

the CONNECTION

First Baptist Church of Stilwell Newsletter



EBENEZER MOMENTS...

Friends, I am going to take this moment to reflect on my sermon from a couple of weeks ago. If you missed out, we looked at Joshua and Samuel in moments of Israel's history where God helped them and they marked that moment in time with a stone of witness. Ebenezer means, "God who helps." Jesus is our cornerstone...our stone of witness...to God's ultimate act of help...God's salvation for all who chose it through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are to be stones of witness to God's great story of salvation!

I pray that as you have been reflecting and will continue to reflect, that you can see moments in your own life where God has helped you. I pray that you are internalizing the word of God as a long story of how God has helped His creation and all of humanity to have the opportunity to know and come into relationship with Him.

In this moment in history, God is calling us to simply tell those stories...stories of God's interaction with us. Even the littlest, simplest story of God's action in our lives can be the turning point in someone else's life!

I would encourage and invite you to practice telling God's story in your homes, with your spouses, children, grandchildren, even great-grandchildren. Maybe around the table or at bed time, whenever works in your routine, have a symbolic Ebenezer stone and tell the stories of God being present in your day. Where have you seen God's fingerprints that day?

You could keep a personal or maybe even a family journal of those stories. In difficult seasons, go back and review the places where God has helped you in the past...and remember that our great faithful God will always continue to help us in the present and the future.

When we tell God's stories, when we make a discipline out of noticing and remembering God's actions in our lives, it creates in us a deep awareness of gratitude and also a deepening of our relationship with God. This Ebenezer act pursues that command of God that Pastor Franklin has recently referenced from Deuteronomy 6, what Israel has long known as the Shema:

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6** These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7** Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

May you be blessed as you practice this holy remembering together!

Pastor Jessica

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him.

Psalm 103:11

WORSHIP

Links to worship with us LIVE:

- fbstilwell.online.church
- fbstilwell.org/worship

Worshiping with us later?

- [@FirstBaptistChurchStilwellKansas](https://facebook.com)
- fbstilwell.org/worship
(click on the worship banner)





WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCT. 21 .2023

9am-4:30pm

Rooted in Christ

Calling all Crafters!

We are hosting a fall craft fair on Nov. 11th!

If you or someone you know would like to have a table, please see Pastor Jessica!

No rent for tables!

Young Adult Ministry

Sundays @ 6:30 pm

Table Fellowship, Bible Study,
Discipleship... Exploring how to truly
be the Body of Christ!



SEPT BIRTHDAYS

- 9/2 Russ Rogers
- 9/7 Darlene Morsch
- 9/9 Chuck Dulin
- 9/17 Ron Rains
- 9/18 Corrine Simmons
- 9/21 Janet Rogers
- 9/24 Collin Nichols
- 9/27 Gary Schleicher

If you were missed on the birthday list, we are so sorry! Would you let the church office know so that we can get you added to the list!



UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have a passion for one of the events listed below, please see Pastor Jessica about ways in which you can participate or serve in that ministry!

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for lunch with Pastor Jessica and her family after church throughout the fall. They would love to have lunch with one or two families at a time at church or in their home in Gardner! See Pastor Jessica for details or questions!

OTHER EVENTS

- SEPT 10th - Community & Comedy
- SEPT 11th - Seniors of Stilwell
- OCT 7th - Carnival
- OCT 21st - Women's Retreat - Rooted
- NOV 11th - Craft Fair

WEEKLY

- Sun @ 9:15am - Sunday School
- Sun @ 10:30am - Worship
- Sun @ 6:30pm - Young Adults
- Tues @ 2-4pm - Caring Ministry Distr
- Wed @ 6:30pm - REFUGE Youth Group
- Thurs @ 6-7pm - Caring Ministry Distr

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WORSHIP

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