



THE BEACON

MARCH 2022

IN WORSHIP

Now that we've defined God, we turn to understanding who we, the human race, are in the face of God. To say we are made in the image of God seems so confusing. Each of us looks different and has a unique personality. How can we ALL be the image of God? Also, humanity is capable of such horrible actions that we wonder if that is the image as well.

Sundays In-Person

9:00 AM | Traditional Worship Service

10:30 AM | Contemporary Worship Service

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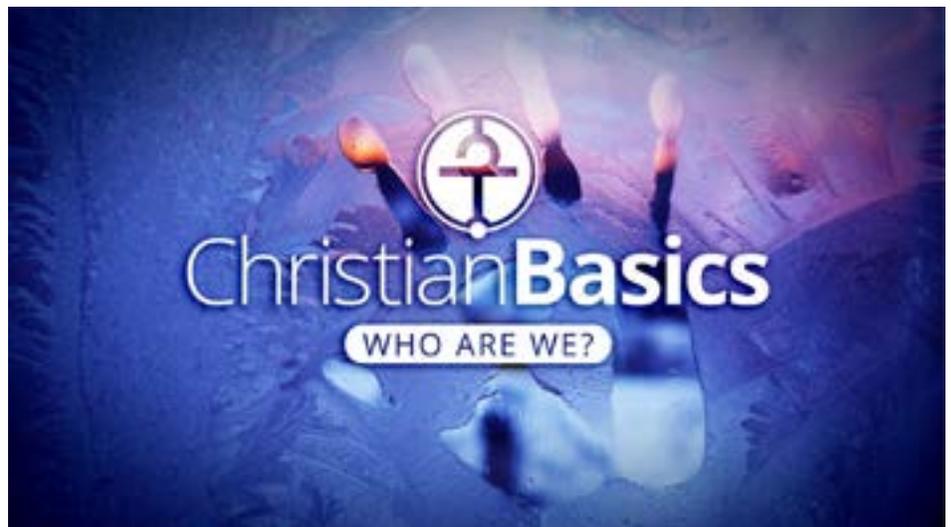
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Worship Online

Missed a Worship Service? How do I watch worship online?
Want to replay a Worship service?

* Watch worship livestream on Sunday at 9:00 am and 10:30 am at
livingwordumc.online.church

* View the recording of worship after 5:00 pm Sunday at
livingwordumc.org/worship

* View live or on delay through Facebook at
facebook.com/LivingWordUMC

**For more information contact Beth Balzaine, Director of
Communications, at bbalzaine@livingwordumc.org**

FOLLOW US:



Ash Wednesday Worship

Living Word will hold Ash Wednesday Worship, in person and online, on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00 pm. Come and prepare your heart for the season of Lent that leads us to Easter.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART—

God is Calling!

How many times does someone have to "tap you on the shoulder" before you turn around to see what they want? As for me, those taps happen while I am in the the middle of my To-Do list. I usually think to myself that if I can just get one more thing on my list completed I will then turn around to see who it is. Of course, inevitably, something else will come up and before you know it that tap goes silent. I can tell you that God is persistent! His taps do not go silent.



It was 2017 when I joined the Living Word Church Staff. It didn't take too long before I was overwhelmed with how many people are affected by a cancer diagnosis, either for themselves or a loved one. We talked about the fear of the unknown, the side effects of treatments and the possible surgeries, the limitations now placed on their daily routines, and the healing so desperately asked of God. I inherited a few cancer resource books when I started my position at the church, but I only glanced through them at the time.

Cancer has now hit closer to home for me, my family, and dear friends. I revisited the resource books in my office and discovered what a blessing the organization "Cancer Companions" can be for both cancer patients and loved ones. This is a group that focuses on finding and keeping the HOPE that God gives us for this journey. The guidebook is filled with devotionals that will validate your feelings, lift your spirits, and help you realize that you are not alone.

I finally turned around and saw that it was God tapping me on the shoulder letting me know that this is something that can help others deal with cancer. I needed to trust Him to help me get this new ministry going. He then tapped Eilene Koon and Ron Poertner on the shoulder and asked them to help with Cancer Companions...and they did.

