

Sunday Worship Services at 9am

In-Person in the Sanctuary, Live Online

(YouTube, Facebook, reedleymbc.org)

On Demand after 1pm on Monday

Children's Church

Ages 3 through 1st Grade

Fellowship on the Green at 10:20am

Adult and Children's Classes at 10:40am

SCAN TO CONNECT WITH US ON OUR DIGITAL
FRIENDSHIP FORM
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Matt Harder, Pastor of Care & Counseling

Randy Janzen, Worship Pastor

Tanya Jones, Director of Childrens Ministries

Kelly Gilmore, Office Manager

Kathy Hughes, Bookkeeper

Sheila Penner, Hospitality Coordinator

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THE BOOK OF
PHILIPPIANS

Equipping Class
REVELATION
 with Don Knaak
Today in the Fellowship Hall!

Testimonies of
GOD'S GRACE
 TODAY @ 4PM | STUDENT CENTER

Easter Sunday
 April 17th | 9am
Jennebrae Service
 April 15th | 7pm

LOST
 FOUND
 Today in the Breezeway

April 6th
Women's Bible Study
 Wednesday nights 6:40-8pm
 in the Conference Room

Spring
BUSINESS MEETING
 APRIL 24TH AT 4PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Ladies Spring Tea
 SATURDAY APRIL 30
 10:30am
 tickets \$10 each

Join Us
Let's Talk!
 April 7th | 6:30pm
 in the Sanctuary
 Congregational Informational Discussion
 Sanctuary Update/Remodel

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 10TH
CHILDREN 1ST-6TH GRADE
 MEET IN BREEZEWAY PRIOR TO CHURCH
 SERVICE TO RECEIVE PALM BRANCHES

Save the Date!
 Hartland Camp
SUMMER CAMP 2022
 Preteen July 24-29
 JR High July 3-8
 High School July 17-22
ROMANS
 — The just shall live by faith —
 Romans 1:17

Proverbs 27:17
FORGED MEN'S GROUP
 Tuesday Mornings
 6-7am in the Student Center

jonis&friends
Family Retreat
 April 11 - 15, 2022
 Volunteers arrive April 10th
 Wonder Valley Ranch
 Sanger, CA

EASTER SUNDAY 2022
Floral Cross
 (Relocated to Main Foyer)
 Please plan to bring fresh flowers Easter Sunday morning

Fitness, Fellowship, & Fun
 pilates | cardio | weights | mobilization
 Student Center SC 100
FUELED FITNESS
 Tuesday & Thursday
 5:30-6:30pm

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
 WWW ONLINE LIVE 9AM YouTube
SUNDAY CLASSES 10:40AM
 ON DEMAND AFTER 1PM MONDAYS

For more details on these or additional RMBC Ministries: check the App, Website, or contact the church office at (559) 638-8123. Further details can also be found in today's Journal.





Welcome

Welcome to Reedley MB. We're pleased to have you join us today for our worship service. It's our prayer that you will meet the living God in this place as we hear from the Word of God. We are here to **GLORIFY** God, **GROW** together as equipped disciples of Jesus Christ, and **GO** proclaiming His gospel to all. If you have questions, please ask, check our app, scan the digital QR code on the back of the Bulletin, or stop by The Welcome Center on our main lawn.

Sermon Materials

Each week, we send out sermon materials ahead of Sunday's sermon. You can find them on our App. If you'd like to receive these in your email, please contact the Church Office.

Upcoming Events

We have upcoming events! Don't miss out: check the RMBC Website, App, and online Bulletin.

Contact Details

Office: 559-638-8123
Email: kelly@reedleymbc.org
Website: www.reedleymbc.org
Address: 1362 L Street
Reedley, CA 93654

RMBC JOURNAL

REEDLEY MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday - April 3, 2022

We will continue our study of Philippians by looking at 1:18-26. Paul would love to go home to be with Jesus, but recognizes that it is better for the church that he stay and continue the work Jesus has for them. We encourage you to bring a friend with you to worship or invite a friend to join you online for worship!

If you are visiting with us today we encourage you to download our app (search: reedleymbc), visit our website (reedleymbc.org), or visit our Welcome Center where you can get more information and a gift.

TESTIMONY NIGHT TONIGHT - Testimonies of God's Grace at 4pm in the Student Center.

Baptism

Lauren Burkett Jonathan Hofer
Leah Jost David Loewen
Samarah Gonzalez Nicole Loewen

Membership

Jim & Mary Brandt
Henry & Ruth Laemmlen
Jeff & Dorothy Crass

Join the 5 Day Bible Reading Challenge!

