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

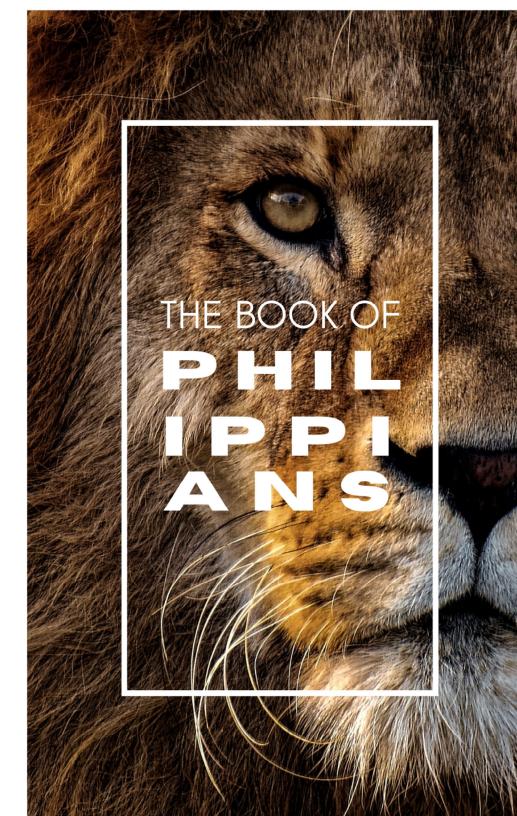
Adult and Children's Classes at 10:40am

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 tanya@reedleymbc.org Kelly Gilmore, Office Manager Kathy Hughes, Bookkeeper Sheila Penner, Hospitality Coordinator Charlie Rivoire, Business Manager Mike Schellenberg, Pastor of Discipleship & Outreach

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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 BRETHREN CHURCH

WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday - March 20, 2022

Guest Network Password - go4thandGROW

We are glad you have joined us this morning. Today we will be looking at Philippians 1:1-11. We will see Paul's joy in the Philippian church for their partnership in the Gospel and their continued growth in Christ Jesus.

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.

Join the 5 Day Bible Reading Challenge! This week's passages: Week 12 Day 1: Deuteronomy 6-9; Luke 7 Day 2: Deuteronomy 10-14; Psalm 5; Luke 8

Day 3: Deuteronomy 15-18; Psalm 115; Luke 9 Day 4: Deuteronomy 19-22; Psalm 6; Luke 10 Day 5: Deuteronomy 23-26; Luke 11

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: Edd & Ingrid Russell, serving with Multiply. Edd and Ingrid serve among the Isann people in Northeast Thailand, the region with the lowest percentage of Christians and Christian Churches. Their work focuses on leadership development for church planting. Please pray for Edd and Ingrid as they continue their work in these areas.

Outreach Opportunity - RMBC is looking for a team of individuals that love God, love people, and enjoy inviting others to have a personal relationship with Jesus. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information please contact Pastor Mike.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The rosebud is to announce the birth of a son, Jason Benjamin Certain, born on March 12th to Ben & Deanna.

Palm Village Retirement Community is inviting the congregations of their supporting churches to their annual business meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Thank you so much for supporting Ukraine Ministries. We sent over \$7000 with Johann Matties' and have collected another \$11,350 as of March 8th. Please continue to intercede on behalf of this nation! We will continue sharing updates as we receive them. If you would like to have these updates emailed to you, contact Courtney Warkentin at cwarkney@gmail.com or https://multiply.net/ukraine-in-crisis.

STEWARDSHIP

Worship Service - March 13 465 YTD Goal \$1,021,946 YTD Surplus \$24,100

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

You are invited to attend a **Special PDC Convention** on March 24th, 7pm, at Hope Kingsburg MB (1301 Stroud Ave, Kingsburg, CA 93631) RMBC can send up to 30 delegates. Realizing that some of you will not be able to be represented physically, the PDC will endeavor to connect virtually.

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!

A donor has made available to the church a Medline MDR107003EL0 Full-Electric **Home Care Bed** with full length side rails. If you have a need for this bed, please contact Pastor Matt Harder.

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.

