



True Prayer

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that – it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." – Charles Spurgeon

In our daily Christian walk, we must understand the necessity of prayer. Prayer is our connection to the Father. It also connects us with others and allows us to hear from an Almighty God. Sometimes, we can allow things of this world to interrupt our communication with God, and that can lead to self-reliance. If we don't communicate with God then that relationship is impoverished. When we do not pray, there is a major problem. If we belong to God through a relationship with His Son Jesus, there will be a natural desire to communicate with Him. Look at the promises of God that are fulfilled when we pray. In [Psalm 145:18](#) we read, *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth."*

Jesus Himself set the best example of how we should pray because He was a man of prayer. We find in these passages in Luke how our Savior prayed. For example: [Luke 3:21](#), *"When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened."* [Luke 5:16](#), *"So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."* [Luke 9:18](#), *"And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?'"* [Luke 9:28](#), *"Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray."*

If Jesus saw the need to pray, what about you and me? The Lord calls each of us to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. In [James 5:16](#), we read, *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* The Lord Jesus also tells us that we are to pray for those who persecute us.

In [Matthew 5:44](#), it says, *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."* Jesus' message is to love others, even those hard to love. In John chapter 17, we find the 'High Priestly Prayer.' This is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in any of the Gospels. It is just before He makes His way to the cross. Jesus prays for Himself, then for His disciples, and then for all believers.

Jesus Christ modeled a life of prayer while He was on this earth. As followers of Christ, may we follow His example. May it be so!

Jeremy Dykes, CBC Executive Board

Iowa Girl's Ham Balls

Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground pork
- 1 lb ground ham
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp. mustard
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup vinegar

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Combine ground pork, ground ham, eggs, milk, and graham cracker crumbs.
3. Using a 1/4 cup measuring cup, form ham balls, and place in a 9" x 13" baking pan.
4. To prepare the sauce, combine brown sugar, mustard, ketchup, water, and vinegar.
5. Pour the sauce on top of the ham balls. Enjoy!



Lenten Service with Ron Shafer:

Please join us here at Center Hill for the last Sunday of the Lenten Season on April 13 at 7 PM when Ron Shafer will be our guest speaker for the evening. Come and bring a friend!

GARDEN OF GRACE BIBLE STUDY:



Is it possible to live a life without worry in this fallen world? How can we put our trust in our forever faithful God? Ladies are invited to join the *Garden of Grace Bible Study* group as we begin our study on "Trusting God." We'll examine Biblical characters who faced challenging situations and impossible odds but relied on God every step of the way and we'll learn how He leads, guides, and protects us today when we fully trust Him. Thursdays at 7 PM at the home of Cindy Metz.

Through Gates of Splendor by Elizabeth Elliot

Telling the true tale of faith and sacrifice, **April's book club book** is the story of the missionaries who attempted to tell an Ecuadorian native tribe about the gospel but the author's husband and other missionaries were killed by the very people they chose to tell about Christ. Their story is understandable only through the lens of their faith which impels them to take the gospel message to those who have not yet heard it—no matter what the sacrifice. **Let's discuss their story on Friday, April 25th at 6 pm at the home of Laura Wingard-plank. All are welcome.**



The Giving Cupboard food pantry is the brown cupboard located on the front porch of our Fellowship Hall. It is always available, the food and other items inside are for anyone who's in need of food or other personal care items. So come and be blessed by the items that are available.

If you take items from the Giving Cupboard, please place the fasteners on the doors to keep out animals.



Greeting Cards for any Occasion:

There's a beautiful assortment of boxed cards for every occasion for sale in the side vestibule.

They are \$8 a box and the money raised helps the children that live at the orphanage in Honduras. Please take some time to check them out. You can place your money in the envelopes provided. Thank you!



**The next meeting of
Women's Fellowship
will be Tuesday,
April 8
at 7 PM.**



We will be hosting a CPR/AED training on Saturday, April 26, 2025 beginning at 10 AM. If interested, please sign up in the church vestibule.

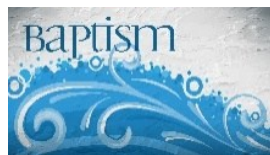


The April board meeting will be held on Monday, April 7.

The commissions will meet at 6:30 PM and the full board will meet at 7 PM.



It's time once again for the Spring Church Council meeting on Monday, April 21 at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!



Baptism or Transfer of Church Letter:

If you wish to be baptized or if you would like to transfer your church membership and join the Center Hill church family, please let Pastor Don know or call the church office as soon as possible. The service is planned for Sunday, April 27, during morning worship.

*Create in me a clean
heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit
within me.
Psalm 51:10*



**Men's Fellowship will
meet Tuesday,
April 22 at 7 PM.**



Church World Service Blanket Sunday special offering will be held Sunday, April 27. There will be an envelope in the bulletin that day for you to give, then place the envelope with your donation in the offering plate.

Thank you,
Witness Committee

**Sunday, April 6
10 AM - 7 PM**

Don't forget to take your bulletin insert flyer so that our Youth Group can receive 20% of your total check. Additional inserts are in the vestibule. Have a great meal and help raise monies for the Youth.



The youth is making plans for their annual Spring Fling. It will be held at the Fellowship Hall on Friday, May 16, 6-8 PM. Please plan to come out and have some fun!



Tuesday, May 13
6 PM.
Details will be announced soon!
It's going to be great!



"Shoes for the World"

We are partnering with Hogar Enmanuel Children's Home in Honduras to "shoe the world". Bring in your slightly worn shoes or boots, wrapped with a rubber band and place them in the box downstairs. The Children's Home will receive \$.40 per lb. and the shoes will be given to those in need.



We will be honoring our Seniors who are 80 years and older on Saturday, May 17 at 12 Noon in the Fellowship Hall.

The menu is yet to be determined. But it will be a good time of food and fellowship.



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