



THE BEACON

NOVEMBER 2021

IN WORSHIP

Sundays, October 31 - November 21



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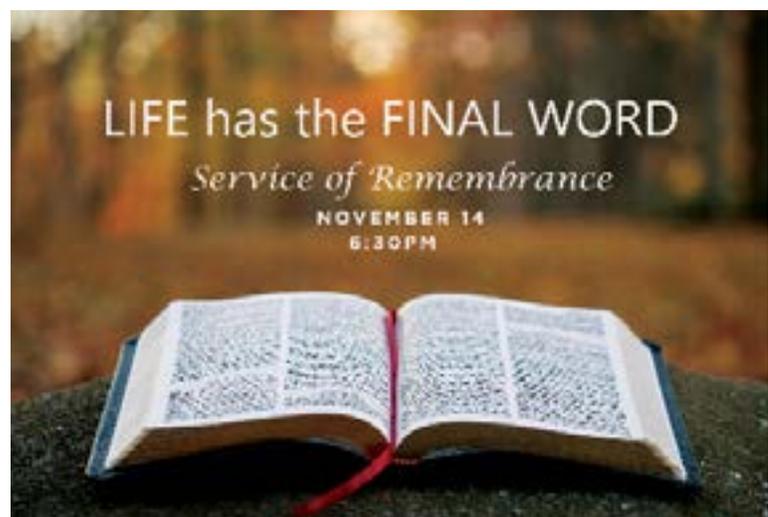
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Death is one of those topics we prefer not to think about, yet what we believe about death profoundly shapes how we live. Ultimately, we each will face our own mortality. What happens when we die? Is there really an afterlife? What happens when someone takes their own life? We address these questions and more in our series, "Good Grief: Facing Death with Hope." If you've lost a loved one, or simply have questions about death, you'll find this series helpful, inspiring, and encouraging.



Service of Remembrance

Living Word Church will host a Service of Remembrance for all those who are dealing with the grief and loss of a loved one. No matter how long it has been since your loved one has passed, grief can make the holidays a painful time. Join us on Sunday, November 14, at 6:30 pm for "LIFE has the FINAL WORD." For more information, please contact Director of Congregational Care, Val Novatny, at 636-821-2823 or vnovatny@livingwordumc.org.

FOLLOW US:



PASTOR'S PEN

Crystal Ball

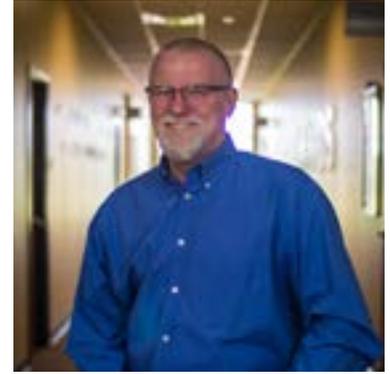
One part of my misspent youth was my penchant for Rock and Roll. Among the bands I listened to quite a bit was "Styx." This 70's and 80's band had a huge following and I appreciated their sound. One of their songs was the title track to the album "Crystal Ball." I sure liked that song for the tune as well as for the lyrics.

Here is the chorus:

Crystal ball. Oh, there's so many things I need to know.

Crystal ball. There's so many things I've gotta know.

Crystal ball. Won't you tell me please before I go.



How many times have you wished there was a crystal ball you could consult? Can you imagine making decisions today knowing full well how they will impact the future? Wouldn't that be convenient? "Look, it says I'm going to be a pastor. I guess I won't need to flunk out of engineering school. I'll make a different decision for my college education." I'm quite sure my parents would have appreciated that change in their tuition investment on my behalf.

I think this is true as well for our faith life. When Jesus called you to "follow me" did you notice He didn't hand you an itinerary in advance of the journey? Nor did He give you a crystal ball so you could discern it on your own. (Come to think of it, that would be called "divination" and is listed as a sin more than once in the Bible. That might be why.) There is no clear direction in advance and no outline of what the future will hold. It's called "faith." We're called to follow Jesus and let the future be unveiled for us. The good news is that if you're following Jesus, He's already ahead of you in the future He's drawing you toward.

Jesus does give you some hints in the Bible what the plan is for your future. Jesus called twelve to be around Him. A small group. If He needed that, don't you? What's your plan for Sunday school, Bible study, or a group to serve with? Speaking of serving, Ephesians 4 tells us that Jesus gave you to the church to serve in a role that you are particularly gifted for and for which you are passionate. What's your passion area and what talents have you offered up to His church for service?

Sometimes those questions are not easily answered. Perhaps you haven't yet figured out how and with whom you can live that out through Living Word Church. That's why we created the Journey for you. We are all on a faith journey and Living Word's Journey is the landing place to help you find that itinerary you need and desire. Go to LivingWordUMC.org/Journey to get started. If you find yourself still unsure, we can provide a "Connection Coach" who is trained to help you find your place at Living Word.

Another one of those "hints" Jesus offers is the numerous times He refers to money and possessions. A full 2/3 of what Jesus said relates to money and possessions. It was important then and is important today. As I read what Jesus said, I recognize that He's referring to what we do with it, where we invest it, how we spend it. Jesus didn't abolish any of the Old Testament laws about generosity, though His mission reformats it in a different direction. Your generosity is an essential part of your faith and this is the time of year the church asks you to make a prayerful consideration about this part of faith.

The Leadership Board and the staff are currently working on the 2022 budget. One of the commitments we make to you is that we will put forward a budget that is in keeping with the "Estimate of Giving" you make at this time. You've received that in the mail and it will be available in the seatbacks in worship for several weeks. If you prefer to make your estimate online you can do that at LivingWordUMC.org/Giving-Campaign/. Your Leadership Board and staff don't have a crystal ball either. We'd like to hear from you so we can make some plans for the future of your church. (By the way, the board and staff only see the bottom line for projected giving. No one's personal information is shared.)

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dave

disrael@livingwordumc.org

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART

LIFE has the FINAL WORD - Service of Remembrance 2021

Doesn't it seem like each day is a roller coaster? For me, I notice the little blessings God brings to me each day, but at the same time I get overwhelmed with the sadness and despair I see around me and in the news. Our church family has had many of our loved ones pass this year and years past. With all that is going on in our families, communities and the world... let's face it... it seems like death has the upper hand in our own lives.

Hear the GOOD NEWS, death does NOT have the upper hand. When Jesus conquered the grave, He gave us the promise of everlasting life with Him. When we realize, as Christians, that this is the basis of our hope, it is exactly the healing we need as we grieve the loss of our loved ones.

Healing from your grief is a journey that we have to go through. It isn't easy. It doesn't magically erase the pain. It doesn't happen in a few weeks...it can take years. However, it DOES allow us to grow in our faith. Knowing that our loved ones are living their eternal life in a place Jesus prepared for all of us is where life has its final say.

The Christmas season is a difficult time for so many who are missing a loved one. One suggestion to help with the emotions is to honor the earthly life of your loved one by helping others in some way. This time of year you will see many ways to help those in need. Move a bit out of your comfort zone to:

- *take a hot meal to a sick friend
- *hand out a Homeless Care Kit to the guy you see on the street corner every day
- *adopt a family and personally deliver the presents to them
- *send cards to a nearby senior living facility
- *pay for the order behind you in a drive-thru
- *send an email to a school near you thanking the teachers and staff
- *rake leaves for someone who is unable
- *share a devotional with friends

However, don't forget about yourself! As a special Christmas gift to you, consider joining us for this year's Service of Remembrance on Sunday, November 14th, at 6:30 pm in the Worship Center. Take this time to remember your loved one and allow God's peace to wash over you.

During the service, we will have special music and a time to read names and memories of your loved one. We will also share in communion together after hearing comforting words from Pastor David. Living Word's own Stephen Ministry Team is bringing this special service to our church family and community. They will be available after the service if you would like to have someone to talk to or pray with.

Please bring your family and friends to hear the message, too.

And remember, "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

Shalom,

Valerie Novatny,
Director of Congregational Care
636-821-2823
vnovatny@livingwordumc.org





This month, Living Word is launching “Journey” – an intentional way of being church that aims to provide people seeking to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ their best opportunity to do so.

