

# Chepachet Union Church

## Our Church Life

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Friends and Family of Chepachet Union,

From time to time certain events have a way of causing one to pause and reflect. When a loved one passes, it is a good time to stop and think about the value of life and how precious it is. When we, or someone we know gets very ill, we often think about being grateful for our own health. Or, I remember just barely avoiding a very serious accident, I was so thankful that God spared my life.

Facing this world-wide pandemic, I believe, is also a very good time to pause and reflect. The myriad of emotions that run through our mind and our heart is truly amazing, and often frightening. We can go from fear to anxiety, anger, worry, or any number of emotions that are harmful, not helpful, to our emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

My advice and counsel is simply this; turn to Jesus, the “author and perfecter of your faith.” The events and struggles that we are going through are not a surprise to Him. The Lord can help us deal with any situation that comes our way by faith, not by fear.

So what does it mean to “turn to Jesus?” For me, it means several things:

- 1-devote myself to pray, both individually and corporately.
- 2-invest more time and commitment to His Word. We can’t expect God to speak to our heart if we’re not reading the Word.
- 3-deepen my desire to have fellowship with other followers of Jesus. There is strength in numbers as we walk this stony path

If we do these things, God will hear and answer our prayers.

Blessings to everyone. Be safe.

Pastor John



### ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

As we saw last month in Chapter 13 of Matthew, Jesus starts to give details of the long awaited Kingdom of Heaven. Chapter 14 of Matthew continues this presentation by Jesus. In this chapter we see four aspects of the “Church Age” part of the kingdom. They are:

- 1.) The kind of evil world that exists (Matthew 14:1-14 The Beheading of John the Baptist).
- 2.) God’s provision for man (Matthew 14:15-21 The Feeding of 5,000).
- 3.) The Disciples are sent into the storm (Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on the water).
- 4.) Hope for a sinful world (Matthew 14:34-36 Healing in Gennesaret).

The world today operates on a sinful political basis. Our country’s founding fathers recognized this when they developed the checks and balances found in our Constitution. By the way those checks and balances are based on principals found in the Bible. Herod demonstrates this sinful condition when he beheads John for solely political reasons (under the guise of keeping an oath/promise). But despite this God has a plan and provides for those who come to him as demonstrated in the feeding of the 5,000. Despite the storms of sin and evil God is always with his disciples and this is demonstrated by the story of Jesus walking on the water. Stormy seas in the Bible always represents the sinful world (see Jude 8-13 especially note verse 13).

Finally, God offers hope for a sinful world as

demonstrated in the healing in Gennesaret. The chapter is therefore an outline of what believers in this world can expect to encounter during our lives. The question then becomes are we like Peter stepping out in faith trusting God? Or do we give up and sink in the storm waters of life? Even when we give up God is always there with His hand out to pull us up. We just need to take hold of it. As always one way to take His hand is to study God’s Word. We need to do it every day.



### CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

It is with very sad hearts that we will not be having VBS, due to Covid 19, this year but we will be back in full force in 2021.

We are holding off Children's Church until the fall so there will be more info to come. We are in need of teachers so if you are interested in teaching please see Brenda Rene.

We have three High School graduates this year... Alec Brown, Ben Rees and Merik Lanigan... CONGRATULATIONS to you all. We know you will achieve great things.

We also have some birthdays in July to celebrate... Samuel R, Elizabeth C, Abbey S, Jonny B, Jovia D and Brennan W. Happy Birthday to you all.

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*Our Vision: Chepachet Union Church  
 brings glory to God in worship as we  
 welcome, witness, and nurture each other.  
 We share the joy of God's love as one  
 family in Christ.*

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**Proverbs 22:6. Train up a child  
 in the way he should go: and  
 when he is old, he will not  
 depart from it.**

The Christian Education Board is making plans to safely start Children's Church and Youth/Adult Sunday School in the fall.

We are in need of two Children's Church teachers for first/second grade and third through fifth. Please prayerfully consider contributing to our Children's Church Ministry.

If interested, contact Brenda René at 815 541 5502 or [Brenda.Rene@cox.net](mailto:Brenda.Rene@cox.net). Thank you!



## PUZZLE

### Compete for the crown

The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.

Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

**START**

ctrejasucphelnpomrxkibvztaejargiusonycw

iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubtneyehapidmrf

tegrbuanpicdnofihmneygjocsxrdpoetwkin

**FINISH**

"Do you not know that in a \_\_\_\_\_ all the runners run, but only one gets the \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ goes into strict \_\_\_\_\_ . They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a \_\_\_\_\_ that will last forever."

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown