

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH**

Sunday 10:00 am.....Bible Classes  
 11:00 am.....Worship  
 5:00 pm.....Worship  
 Wed. 7:00 pm.....Bible Classes

**WELCOME, VISITORS!**

We are so glad you are here. If this is your first time with us, here’s what to expect. We seek to worship according to the New Testament pattern. As a result, we **sing** without the accompaniment of mechanical musical instruments (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). We have a weekly observe the **Lord’s Supper** (cf. Acts 20:7) which consists of unleavened bread and fruit of the vine (Matt. 26:26-29). This memorial is designed for those who have been baptized for the remission of sins to partake (Acts 2:38, 42). There will also be an **offering** collected from our members (1 Cor. 16:1-2). As our guest, you are not expected to make a donation. Feel perfectly comfortable passing the collection plate down the row. You will also hear the **preaching** of a Bible-centered message (Acts 20:7) and men leading the congregation in **prayer** (1 Tim. 2:8). We think you will find our worship meaningful and refreshing as we strive to do it in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). We encourage you to observe carefully and stay a while afterwards so that we can get to know you better and answer any questions you may have.

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Bret Sholty (Education) cell (309) 397-2074  
Edd Sterchi (Outreach/Benevolence/Youth) cell (270) 849-4439
- Minister:** Edd Sterchi office (270) 465-6851 cell (270) 849-4439

**ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION RECORDS**

	2018 Goals	Last Week	1 yr ago
Bible Study	60	39	45
Sun AM	80	81	71
Sun PM	40	47	26
Wed	45	36	43
Contribution	1950	1646	1493

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**February 18, 2018**

**WHAT IF...**

“I can’t.” “I won’t.” “I don’t.” These are the words that keep people from reaching their potential. There’s no telling how different this world would be if people throughout the ages would not have lived up to their fullest potential.

Consider this: What if... Michelangelo said, “I don’t do ceilings.” David said, “I don’t do giants.” Michael Jordan said, “I don’t do basketball.” Neil Armstrong said, “I don’t do outer space.” George Washington said, “I don’t do revolutions.” Henry Ford said, “I don’t do cars.” Walt Disney said, “I don’t do mice.” Paul said, “I don’t do mission work.” Thomas Edison said, “I don’t do light bulbs.” What if Jesus said, “I don’t do crosses.”?

Just think what a different world this would be. We have been blessed all because of a few individuals who chose not to say, “I don’t,” “I won’t,” and “I can’t.”

Now then, what was it you were saying you just can’t/won’t do? Give it some thought.

- Steve Higginbotham

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Prayer List** \* Paxton Bloyd \* Debbie Bradshaw (lymphoma) \* Sharon Cornett \* Riley Decker (leukemia) \* Matthew Edwards (cancer) \* Dessie Frankum \* Britany Harden \* Willard Holliday \* Amanda Jewell (mitral valve stenosis) \* Wilma Landis (cancer) \* Eli Marcom (brain tumor) \* Kenny Perkins \* Kara Reed (cystic fibrosis) \* Ancil Reynolds \* Janet Sterchi (cancer) \* Teresa Yates (cancer)

### **Medical Updates**

\* Karen Noe is scheduled to have a pain pump put in on Feb. 27.

### **Ladies Night Out**

The next Ladies night out is tomorrow, Feb. 19, here at the church building. It begins at 6:30 p.m. (EST)

### **VBS Planning Meeting**

There will be a Vacation Bible School planning meeting on Sun., Feb. 25 here at the church building. We will gather at 4:30.

### **New Teaching Quarter**

The new teaching quarter starts Sun., Mar. 4. Please see Bret Sholty if you have any questions or need material.

**Ladies Day** - The Elizabethtown church's Ladies Day is Sat., Mar. 17.

### **Potter Commodities Outreach**

We will again participate in the commodities outreach program for Potter Children's Home. The items to bring in are: dry ranch mix, mayonnaise, mustard, pancake syrup, and shortening. Bring them in by Apr. 1.

### **Backpack Buddies**

Don't forget that Backpack Buddies is an ongoing program. Please continue to help out. A list of food items is in the foyer.

**Birthdays This Week** \* Brandon McMahan (Feb. 20)

\* Judy Brockman (Feb. 21) \* Jordan Hinton (Feb. 23)

***“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God...”*** (Rom. 8:28)

## **Suffering? It Could Be Good!**

Most people do everything they can to get out of suffering. Untold amounts of money is spent to make us feel more comfortable and rid ourselves of pain and anguish. We have been indoctrinated that life should always be fun, easy, and pleasant. We are told that all suffering is bad and it should be avoided at all costs.

But we do need to consider the possibility that God allows suffering in our lives for a higher purpose. The Psalmist admitted that, *“It is good for me that I have been afflicted...”* (119:71).

So what good can come from suffering? Why does God permit it to happen in our lives? Here are a few possibilities:

- \* It is one way we can discover what is really important in life.
- \* It can also get our attention so that we can focus more upon spiritual matters.
- \* It may be God's way of molding us into the person He wants us to be.
- \* Maybe it's because God knows we can handle it and that we can be a positive example/encouragement to others.
- \* It could even be a warning to stop self-destructive behavior.

On an on we could go. We may even never know the reason we are suffering. But there is one thing for certain we can know – God is in control and we need to simply depend upon Him and put full trust in Him. He will see us through!

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”* (Jas. 1:2-4)

*“...but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance”* (Rom. 5:3)

*“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”* (1 Pet. 5:10)

- Edd Sterchi