The goal of this new Discipleship Pathway is to create the kind of faith community here at Living Word that people will want to be a part of – a community that is open to people in all walks of life, that is warm, inviting, and invested in personal relationships, and that offers diverse, dynamic, and engaging opportunities to engage in the faith journey with others. These opportunities will be focused on giving back to the people in our church, in our community, and in our world, with the ultimate goal of leading people to a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Journey begins with the expansion and improvement of the process of connecting people to ministries and activities at Living Word. To this end, we have created a team of “Connection Coaches” who are trained to provide personal guidance to people considering new activities or deeper spiritual development. These coaches have knowledge of the breadth and depth of Living Word’s ministries, and can help direct people to personalized tools to help them find ministry areas that match both their spiritual gifts and their personal interest and passions. At www.livingwordumc.org/journey, you will find a well-organized, up-to-date presentation of every activity and ministry at Living Word, as well as a web app that will help you identify the best place for you, personally, to connect at Living Word.

In addition, current ministry lay leaders are being coached on how to better create relationships within their ministries and activities, including how to challenge ministry participants toward spiritual growth through taking on new, and different, roles and ministries. Our focus is always on the faith journey of the individual, and not on the volunteer needs of a ministry area.

Finally, on a quarterly basis, we will be inviting ministry leaders into focus groups with an opportunity to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the ministries we offer, and to brainstorm new ways to meet the changing needs of our community.

The creation of the Journey Discipleship Pathway has been spearheaded by a team of lay leaders and clergy consisting of Bill VanLue, Jill Beveridge, and Pastor Greg Finfrock. They have worked for over two years to make the vision of a new Living Word culture focused on personal spiritual development a reality. If you have any questions about Journey, please reach out to any of them! Contact Bill VanLue at bvanlue1@att.net, Jill Beveridge at jill.beveridge@sbcglobal.net, or Pastor Greg Finfrock at gfinfrock@livingwordumc.org.

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES



LW Youth Leaf Raking and S'mores

LW Youth Leaf Raking and S'mores will be held on November 21. Youth will meet at Living Word and depart in the church buses. Sign-up at livingwordumc.org/youth. If you would like more information contact Samantha Yoder, Director of NextGen Ministries, at syoder@livingwordumc.org.

Save the Date for Parents' Night Out

We are excited to offer Parents' Night Out! Enjoy a date night without having to hire a sitter. Each family that registers will receive a family package from Living Word. This event is for families with kids from birth – 5th grade. Register at livingwordumc.org/parentsnightout by December 5th. If you have any questions, contact Samantha Yoder, Director of NextGen Ministries at syoder@livingwordumc.org.



LW Youth had a great time at the bowling outing on October 24!



Bitter Sweet

Teenagers deal with hurt, frustration, and confusion daily. They choose to forgive but have they really? This study is designed to help them see when you don't forgive, it hurts you, that everybody needs forgiveness, and how it's okay that healing doesn't happen overnight. Bittersweet begins November 7 for three weeks in the Youth Room. Doors open at 8:45 am. Study begins at 9:30 am.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please hold the following individuals in your personal prayers. To add a prayer to the list below or to stay on the prayer list for more than two weeks, please complete the online form at livingwordumc.org/mylw, or email Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care, at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org. For pre-surgery prayer, please contact Val Novatny at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org or 636-821-2823. Emergency Congregational Care 24/7 On-Call Phone: 636-821-2888.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Eric Wiles	Kameron Wells	Bill Reichter
Jackie Wiles	Kayden Wells	Bob Vincent
Laura Brewer	Mitch Mitchell	Sophia Miller
Nancy Israel	Karen Patton	Judy Hoffman
Stevens Family	Josh Luter	Nini Schneider
Jerry Primm	Charlotte Ottley	

