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a pillar of cloud and of fire. Once again a new beginning. Joshua leads them into the Promised Land, across the Jordan River, a new place to start.

We could talk of the Kings, restart after restart in the nation of Judah. Each of the prophets appeals to the nation, begin again with God. Captivity, then the return... a chance to begin again.

Finally, or perhaps at last, God calls it the fullness of time, Jesus comes to put God in the flesh and the process in motion. From crowds on the hillside, multitudes on the plains, crowded beaches, tiny synagogues, expansive temples, and ending in whispers on a cross, new beginnings are offered, seized, and sometimes ignored. Over and over, time after time, the occasions are presented to start fresh, once again.

As the new grass launches itself into the air, as flowers bud, then burst into bloom, remember the imagery. Catch a glimpse of the message of nature that echoes the voice of God: This is the time for new beginnings. Shrug aside the old, ineffective habits, open yourself to a walk that is in step with our God. Today, even the birds sing the New Song, if you have the ears to hear.

Grace and peace,

Carl

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
St John, KS 67576
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The Day Is At Hand

St John Church of Christ

May 6, 2018

Spring is here. I can no longer deny it. I've mowed a couple of times. The Kentucky Derby has been run. There have been a few tornado warnings around the state. These are all reminders to me that it is that time of the year.

Yet, when I sit on the porch with a cup of coffee, other things remind me. The chirping of the birds in the morning air can be overwhelming as each seeks out its mate, longing for new life and new beginnings. For me, Spring is that time, a time of new beginnings.

I've always suspected that God likes Spring as well. For if nothing else, we know our God is the God of new beginnings. Patient, tolerant, merciful, and kind, our God has offered to his people throughout all generations the opportunity to start again.

Cast from the garden, Adam and his family had the opportunity for new beginnings. Noah and his family after the Flood, were given the chance to start the world all over again. Abraham has a fresh start as he follows God to the new land of promise. Israel leaves Egypt with God in the forefront with

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SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Varies by Time of Year (*refer to Bulletin News*)
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,
George Shelton, Tom Turner
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR MAY 6, 2018

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 123—The Steadfast Love of the Lord
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4:2-6 (Chris Mansel)
SONGS: No. 702—Fellowship Medley
-No. 703—I Love You with the Love of the Lord
-No. 704—Bind Us Together
-No. 705—A Common Love
No. 719—Love One Another
No. 711—Blest Be the Tie That Binds
No. 803—Turn My Heart
PRAYER: Richard Brensing
SONG: No. 366—By Christ Redeemed
COMMUNION: Stan Aldrich
Fred Johnson
Teddy Gingrich
Orrin Feril
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril (Romans 13:11-12)
SONG: No. 852—When the Roll is Called Up Yonder
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 940—Only a Step (vs 1)
PRAYER: Garland Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Come help with Vacation Bible School preparation on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. The theme is "I Work for God" and Legos will be used throughout the lessons and activities. The dates for VBS will be May 29-31, with a Family Picnic on Friday, June 1st. Mark your calendar!



MEAL REQUEST

We have been asked to provide the evening meal for the local "Circles" program on Monday, May 14th at the Methodist church. Pam is the contact person for this — please let her know if you could help serve or prepare food.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Trent Sallee—May 8

AREA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

MACKSVILLE—Saturday, May 12 @ 10:00 am
STAFFORD—Saturday, May 12 @ 2:00 pm

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Mother's Day and a decision has been made to go ahead and have potluck dinner here as usual.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jorja Blakeslee – recovering from a knee injury; to see doctor again the end of May
Carla Tillery (good friend of Gayle Byer) - pneumonia; home from hospital; on oxygen
Lowell Dell (Cindy Kinnamon's brother) - brain injury; slowly improving
Aggie Keesling—cardiac testing
Ashton Line—(student at Ingalls where Joe & Tammy Meador teach) - after being hospitalized in Wichita from an auto accident, he is back in Garden City and doing some better
Stan Aldrich—respiratory issues
Brenda Guilinger (Loyd's daughter) - has finished her cancer treatment
Gayle Sears (Marla's friend) breast cancer; chemo
Kim Staub—Parkinson's
Eddie Baker (Gayle Byer's friend) - health issues
Diane Campbell—MS
Jim Walton (Stafford) - throat cancer
Katherine Suiter—cancer
Crystal Easley (Terry & Linda Welch's daughter) - cancer
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) - Emphysema
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law) brain cancer
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rukan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - Stafford Leisure Homestead

Memory Work for 2018—**Romans 13:11-12**