"Having experienced cancer, as a caregiver, for both my mother and sister, and being a radiation oncology nurse for 27 years, I experienced first hand , the significance of having someone to talk to, to share feelings with and the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ was in giving me strength, comfort and peace through my journey and those of others. My hope and goal is to help others experience Jesus' help in their journey as well!" Eilene Koon

"Everyone knows someone with cancer. It affects each person differently with different outcomes. My cancer journey started in 2014 with a diagnosis of prostate cancer. After treatment, I realized that my cancer and treatment could be used to educate others about the importance of knowing the risks that we all have with various types of cancers. Emotions and questions will come with each stage. I want to continue my calling to support others through their cancer journey. God is bigger than your cancer and will help you along your path." Ron Poertner

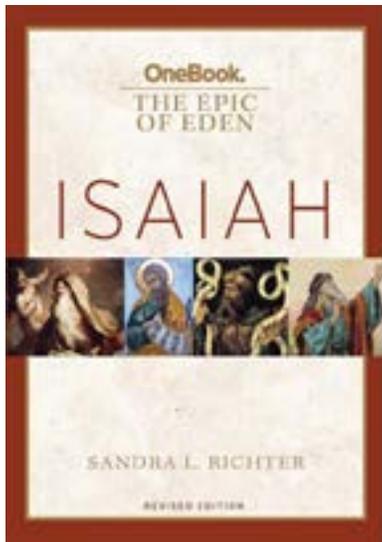
God then tapped many of our church members and friends to pray daily during the recent "30 Days of Cancer Prayers" event, and they did. Together with thousands of others across the country, we lifted up our loved ones, caregivers, and medical staff in prayer.

Is someone tapping your shoulder right now? Are you turning around to see who it is? Please do so...it's God and He has something wonderful to share with you. It may be a nudge to call a friend you haven't talked to in a while. It could be a reminder to apologize to someone that you may have hurt. It could be changing something in your daily routine to keep you healthy and safe. Or, it could be taking the next step to join this new ministry to help bring HOPE to your cancer journey. Don't forget that God will keep nudging you because He loves and cares for you more than you can ever imagine.

Shalom,

Valerie Novatny
Director of Congregational Care
vnovatny@livingwordumc.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



New Tuesday Morning Bible Study

**Led by
Pastor Greg Finrock**

10:30 am - Noon

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Greg on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 am to noon, from March 1 through May 24, for a study of the book of Isaiah. This study is part of the popular “Epic of Eden” series, and includes informative videos from Old Testament scholar, Dr. Sandra Richter. The class will meet weekly except for March 22, April 26, and May 3. Come learn about the book that is often called “The Fifth Gospel”!

Living Word Men's Club

All men are welcome to attend Men's Club the first Monday evening of every month! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm and the presentation will start around 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Steve Ernst at 636-537-9030 or Doug Nash at 636-458-2273.

Men's Club Scholarship Program

In 2022, Men's Club is sponsoring three \$2,000 scholarships in addition to the Ken Mann Memorial Scholarship award for \$2,500! Applications and eligibility requirements are available in the kiosk at church or at livingwordumc.org. The deadline for all entries is May 2. Winners will be announced in July.

SAVE THE DATE

March 1 – Book of Isaiah Bible Study begins -
10:30 am

March 1 – Men's Club Scholarship Program
Applications available

March 2 – Ash Wednesday Worship - 7:00 pm

March 6 – Living Word Blessing Bag collection begins

March 13 – Coffee with the Pastor - 10:00 am

March 28 – Seeing God in Your Cancer Journey
begins - 6:30 pm

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour!

New HVAC to Be Installed

A new HVAC system is scheduled to be installed from March 21 - March 26 at Living Word. For safety reasons, the contractor requests that during the day the building be closed to guests and staff. The staff will be working remotely from home. The church office phones will be in service. Some evening activities will continue as planned. Contact the church office for more information at 636-821-2800.



Would you like to learn more about Living Word? Come to Coffee with the Pastor Sunday, March 13, 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.

Communion at Living Word

Communion is offered at Living Word each Sunday. If you are worshipping with us online, we would love to send you prepackaged communion cups by mail. Email Beth Balzraine at bbalzraine@livingwordumc.org or call the church office. We'll send those to you!

