

Welcome

Community Christian Fellowship
1702 6th Avenue, Moline, IL
Phone: 309-762-2027
Website: www.ccfmoline.com

Schedule... We pray together in the East Lounge at 10 AM. No Sunday School Classes till September. Join us in the Main Auditorium for a combined time of Preaching, Praise and Worship starting at 10:30 AM

To Our Guests... We are glad you have joined us. If you are visiting today, please sit back and enjoy worshipping the Lord with us. If you would like to know more about our church, please fill out an RSVP form & drop it in the offering box in the back of the auditorium.

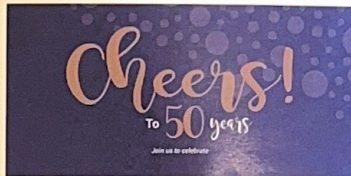
Parents... Childcare is provided at 10:30 AM.

Thanks for Coming... If you wish to financially share with us in the work of God's Kingdom, there is an offering box on the center pillar in the rear of the auditorium in which you may place your gifts. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Please come again!

Announcements

CCF is 50 YEARS OLD!



1973 - 2023.

Please join us on Saturday,

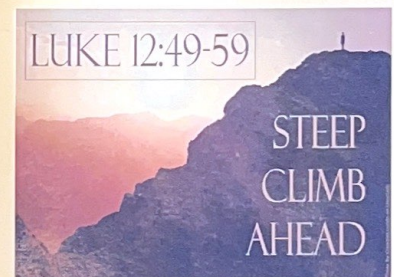
AUGUST 12

for a Celebration Reunion.

6 to 9 PM

Our Celebration is
only 5 Weeks Away.
Please sign up in
the back to help!

July 9, 2023



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Information

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting

Prayer Meeting every Sunday morning from 10 to 10:20 AM. Please join us in the East Lounge to pray together for CCF.

Tuesday Morning Small Group

Tuesday Morning Small Group meets at CCF at 10 AM. September through April. Talk to **Dan Cooper** if you have any questions.

Women's Circle

Women's Circle arranges to bring meals, babysit, run errands, etc. during times of births, illness or bereavement. If you know of anyone at CCF with such a need, please call **Anita**

Prayer Chain

If you would like the church to pray for your prayer request, email Mary Ann at ma7hanavan@gmail.com. If she can't be reached, email anitaccfmoline@gmail.com

Health for Life Team

If you have any questions or concerns, just call **Margaret Cooper** at 563-285-6190

Our Elders, Steve & Ron are available if you would like to talk with them regarding any questions or concerns you may have or if you would like counsel. Steve: 563-340-8284, Ron: 309-592-3000

Announcements

Today

"The Signs of the Times"

Luke 12:49-59

Kevin Bulta

Summer Sunday Schedule
Prayer from 10 to 10:20 AM
Main Service at 10:30 AM

PIES AND MORE

Friday, July 21

DOORS OPEN AT 6

PRESENTATION 6:30

AUCTION 7 PM

BAKE - BID - BUY - SIGN-UP

SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS

Announcements

mark  your **Calendar**

- ✓ Prayer Meeting - July 10
 - ✓ Cleaning Day - August 5
 - ✓ 50 YEARS CELEBRATION - AUGUST 12
 - ✓ Pizza Ranch Fund Raiser August 21
 - ✓ Women's Fall Kick-Off August 23
 - ✓ Outside Worship & Picnic September 17
 - ✓ Women's Event /Marie Tschopp October 21
 - ✓ Thanksgiving Meal w/Pastor Appreciation - October 29
-

"PIES AND MORE"

Fund Raising Auction for
Operation Christmas Child

FRIDAY, JULY 21st



Join us at Community Christian Fellowship
1702 - 6th Avenue, Moline, IL
Park in the back off the alley.



In November, CCF plans to send
1000 Shoe Boxes to children
around the world through
Samaritan's Purse
Operation Christmas Child.

Each gift-filled box costs \$10 to send.

COME READY TO BID, BUY, AND HAVE FUN!

★Doors Open at 6 PM

★Presentation at 6:30 PM

★AUCTION OF DELICIOUS GOODIES at 7 PM

Luke 12:49-59 – The Signs of the Times

1. Jesus Brought Peace and Division (Luke 12:49-53)

⁴⁹"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Part of Jesus' mission – to bring the Fire of Judgment on the earth. Fire, as illustrated in the book of Joel:

³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

³¹The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Joel 2:30-31

Jesus speaking as the Messiah, conquering King, spoken about in other Old Testament prophecy besides Joel and Jesus is saying He wished it was that time right then. His mission now was to proclaim the Gospel and then die as the perfect substitute for all mankind, paying the price for all Sin, yet having never sinned Himself – the wages of Sin is Death. This is the Baptism He speaks of in verse 50. And He is constrained from exercising His full power as God which will come later. In verse 51, Jesus says something shocking, considering that in Isaiah 9 He is foretold to be the Prince of Peace, and especially most extraordinary considering what He said Himself in John 14:27:

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. John 14:27

He instead says what sounds the opposite: "Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division."