FOR MORE PRAYER INFORMATION:

livingwordumc.org/care

TO HAVE CARDS SENT:

livingwordumc.org/care

TO ADD A PERSON TO THE PRAYER LIST:

livingwordumc.org/mylw

The Lind family on the loss of Emmy Lind
The Majdecki and Nishimura family on the loss of Jo Ann Nishimura Majdecki
The Curry family on the loss of Judy Curry
The Kintz family on the loss of Julie Kintz's mother-in-law, Ruth Kintz
The Faust family on the loss of Jeff Faust's father, Bob Faust
The Crothers & Trevino families on the loss of Linda Crother's mother, Dora Trevino

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Surviving the Holidays - a GriefShare Event

Bittersweet memories. Loss of traditions. An empty seat at the table. The holiday season can trigger sadness and despair for people grieving a loss. Join us on Sunday, December 5 from 11:45 am - 1:45 pm for Surviving the Holidays where we talk about how to deal with grief around the holiday season. Lunch is provided.

Contact Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care, at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org for more information or sign-up at livingwordumc.org/holidays.



The Visitation Team and Senior Social assembled Halloween treats for friends of Living Word

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to learn more about Living Word? Come to Coffee with the Pastor Sunday, November 21, at 10:00 am in Room 217. This casual get-together with Pastor Dave allows you to ask any questions you might have. Coffee and donuts are provided.

Senior Adult Bible Study

Join Pastor Greg for Bible study for senior adults on Tuesday mornings. This class will be a 12-week study of The Letter to the Romans, running from October 26 through January 25, with weeks off at Thanksgiving and between Christmas and New Year's. The class will meet from 11:00 am to noon on Tuesday mornings. Please note that this is a change from the start time of 10:30 am from the previous class!

Save the Date

November 7 - Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am (Set your clocks back one hour!)

November 9 - Senior Social Luncheon and Mission Opportunity

November 14 - Service of Remembrance

November 21 - Coffee with the Pastor

November 21 - LW Youth Leaf Raking and S'mores

November 24 - November 25 - Living Word Church Office Closed

December 5 - Surviving the Holidays - a GriefShare Event

December 10 - Parents' Night Out

December 19 - The Joy of Christmas Concert at 7:00 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services at Living Word

5:00 pm - Contemporary Candlelight Service

7:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service

Visit livingwordumc.org/news for more information or contact the church office at 636-821-2800.

November Senior Social Luncheon and Mission Opportunity

The Senior Social November Luncheon and Mission Opportunity will be on Tuesday, November 9th from noon to 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. After we enjoy a meal together, we will assemble homeless care kits from the donations we received from the Living Word congregation. All are invited! Bring a friend!

If you have any questions, please contact Val Novatny at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org or 636-821-2823.

2021 Living Word Chili Cook-Off

The Living Word Men's Club 2021 Chili Cook Off was held on October 26. The winner of the best chili was Jim Ritts. A tie for second place was shared by Terry Gooding and Scott Reichter. The winner of the best cornbread was Steve Ernst, second place went to Scott Reichter, and in third place was Sandy Nash. The 50/50 Raffle winner was Maria Reichter. Maria chose Great Awakening Youth Choir to receive the winnings. Thank you to all of the competitors!

American Red Cross Blood Drive at Living Word

Living Word hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, October 21. Twenty-one units of blood were collected! These units will be used to help up to 63 patients at area hospitals. The next blood drive at Living Word will be on February 3, 2022. To make an appointment to donate, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code "LWUMC" into the search bar.

Worship Arts at Living Word

Do you play an instrument or sing? Living Word offers a variety of opportunities to share your gift of music from LW Kids Choir to the Worship Choir or Praise Band. Contact Donna Baker at dbaker@livingwordumc.org for more information!

Worship Attendance

October 3 : in-person - 211, online - 277

October 10: in-person - 238, online - 324

October 17: in-person - 273, online - 277

October 24: in-person - 224, online - 251

October 31: in-person - 243, online - 249

OCTOBER AT LIVING WORD



The Aspire Women's Event at Living Word on October 24 was a huge success! Close to ninety women experienced worship and fellowship together.



The Living Word Trunk or Treat on October 29 was fun for kids and adults!



Living Word hosted Run Circles Around Hunger 5K on October 9 to benefit Circle of Concern.

2021 Chili Cook-Off Sponsored by the Men's Club