Worship Attendance

February 6: in-person - 237, online - 265

February 13: in-person - 227, online - 236

February 20: in-person - 228, online - 163

February 27: in-person - 274, online - 185

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:

Jerry Primm	Sophia Miller	Coleman family
Mitch Mitchell	Judy Hoffman	Jones Family
Charlotte Ottley	Thibault Family	Art Schnatterly
Bob Vincent	Ellis Family	Michael Bolinger
Nini Schneider	Kyle Anderson	
Natalie Grossenheider	Sandra Lewis	
Mark Grossenheider	Fowler family	

FOR MORE PRAYER INFORMATION:

livingwordumc.org/care

TO HAVE CARDS SENT:

livingwordumc.org/care

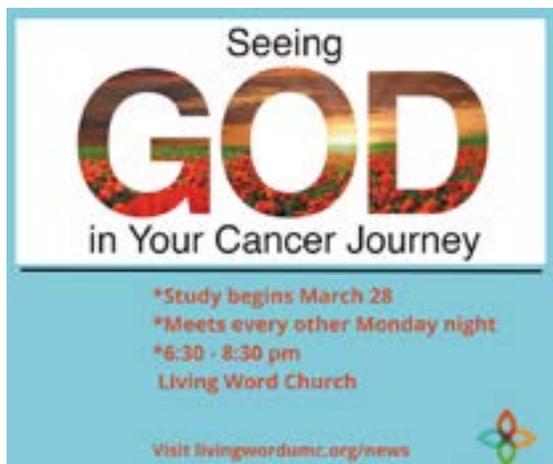
TO ADD A PERSON TO
THE PRAYER LIST:

livingwordumc.org/mylw

Please lift up the people of Ukraine during this devastating time in their country. May God wrap them in protection and provide wisdom for their leaders. May the Holy Spirit help us, and the world, find ways to support our brothers and sisters that are suffering, misplaced, fearful, and grieving.

The Mueller family on the passing of Klos Mueller
The Dugger family on the passing of Jeannie Dugger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Seeing God in Your Cancer Journey Begins March 28

This study encourages anyone with a cancer diagnosis, their caregivers, and family members and gives them a chance to discover all that Christ hungers to share with them in the midst of their cancer struggle. Beyond their salvation, many seek peace and comfort from Christ during difficult times. But Jesus wants to give you guidance, strength, discernment, power, and courage now. "Seeing God in Your Cancer Journey" encourages cancer family members to pray big, love big, and live big because the Lord God Almighty is big enough for all that and more.

The group will meet every other week beginning Monday, March 28, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Participants can join at any time. You may

meet with the group in person or virtually. There is a fee of \$16.00 which covers the cost of the participant guide book. Each class consists of devotionals, videos, and discussions relating to the topics of faith, questions, healing, prayer, stress reduction, relationships, communication, and healthy living. Contact Val Novatny, Director of Congregational Care, at vnovatny@livingwordumc.org or register at livingwordumc.org/news.

Would you like to talk to a Stephen Minister?

If you need help dealing with a difficult time in your life and would like to find out more about Stephen Ministers at Living Word, contact Carol Baum, Stephen Ministry Leader, at baumr17@gmail.com. Stephen Ministers are here for you.



MISSIONS

Living Word Blessing Bags



Matthew 25:40 tells us, “The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Have you ever struggled with how to help homeless people that are asking for money or help? I know I have! As Christians we are called to help our brothers and sisters in need, but you hear so many stories of people using the money they receive from Good Samaritans to buy alcohol or drugs. There is a side of me that tells me that I shouldn’t enable that habit by giving them money. And I know a lot of friends who struggle with this the same way.

We have a solution to this dilemma. Living Word is embarking on a project to create “Blessing Bags.” Some of the items to be included in the bags are: \$10 fast food gift cards, Chapstick, tissue, snacks, socks, toothbrushes, toothbrush cover/ travel case, band aids, antibiotic ointment, sanitizing wipes, medical face mask, bottled water, lotion, sunscreen, disposable razor/shaving cream, nail clippers, comb/brush, and bandana. You may also purchase a virtual Blessing Bag by visiting livingwordumc.org/blessing.

Once the Blessing Bags are created, they will be available for those who would care to share with those in need. There will be a table set up in the lobby where you can pledge to provide any of the items that will be included in the bags. Beginning March 6 - April 3 we will collect the items. The bags will be assembled the first week of April.

The Blessing Bags will be available in the lobby April 10. Feel free to take as many as you would like to keep in your car and then hand out to someone in need as the opportunity arises. We have done this in the past, and I can’t describe the wonderful feeling you have when you are able to provide these items to someone in need. It is truly the hand of God in that moment.

Our goal is to make one hundred Blessing Bags. I know we will make this goal because of our generous community. Thank you for always stepping up to provide for those in need. If you need more information, please contact Don Short at donshort2215@gmail.com.

