

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Psalms, chapter 102, verse 13: *"You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come."*

Isn't that powerful? The idea that there is an "appointed time" for God's favor, a set time for His compassion. It is not random, it is not by chance. It is appointed. It is set. And that is what we are going to be talking about today - understanding, living in, and impacting others in our set time. As one of my favorite Christian authors, A.W. Tozer, once said, "God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity we plan only the things we can do by ourselves." God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. That means He's looking for people who are ready to step into their set time, people who are ready to let Him work through them in ways they could never achieve on their own. And that is what we are here to talk about today.



Understanding Your Set Time

The Psalmist tells us that there is an appointed time for God's favor. This is not a random act, but a specific moment that has been set aside. It is a time that has been marked out, designated, and reserved. This idea can be a bit hard to grasp because we are so used to thinking in terms of our own schedules and plans. We think about what we must do today, this week, this month. But God operates on a different timeline. He sees the whole picture, the beginning, and the end. And in His wisdom, He has set aside specific times for His favor.

Now, what does it mean for us to understand this set time? It means recognizing that God has a plan and a purpose for us that goes beyond our own understanding. It means trusting in His timing, even when it does not make sense to us. It means being open to His leadership, even when it takes us in unexpected directions. It means being willing to wait for His timing, even when we are eager to move ahead.

Allow me to illustrate with these four aspects.

The first aspect of understanding your set time is recognizing that it is not about you; it is about God and His plans. This can be a hard pill to swallow, especially in a culture that tells us to focus on our own desires and ambitions. But the truth is, our lives are not our own. We belong to God, and He has a purpose for us that goes beyond our own plans and desires. This does not mean that our desires are unimportant or that we should ignore them. But it does mean that we need to submit them to God and trust that He knows what is best for us.

The second aspect of understanding your set time is trusting in God's timing. This can be one of the hardest parts of the Christian life. We want things to happen on our timeline, according to our plans. But God's timing is not our timing. His ways are not our ways. He sees the whole picture, while we only see a small part. This means that there will be times when we do not understand why things are happening the way they are. There will be times when we are frustrated and confused. But in those moments, we need to trust in God's timing. We need to remember that He sees the whole picture and that He has a plan.

The third aspect of understanding your set time is being open to God's leading. This means being willing to follow where He leads, even when it is not where we expected to go. It means being willing to step out in faith, even when we are not sure where we are going. It means being willing to let go of our own plans and expectations and trust in God's plan. This can be scary, but it is also incredibly freeing. When we let go of our need to control and plan everything, we open ourselves up to the incredible adventure of following God.

The fourth aspect of understanding your set time is being willing to wait on God's timing. Waiting is hard. It is uncomfortable. It is frustrating. But it is also a crucial part of the Christian life. Because while we are waiting, God is working. He is preparing us for what is to come. He is shaping us and molding us into the people He wants us to be. And when the time is right, He'll open the doors and lead us into the next step of our journey.

God has an appointed time for each of us. He is not random or haphazard. He is intentional and purposeful. He has a plan for you and me, and it's a plan that involves His favor and compassion. It is a plan that involves us stepping into our set time, ready for Him to do the impossible through us.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Don Peters

Let me close this with a sincere thank you to all of you. Over these past eight years, everyone has shown Annie and I nothing but love. Center Hill will always be in our hearts. It is now the time for new things, new directions, new goals, and dreams. As we both, the church and my family move now in various places in life, it is truly our prayer that we all seek our God's holy timing.



We are planning a retirement celebration for Pastor Don and Annie on Sunday, June 23 at the Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the vestibules so we have an idea how many to plan for. Thank You!



The Strawberry Fest will be Saturday, June 8, 2024, 4:00-7:00 PM. Come and join us for all things strawberry. Strawberry shortcake, angel food cake, homemade ice cream with strawberries. Menu will also include hot sandwiches, drinks, You may Dine In or place a Take Out order. The church office is 724-548-7226. To order "take outs" the day of the Fest call 724-545-9655. Thank you in advance for being a part of our outreach ministry.