J.O.Y. Volunteers of all ages needed for the Respite event Saturday, April 2nd, 9am-2pm, serving individuals affected by disability and their siblings. We want to give parents and caregivers the opportunity to take a breath while volunteer "buddies" lead games, activities, and muscic. Lunch is provided. Training for volunteers will be provided directly prior to the event at 8am (breakfast provided) To volunteer OR if you are a family who wants to attend, sign up on the app or website.

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 <u>www.usmb.org/gathering2022</u>.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals

Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 to 6:10pm. *Advance reservation required.* Sign up online, see Sheila on Sunday mornings, or email sheila@reedleymbc.org. Pay by cash/check at the door. Cost is \$5 for featured meal, \$3 for Kid's Option, or \$20 per household. Sign up by March 21 for March 23 meal. Menu: Frito Boats, Pasta Salad, and Cupcake. Kids Option: Corn Dog, Veggies, and Cupcake.

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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOMS Fellowship - Thursday, March 24, 9-11am, SC 200. Matt and Marie Harder will be our guest speakers as they make a presentation on Biblical Marriage. Childcare and Breakfast available. Bring a friend and pick up a special drink at the Perk on the way up to SC 200.

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

Women's Bible Study - Wednesday nights at 6:45 - 8pm in EC 205. Join us as we study Ruth.

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.

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.

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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 6:30-8pm, for ages 3 (fully potty trained) through 5th grade. Please register your child on the app or website.

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

It is Well

Philippians 1:1-11

Pastor Matt Harder

March 20, 2022

Begin with the back story to "It Is Well." I share this story to begin our study of Philippians because that is what Paul wants to express to his spiritual offspring. He recognizes that the church is deeply concerned for him and his wellbeing. He wants them to know that even though his circumstances are not what anyone would consider good, he is well. Why is he well? Because of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the focus of Paul's life and because of that, Paul can be content in any and every situation that Paul finds himself. In other words, his soul can be well, even when life is hard.

(Vs 1a) Paul and Timothy are listed as the authors. Their role is defined as servants of Christ Jesus. Paul is the primary author as he writes the letter in the first person. Timothy is mentioned as he served as Paul's secretary by writing down Paul's dictation of the letter. Paul describes himself and Timothy as servants of Jesus Christ. The word for servant can also be translated as slave. A slave has not vested interest in himself, only that of his master. Their master being Christ Jesus. When we get to chapter 2, we will see that Paul uses the same term for Jesus and His own obedience to the Father, even to death on the cross. **Referring to themselves as slaves, points to their total subjection to the will of their master**: they were not autonomous; they were subject to the one who owned them.

(vs 1b) The letter addressed to the saints of Jesus Christ, the overseers, and the deacons. In Christ, we are Saints or God's holy people. Just like Israel was set apart for God, Christians are as well. We are set apart for God. We are His people in Christ.

(vs2) The church knows that grace was embodied in Jesus and peace was His gift to the believer. It is a Christ centered blessing, recognizing **that all good things come from Jesus**, especially grace and peace.

(vs 3-5) Paul thanks God for the people of this church. He genuinely cares for them, and they care for Paul. **There is deep Christian love between Paul and the church he planted**. This church has partnered with him in the Gospel from their first meeting of Paul, now, 10 years later, and they were still ministering together.

That is instructive to us. When people think of us at this church are they thankful for us? Do they thank God for us? I hope they do. I believe we have a lot to be thankful for. When I think of this church, I am thankful for you all.

(vs 6) Paul knows that there will be times where life is not going to go the way they want it to go, but that does not mean that God is not working. God is always at work in the life of the believer. When life blows up on you, God is doing a work in you. We have the option of either accepting what is happening or we can fight it. **We need to view these experiences in life as opportunities to change**. What have you done with the opportunities that God has given you to change? Have you accepted those opportunities, or have you fought against God? Know this, that the God who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. Most of the time, God uses pain and hardship in our lives to accomplish that work in us. This is true for us as individuals as well as a church. God began a good work in this church over a hundred years ago and He will carry it on to completion. Just like individuals, God uses pain corporately to grow us if we are willing to deal with the things we are struggling with.