Blessings to you,
Don and Kim Short



NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

Youth Summer Camp Registration

Join Pastor Dave at Eagle Sky Camp this summer from Monday, June 6, to Saturday, June 11. At Eagle Sky Teen Camp, students graduating 6th grade all the way up to graduating 12th graders experience everything Eagle Sky has to offer. Each camper is assigned a team. Each team will compete in a week-long series of competitions with one team being crowned the victor at the end of each session. Teen Camp includes daily counselor-led devotions designed to lead each camper to a deeper relationship with God. Our staff will make every effort to make sure that every camper has an unforgettable experience. The teen camp also features chapel services every night offering relevant, challenging, and inspiring teaching and worship experiences.



Register at www.eaglesky.com/camps. (Scroll down to Xtreme Camp for Middle Schoolers and Xtreme Ignited for High Schoolers.) If you have any questions, you may contact Pastor David Israel at disrael@livingwordumc.org.



Cooperation

Beginning in March, LW Kids will explore cooperation. LW Kids will practice and discuss that by cooperating with each other and working with each other, more can be accomplished than by yourself. God wants us to work together!

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed!

LW Kids needs you! Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help in the Living Word Sunday morning nursery once or twice a month during either the 9:00 am or 10:30 am worship services!

If you know of anyone who would be interested in a paid, part-time position as a nursery worker, please share this link with them: <https://livingwordumc.org/employment/> or have them contact Pastor Greg at gfinfrock@livingwordumc.org.

Additional volunteers to help with older LW Kids are also needed during the 9:00 am service for either the Pre-K - 1st grade or 2nd - 5th grade classes! Contact Pastor Greg if you are able to help!



LW Youth Begin "Prism" on March 6

What is the Gospel? Sure, the word, Gospel, means "Good News," but hearing something is good and knowing WHY it's good are entirely different. In this series, we'll find that the Good News of Easter may be bigger and better than we had ever imagined. As we do, we'll discover five things Jesus wants every high schooler to know and never forget. LW Youth will explore this topic on Sunday mornings March 6 - April 3. Doors open at 8:45 am. Study begins at 9:30 am.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Register Today!



Living Word Early Childhood Center provides a safe, Christian, developmentally appropriate environment that nurtures children's curiosity to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively through a play based curriculum. Living Word ECC registration for the 2022-23 school year has begun! Please call the office at 636-821-2861, to set up a tour and for specific dates and information regarding registration. Please visit livingwordumc.org/ecc for more information on the program and class offerings.



EASTER AT LIVING WORD

EASTER AT LIVING WORD

- April 10 – Palm Sunday
- April 14 – Maundy Thursday Worship - 7:00 pm
- April 15 – *The Body of Christ* - a Good Friday musical presentation - 7:00 pm
- April 17– Easter Sunday
 - 9:00 am Traditional Worship
 - 10:30 am Contemporary Worship

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



Good Friday Worship Service

The Body of Christ is an expression and theme that can represent much in scripture. There is the literal, physical body of Jesus; there is also The Body of Christ that was explained by Jesus to the disciples in the upper room; and finally, there is The Body of Christ that manifests in the church. These themes are beautifully woven together in a musical telling of Christ's final days. Join us for Good Friday on April 15, at 7:00 pm, for a special presentation of *The Body of Christ* by the Worship Choir and Orchestra.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Welcome to New Members!



David and Barbara Sorenson

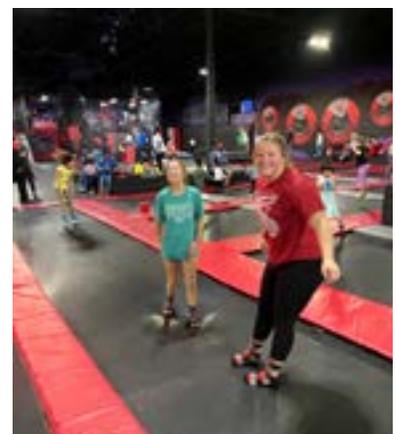
We welcome David and Barbara Sorenson into membership at Living Word! David is employed as a Financial Advisor at Sorenson Financial. Barbara is a retired Registered Nurse. They both enjoy RV'ing, and attending Blues festivals. David also enjoys fishing and playing the harmonica.



Bill and Sally Cleveland

We welcome Bill and Sally Cleveland into membership at Living Word! Bill and Sally are both retired. Bill enjoys Bible study and his hobby is auto mechanics. Sally's hobbies are baking and reading.

FEBRUARY AT LIVING WORD



Great Awakening and FBI Choirs celebrated their hard work in practice by visiting Defy St. Louis