This week's passages:

Week 14

Day 1: Joshua 14-17; Luke 17

Day 2: Joshua 18-21; Psalm 15; Luke 18

Day 3: Joshua 22-24; Psalm 116; Luke 19

Day 4: Judges 1-3; Psalm 16; Luke 20

Day 5: Judges 4-6; Luke 21

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Line - Would you like to receive our daily Prayer Line? You can via email, or through our App. Please contact the Church Office.

Sunday Morning Prayer - Meets in the Conference Room at 8:15am.

Wednesday Morning Prayer - Meets at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us as we seek the Lord for our church, our community, and our world.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Missionary of the Week: Bob Hilts

From Bob - "Eleven time zones East of Ukraine are experiencing wonderful growth of ministry in Mongolia, Jargal, and Duya. Our lead pastor and wife report solid growth in our 13 churches in Mongolia and 4 churches in Northern China. Our developing camp property has a capacity for 1,300 people and many are coming to Christ. Our Germany partners have delivered 120 tons of supplies to our four ministry facilities in Ukraine. Thank you for your prayers and help."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sanctuary Sound and Remodel Presentation - The Administrative Council of RMBC had established a Sanctuary Sound Committee in January 2020 before COVID and then it was enlarged into a Sanctuary Remodel Committee in June 2021 to look into the needs of the sound system and overall other potential improvements of our Sanctuary. A presentation to the Congregation is scheduled for April 7, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The Administrative Council would like the Congregation's input and response to the findings of the Committee. **Please come join us and participate in discussion.** Ultimately, this will be voted on at the Spring Church Business Meeting on April 24, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

STEWARDSHIP

Worship Service - March 27 485
YTD Goal \$1,094,942
YTD Surplus \$12,457

GIVING @ RMBC

- Text reedleymbc to 1-888-364-4483
- reedleymbc.org > Give
- U S Postal Service
- RMBC App > Giving
- Office, M-F, 8:30-5pm

OPPORTUNITIES

Our Lost & Found Rack is pulled out the first Sunday of the month. Stop by the rack on the northeast corner of the church green this morning to see if any of the items belong to you or a friend.

MCC Sale - Save the date for an in-person one-day event at Fresno Pacific University on Saturday, April 9th, 9 - 4pm. Join us outside on the green for delicious ethnic food, a silent auction, our annual quilt auction, and more!

Zwieback Volunteers Wanted! Would you be willing to make a batch of Zwieback and bring it to the MCC Sale? We need as many bakers as possible and you can help by making a batch of Zwieback and packaging them 6 to a gallon zip lock bag. If you are not able to bake them close to the date of the sale, make them ahead and freeze them (place a paper towel in the zip lock bag to absorb the moisture when they defrost) Or volunteer to work in the Zwieback Sale booth for one hour, April 9th, 8am-4pm.

Mission Bake Sale - Sunday morning, April 24th. Thanks to all our bakers who have agreed to bring homemade items. We will have a large selection of tasty foods for you to choose from. Buyers: Please consider treating your Sunday School Class and family to our freshly prepared goods. Stop by the Church Green following the Worship Service to purchase some delicious food. Note: We will also have Spaghetti Sauce and a limited supply of Beerocks and Tamales!

USMB Gathering 2022 - You are invited to join our U.S. Mennonite Brethren family in Independence, Missouri, July 26-30, 2022. (Pastors' Conference July 26-27 and Convention July 28-30.) The theme is "Increasing Impact: Reaching the Lost" with a focus on evangelism—as we strive to make a real difference for Jesus in our communities, nation, and the world. 1-800-257-0515 or www.usmb.org/gathering2022.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Forged Bible Study: Tuesdays, 6am, Student Center.

Cross Trainers Basketball: Wed., 7pm, Immanuel

Men's Group: Thursdays at noon in the Student Center

Pickleball: Thursdays at 7pm, at the RMBC Court

ROOTED STUDENT MINISTRIES

Sunday School - Junior high meets in the Student Center upstairs in SC200.

Junior High School Ministries - Junior high students meet together for Rooted Wednesday nights from 6:30-8pm in the Student Center. Bring a friend and join us for fellowship, fun, and teaching from the Word of God.

RMBC COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Sunday School - meet in the Student Center SC 202 at 10:40

Sunday Nights: Meet at the church in the Student Center, SC 200.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOMS Fellowship this week will focus on Worship, led by Aliese, as we get an early start on celebrating Christ's Resurrection and remembering the depth of love He showed to all by his sacrifice on the cross, Oh, What a Savior! Join us Thursday, April 7, 9-11am in SC200. M.O.M.S. will then enjoy a break until April 21, when we gather again for a special Fellowship time.

WOW Community Bible Study 2022 - Tuesday mornings, 9-11am, in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and bring a friend!