Center Hill Church will be recognizing our 2024 graduates on Sunday, June 9 at our 10 AM worship service. Our church prays for blessings and guidance as they embark on a new season of life, learning and discovery.

Cooking With Pastor Don

Pulled Pork Ingredients:

- **Oil:** This pulled pork recipe starts with a teaspoon of vegetable oil at the bottom of your slow cooker.
- **Pork:** If your pork shoulder roast is larger or smaller than four pounds, you'll need to adjust the ingredient rations and cook time.
- **Sauces:** You'll need bottled barbecue sauce, yellow mustard, and Worcestershire sauce.
- **Apple cider vinegar:** Apple cider vinegar adds brightness and cuts through the other rich flavors.
- **Broth:** Use store-bought or homemade chicken broth.
- **Brown sugar:** Light brown sugar lends warmth and sweetness.
- **Seasonings:** This flavorful pork is seasoned with chili powder, garlic, and dried thyme.
- **Onion:** A chopped onion gives the pork tons of flavor.



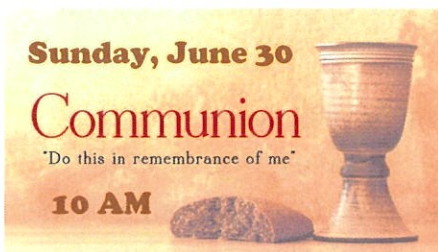
Buns and butter: You'll need buttered hamburger buns if you plan to make pulled pork sandwiches.
Which Cut of Meat for Pulled Pork?

This recipe calls for a pork shoulder roast for a few reasons: It's inexpensive, forgiving to work with, and tends to have a lot of marbling (which means it'll result in tender pulled pork).

How to Make Pulled Pork In the Slow Cooker

Here's a brief overview of what you can expect when you make homemade pulled pork in the Crock-Pot:

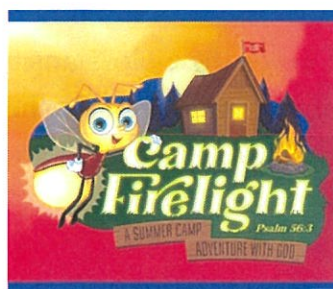
1. Pour oil into the slow cooker, then place the roast on top of the oil.
2. Add the remaining ingredients to the Crock-Pot.
3. Cover and cook until the pork shreds easily.
4. Shred the pork and return it to the slow cooker to combine it with the juices.
5. If you're making sandwiches, serve the pulled pork on buttered buns.



June
14,
2024



Sunday, June 16, at 10 AM our Nurture Commission will be honoring the fathers in our congregation. Come Join Us!



Our Vacation Bible School is
Camp Firelight.
For Kids 4 Years old thru 6th grade
Sunday, July 7- Thursday, July 11
6-8:30 PM
For information about VBS or to
register, call the church office
724-548-7226.

A Timely Word:

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him; bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:9-14 ESV

In reading a book given to me recently on the subject of the Welsh Revival of 1904, one thing became very apparent to me. We can in no way make revival happen in and of our own efforts, no more than we can make the sun rise, or the weather change from rainy to sunny, but we can work to establish conditions where God may be pleased to bring revival, and we can set a solid foundation, that if revival should come, some of the excesses and tendencies toward human manipulations may be avoided. What do I mean by that? Only, what has been on my heart for some time, and that is preaching and teaching the Word of God in such a way that when concepts or ideas that run counter to God’s Word may be recognized and exposed as error and heresy.

Paul, in writing the letters that he did to so many of the churches, did so with an aim to improve them, or to instruct them in a way that would help them with the same goal—that of knowing truth from error, and right from wrong. His stated goal for the church in Colossae was that they could “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...”

To “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him”, is a high calling in and of itself. With what we know about God, to live in a manner worthy of Him is to “be Holy as He is Holy”. If we are to be fully pleasing to Him, we would have to take a view of sin that is the same as His—that it is detestable and cannot be accepted in our lives. Is that really a priority for us, or do we take a much more worldly view of sin, comparing ourselves with the worst around us and say, “I’m not as bad as so and so”? Our sin is a hinderance to our prayers, and thus even if we are praying for a genuine work of God to take place in our midst, is that prayer heard, or hindered by our disobedience?