Consider Romans 5:1:

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Romans 5:1

Jesus gave us the ability to have peace with other Believers, a benefit of our shared belief in Jesus Christ but also a duty that we live in harmony with one another. Peace on Earth – all of the Earth – will come later. The Gospel is a cause of Division with the World, as well as a cause of Peace between those who accept the Gospel. He illustrates this with the fundamental relationships in a family, interestingly just inter-generational, not listing husband and wife, but the sense is this is **Division between believers and unbelievers**. Many, maybe most or all of us experience this division, sometimes through strained relationships all the way to shattered relationships.

²⁶"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26

A hard, difficult teaching to take in but even though much of the Bible teaches what our relationships are supposed to be within families and with each other, the **fundamental, most important relationship that anyone can have is their relationship with Jesus**. He must be Supreme in our lives as individuals and all others cascade below that relationship. Somewhat akin to Matthew 5:29 'if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out – it is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.' Of course, this is not an advocacy for hating family members or for self-mutilation, it's a lesson in **relationship priorities** to make sure we get the top one right. We aren't saved if we only love our family and have peace with them alone. Instead, our families are mission field assignments for us if all are not believers.

- **Jesus brings peace between the Believer and God.**
- **The Gospel brings Division between the Believer and the World.**
- **The Gospel brings Peace between the Believer and other Believers.**

2. Signs of the Times (Luke 12:54-56)

⁵⁴He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. ⁵⁵And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. ⁵⁶Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

They could read the coming weather in Jesus' day but His point is, if you're so good at recognizing coming weather, why can't you recognize that the Messiah is walking amongst you right now? He calls them hypocrites probably because in the large crowd there were certainly Pharisees and other Priests listening to Him, looking for what they would consider to be blasphemy. The Jewish traditions blinded them to the Truth of the Scriptures that they were charged with maintaining and knowing. I read a quote from someone that "They understood the winds of earth, but not the winds of God; they could discern the sky, but not the heavens."

But what "signs" and what "times" should we be able to interpret, since we're so good at knowing our weather today? Just like the Jewish scholars of Jesus' day, we as Believers have the responsibility to read His Word and know His Word. It's a lifetime of study, discussion, and listening to teaching but it is our personal responsibility to engage with the Word and know what it says. In there we can discern that the times are evil today, and they have been since Adam and Eve sinned and were kicked out from the presence of God in the Garden. We can know that we are to be alert, to be aware of the workings of Satan in our world as well as our lives so we don't fall into foolish temptations. We can know that Jesus will return though nobody knows the day or the hour. And we can know that it is our duty to spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus and what He has done for us and what He can do for those we are speaking to, so that they, too, can know the times they live in.

- **Everybody can discern changes in the weather**
- **Repent, Believe in Jesus, and study the Word in order to properly discern the signs of the times**

3. Know How to Be Prepared (Luke 12:57-59)

⁵⁷"Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?" ⁵⁸As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."

These passages close with Jesus putting a sharp point on the personal responsibility that a Believer has in knowing the Truth that is in the Word. I imagine the large part of the population in Jesus' day didn't judge the traditions and laws and practices prescribed to them by the religious leaders of the day. Jesus exhorts them to 'judge for yourselves what is right'. He is saying the same thing to us today. How many people today, in the US, in the Quad Cities, call themselves Christian because they sit in a Christian church on Sunday...but that's the only Christian thing they do all week? It is our responsibility to learn the Word. Read the Bible. Study to get answers. We are to be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11-12

¹¹Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹²As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.
Acts 17:11-12

And we need to be prepared. We don't know the day or the hour for when Jesus will return just like we don't know the day or the hour when we will breathe our last. But when either of those happens, time will have run out on our ability to Be Prepared for our face to face appointment with Jesus and God, the Father. If we haven't believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross as payment for our sins, and repented of our sins, then the payment for those sins will be due from us, our spiritual bank account, upon arrival in Eternity. And if we don't have the receipt with us, that is our name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, then we pay the bill – every last penny – which means an eternity separated from God in Hell. Tough words for a tough subject.

- **The penalty for not being Right with God is Real and Eternal**

This passage ends on that note but the Good News is that Jesus did come with a mission 2,000 years ago and He accomplished that mission, paying for our sins with His own sinless life, 'that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.' He is Good, but not Safe.