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study - We will begin a new study this week, April 6th, on The Armor of God. Join us for this 6 week study as we explore what it means to put on the full armor of God everyday. We will meet in the conference room Wednesday nights, 6:45-8pm. Please contact Juli Hofer to order a study book jhofer03@gmail.com.

Fueled Fitness Exercise Class - Every Tuesday and Thursday night, 5:30 - 6:30pm. Join a fun group in the Student Center for a variety of exercises: pilates, cardio, weights, and mobilization. All ages and levels are welcome. It's Fitness, Fellowship, Fun, and it's Free!

Ladies Spring Tea - Save the date for the Ladies Spring Tea, April 30th, at 10:30am. Tickets are \$10 each and must be purchased by April 24th. The guest speaker will be Mandy Perry, Kaleb's mom. To decorate a table or for more information contact Toni Ensz at 859-7101.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Next Sunday April 10th is Palm Sunday, Children 1st-6th grade are encouraged to meet in the breezeway (near the check in table) prior to church service to receive their palms and instructions.

Children's Sunday School - Age 3 through 4th grade meet in the Children's Center; 5th & 6th grade are upstairs in the Student Center at 10:40am. Check in prior to church service in the breezeway or after service in the lobby of the Children's Center. Children ages 3-4th grade will need to be picked up from their classrooms in the Children's Center instead of the playground. Please PROMPTLY pick up your children after Sunday School and have your parent check-in tag with you.

Nursery is available for children birth through Age 2 in the Children's Center.

Children's Church is available for kids 3 years old - 1st grade. Children meet in the breezeway when dismissed from the service. Children's Church is located in the Children's Center in the Seashore Room.

RKids will be taking a break until Fall 2022.

Contact tanya@reedleymbc.org for more information on Children's Ministry.

Philippians 1:18-26

April 3, 2022

Vs. 18b-20 Paul is rejoicing that the Gospel is being proclaimed. He is not concerned with the motives of those who are preaching, only that the Gospel message is going out. It is through the prayers of the believers and the help of the Spirit of Christ that this situation will turn out for Paul's deliverance. Paul's use of the term deliverance is similar to Job 13:13-18, where Job declares that even if the Lord slays him, he will trust in the Lord. So, the term deliverance can be understood in two different ways. One way is that it is Paul looking forward to spiritual deliverance, meaning that if he is executed, he will be delivered into the presence of the Lord in heaven. It has also been understood to mean that Paul will be delivered in a physical sense. This understanding is one where Paul will be released from prison and will not see the executioner at this time but will continue with the ministry the Lord has for him. Either way we look at it, Paul's expectation is that Jesus will be honored, and that Paul will be delivered either physically or eternally. Ultimately, we need to understand that **the Lord will take care of His own**. It might not always turn out exactly like we want it to, but God takes care of the righteous. Romans 8:28.

That is instructive for us. Not many of us are expecting to die any time soon, but there are times and situations in life where death might seem better than facing our current situation. Paul is in one of those times in his life. He is sitting in prison; it was not experiencing the good things in life. But he recognized that he there on behalf of the Lord. If the Lord chose to physically rescue him and release him from prison, the Lord would be honored. If the Lord chooses to allow Paul to be executed, the Lord would be honored. Paul's concern is not for his own wellbeing, but that of the Lord's reputation. Often, we are looking out for our own comfort, reputation, or wellbeing rather than being concerned for our Lord's reputation. Paul's desire for himself is that he will not be ashamed, but that the Lord will give him courage to be outspoken, and to be bold in speech when he faces his trial. If he should die, he would have courage in death as well. Whether in life or in death, Christ is honored. Paul's real joy is that Christ is proclaimed no matter what happened to him. This reminds me of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:13-18).

Vs 21 **For Paul to live is Christ and die is gain**. What does that mean? The Greek can be translated several ways here. There is no verb in the Greek, so it actually translates "to live-Christ" It can be translated, as it is, "to live is Christ", or "to live honors Christ", "to live means Christ", "to live depends on Christ", you get the picture. The foundation, center, purpose, direction, power, and meaning of Paul's life is Christ. Here is a man whose singular focus in life is to see Christ exalted. He does not care about his own reputation, he does not care about the trouble he is in, or the consequences of that trouble. He is a living illustration of what Christ meant when he said, "*Take up your cross and follow Me, and if you're unwilling to do that, you're not worthy to be my disciple.*" Paul was a man who was willing to bear the cross. He did not care what happened to him, what people said about him, or whether he lived or died. This level of commitment is one that we do not see much in our generation. We live in a materialistic, self-centered day, a self-serving day, not a self-sacrificing day. People today live for a lot of things, but not many live for Christ.