Are we, more directly, am I “bearing fruit in every good work”? Is that a priority to me, to us? Is that too much of an inconvenience for us because of all the other things we have going on that have taken priority over such good works? How much of my time is set aside for “increasing in the knowledge of God”? Later in this letter, Paul urges the Colossians to make “the best use of the time.” How much of my time is wasted on things that have no value whatsoever, let alone spiritual value? We say we are very busy and don’t have time, but is that an honest appraisal of things? I know that I can do better. Perhaps that is true of you as well.

Continued.

I'm currently reading an autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, and while he was a Deist, and not a Christian and did not regularly attend church for worship, he was definitely industrious and had a lot to show for his efforts. Perhaps the one thing I could learn from him would be to make better use of the hours of my day.

I guess it comes down to this: what is our longing? What is it that we would love to see God do in our days? What are our thoughts about the future of the church, the church in America, the church in our community, our church here at Mt. Pleasant Church? How often do we pray regarding the church? If we are concerned at all about our church, should it not be manifest in our prayers? I invite you to join me in praying for our church, for all the churches around us that desire to be faithful to Christ and His Word. I invite you to pray that God might stir us up and do something notable in our midst that can only be attributed to God and His power at work in us.

By His Grace Alone,
Pastor Bruce Jacobsen

♦ *Bruce Jacobsen is the pastor of the Region Three, Mt. Pleasant Covenant Brethren Church in North Canton, Ohio. While this was written for his congregation, we can all take these words and apply them to our own congregation as well as our personal walk with Christ.*

Blue Bird Story by Grover Duling, Executive Board

Throughout this spring, I've been captivated by the devotion of a male bluebird, diligently guarding his mate as she constructed her nest in of nest-building to the relentless task of feeding their offspring once they hatched, his watchful eye never wavered. It's a scene of protective love, a sight that reflects a deeper truth about the care we receive from our heavenly Father.



As I observe the male bluebird's vigilance, especially when our cat or a fox squirrel ventures near, I'm reminded of the ever-watchful eye of God over us. Psalms 121:8 assures us, ***"The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore."*** Likewise, Proverbs 15:3 reminds us, ***"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."***

The trust the mother bluebird places in her mate's watchful eye mirrors the trust we should have in our heavenly Father's constant care. It can be challenging to grasp that the Creator of the universe, the great I AM, is intimately concerned with each of us individually. Yet, He is not only the God of all creation but also "Abba, Father" to each of us. In the remarkable intimacy of this relationship, Jesus showed us the way, and the Spirit enables us to approach God with familiarity, trust, and vulnerability.

Through the Spirit, we can address God with the tender term "Abba," expressing our dependency and intimacy with Him. The Spirit assures us that we need not fear God but can approach Him as our loving and compassionate Father, always attentive to our hearts and seeking to bless our lives. As we journey through life, let us remember the words of Romans 8:14-15: ***"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."*** Just as the bluebird watches over its nest ceaselessly, every minute of every day, we can depend on the watchful eye of our loving heavenly Father, our "Abba, Father."

Isn't That Just Peachy??

Come and join us for our
delicious Peach Fest
Saturday, August 17, 2024
4 PM- 7 PM.



The menu includes hot sandwiches and
delicious homemade peach
desserts and homemade ice cream.
So mark your calendar and come help out
as a volunteer or come and share in the
good food and fellowship.
We do provide take- out orders. For in-
formation, call the church office at
74-548-7226.
To order "take outs" the day of the
Fest call 724-545-9655.



TIME CHANGE:

Beginning Sunday,
June 2, Sunday school
will begin at 9 AM and
our Sunday Worship
Service will be at
10 AM for the summer
season.



Soul'd Out musical group
will be with us for an evening
of great music and fellow-
ship. Won't you please join us
on Sunday, July 28 at 6 PM
for some hand clapping and
toe tapping music that will
uplift and minister to your
soul.

A love offering will be
received.



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