-13)

Announcements & Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.

Nursery: Margaret & Elizabeth Next Week- Sandra M. & Debbie

Blue Cleaning Team: Jan. 20-23

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Preacher

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Worship 147

Bible Class 80

Wed. PM..... 46

L.I.F.E. Groups 43

Contribution \$5,402

Budget Goal \$4,260

Daily Bible Readers: 37

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)



Francoeur's Serve the Lord's Supper