Death is gain. The word gain means something advantageous or profitable. Paul recognizes that in death he will be in the presence of Jesus. That is far more profitable than being in jail. In death all the trouble, the suffering, the pain, the hardship that he is enduring will be over with and he will get to be with Christ. That is far more profitable than any earthly treasure can buy.

When you think about it, it is only the Christian that can gain from death. The atheist believes they will cease to exist, that they have no soul, that once they are dead that is it. Secular humanism falls into this category as well. If there is nothing after life, what is the point of living? Therefore, the suicide rate is so high. The government schools have taught that we are just cosmic star dust, and our lives don't matter. Is it any wonder that young people are hopeless? The Muslim believes is in a place called paradise and hell. But they need good works to

get there, and once they die, they are dependent on Ala's favor towards them as to which place they go. There is no guarantee. The Hindu believes in reincarnation. If they are good, they will get a better life when they come back. If they are bad, they will get a worse life. All the while hoping they will reach a state of nirvana, where they will achieve peace and no more suffering. If they fail to achieve nirvana, they are immediately born into another body to try again. Faith in Jesus' for salvation is the only way one can hope to gain when they die. Asking a person what they believe will happen to them after they die is a great way to open the door to sharing the Gospel.

Vs 22-23 We see the struggle that Paul has. He knows that if he lives, it means fruitful labor for the Lord. But if he dies, then he is in the presence of the Lord. His desire is to depart and to be with Jesus. Here we get a real sense for Paul's heart. Either way, Paul will have joy. Joy does not come about by his circumstances. **Paul's joy is found in the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.** When he is in prison and the Gospel is proclaimed by those who are doing so with right motives, Paul rejoices. When others preach the Gospel to undermine Paul's ministry, he rejoices. If Paul lives, he gets to continue laboring for Jesus, Paul rejoices. If he dies, he gets to be in the presence of the Lord, Paul rejoices. Paul's hope was in Jesus. Paul's life was in Jesus. He could not be shaken. This is instructive for us. Many times, our hope is in other things than Jesus and when we lose those things, we lose our joy. This should not be the case for the believer. Our joy should be unshakable. That does not mean that we do not have emotions about things we are going through. But our circumstances and emotions do not determine our joy. We have joy despite the hard things we go through in life, because our Lord has taken care of our biggest need of all. He died in our place. He saved us from hell. How can we not be filled with joy? Paul knew that he could trust Jesus and Jesus would see him through whatever situation he was in and that was worth rejoicing over.

You can as well. **Jesus is worth trusting.** He is who He said He was. He is our Savior. He promised salvation to those who repent and believe. He is not a liar. He can be trusted. Do you trust Him? I know many of you have trusted Him for your eternal salvation, but you struggle to trust Him for your day-to-day provisions. You struggle to trust Him with your hurts and heart aches. If you can trust Him for your eternal salvation, shouldn't you be able to trust Him with the comparatively small stuff of life? If you don't trust Him with the small stuff of life, do you really trust Him for your salvation?

Vs 24-26 **Paul's focus is on others.** Paul has two strong desires. One desire is to depart and be with Jesus. The second desire is to stay and help build the church. Even though Paul would rather be home with the Lord, he recognizes that is better if he remains so that he can continue to serve these believers. He looks forward to remaining with them to see them progress and grow in Christ. Paul did not see his work for the Lord as being burdensome. It was a joy for Paul to do the work of the Lord. Seeing people's lives changed by Christ was such a joy for Paul that was truly perplexing for Paul as to which he would rather do. Would he rather die and be with Christ or would rather continue to serve Christ in this life and see the fruit of his labor in souls saved for Christ? If he lives, he gets to help the church grow, he gets to see lives transformed, and the Lord will receive the glory that is due Him. Others will benefit from his staying.

So what? Paul's life was totally committed to Jesus Christ. Because Paul was committed to Jesus, his goal in life was to make Him known. As Paul and the early church made Jesus known, they changed the world around them. The early church called this the "third race," the church was Christ's new society. The church declared and lived a new way of life, and consequently manifested a new culture; it cannot help but do so. This means that everything in our lives expresses the totality of the reign and purposes of God. We must recognize, like the early church, that Jesus Christ is still Lord and so by the Holy Spirit, faithfulness to Him in sharing the Gospel and obeying His commands will make new creations out of people, gathering a new race who build new cultures. This is not by revolution, but by regeneration, faithfulness, and obedience.

To Live is Christ

Pastor Matt Harder

Philippians 1:18-26

April 3, 2022

The Lord will take care of His _____.

For Paul to _____ is Christ and _____ is gain.

Paul's joy is found in the firm _____ of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is worth _____.

Paul's focus is on _____.

So What?

Mary poured expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. She wiped His feet with her hair.

Put the pictures in the correct order.



1

2

3

Judas said the money should have been spent on the poor.

Circle the picture that is different.