I believe that when we are willing to deal with our issues rather than sweeping them under the rug, God will bless our congregation. **God wants His church to reflect Jesus**. How do they reflect Jesus? It is by partnership in the Gospel. They share the fruit of salvation together, they share the fruit of growing in sanctification together, and then they share in the proclamation of the Gospel together. What is the result of all this togetherness? A bond that is thicker than blood. As Paul writes to his friends in Philippi, they are sharing the Gospel in a hostile environment and there was division in the church. There are threats from outside and from within the church. But God is faithful and will carry on the work to completion to the day of Christ Jesus.

Paul was continually reminding the church, and I am sure he was reminding himself of this as well, that there will be a day when he will be with Christ and the light and momentary trials that he is dealing with in this life will all pass away. He will be in the presence of the Lord. That is the day that we all look forward to.

(vs 7-8) They are partakers of Grace with Paul, in his imprisonment and confirmation of the Gospel. Paul has seen the work of the church firsthand. They shared in God's grace together, not only that, but they are fellow workers for the Gospel, and they are supporting Paul while he is in prison. This church was about God's business and Paul saw it firsthand and loved them for it. That love for the church is born out of Christ Jesus. Jesus said, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*. The converse is also true. If we do not love one another, are we truly His disciples?

Paul's love for this church is clear as he risked his life to plant the church. The church's love for Paul is clear as they partnered with him in the proclamation of the Gospel and sent Epaphroditus to care for Paul's needs. This is how genuine fellowship works. We are partakers in the grace of God. God has saved us. Now He calls us to love one another and serve Him by serving each other. Out of that, we should have a deep affection for each other. We don't love out of our own resources, but we love through the Holy Spirit that dwells in each of us. We are to do this in such a way that the watching world will know that we are Christ's disciples because of our love for one another.

(vs 9) So far, the focus of Paul's prayers have been on thanksgiving, now he begins to intercede for them. Paul's desire for the church he loves is that they would grow in their love for each other. This is not a superficial love, but a deep abiding love that grows the fruit of knowledge of God. The knowledge Paul talks about here is a compound word that could be translated "full knowledge." It speaks of transcendent and moral knowledge, which only God can give.

(vs10-11) When we get to the phrase—*filled with the fruit of righteousness*—it is at the end of a long sentence that begins with Paul's prayer that your love may abound more and more. Paul looks forward to the day of Christ, when his prayer will be completely answered. Paul prays that on that day, when Christ examines the fruit produced in his vineyard, the church, he will find the fruit of love. That kind of fruit is the fruit of righteousness. In this context, righteousness describes the character and actions of a community totally permeated and controlled by love. Since love is a relational word, this use of righteousness points to a relational righteousness, right relations with one another. This is the mark of a healthy church.

Paul is in prison as he writes these things. One would expect him to ask for prayer for his release or that God might take the Romans out for putting him in prison. That is not Paul's response. His response is to pray for the well being of the church. Paul recognized himself as a slave to Christ and recognized that his imprisonment was allowed by God and that he could trust God for his wellbeing. That gave him the ability to think of others rather than himself. His soul was well, even in a time of uncertainty.

God is orchestrating our lives and the circumstances in our lives. Our response to the circumstances that He brings into our lives is a good indication as to how our souls are doing. What is your response when things go well? Is it gratitude to Him and thankfulness to Him as all good things come from His hand? How about when things don't go the way we want? What is your response? Do you get mad at the situation, or at God? Just like Paul, we need to see ourselves as a slave to God and that He is free to do with us as He pleases?

How is your soul? How have you dealt with the hurt and pain that comes with living in a fallen world? Our Lord lived a perfect life, He died on a tree, and He rose from the dead on the third day. He did those things to rescue us from the wrath of God that we deserved. He has forgiven us and given us His righteousness. When we remember the things God has done for us, it helps us deal with the pain that comes from living in a fallen world and even though we may be going through deep hurt and pain, we can still say it is well with my soul.

It is Well

Philippians 1:1-11

Pastor Matt Harder

March 20, 2022

Referring to themselves as slaves, points to their total ______ to the will of their master.

All ______ things come from Jesus.

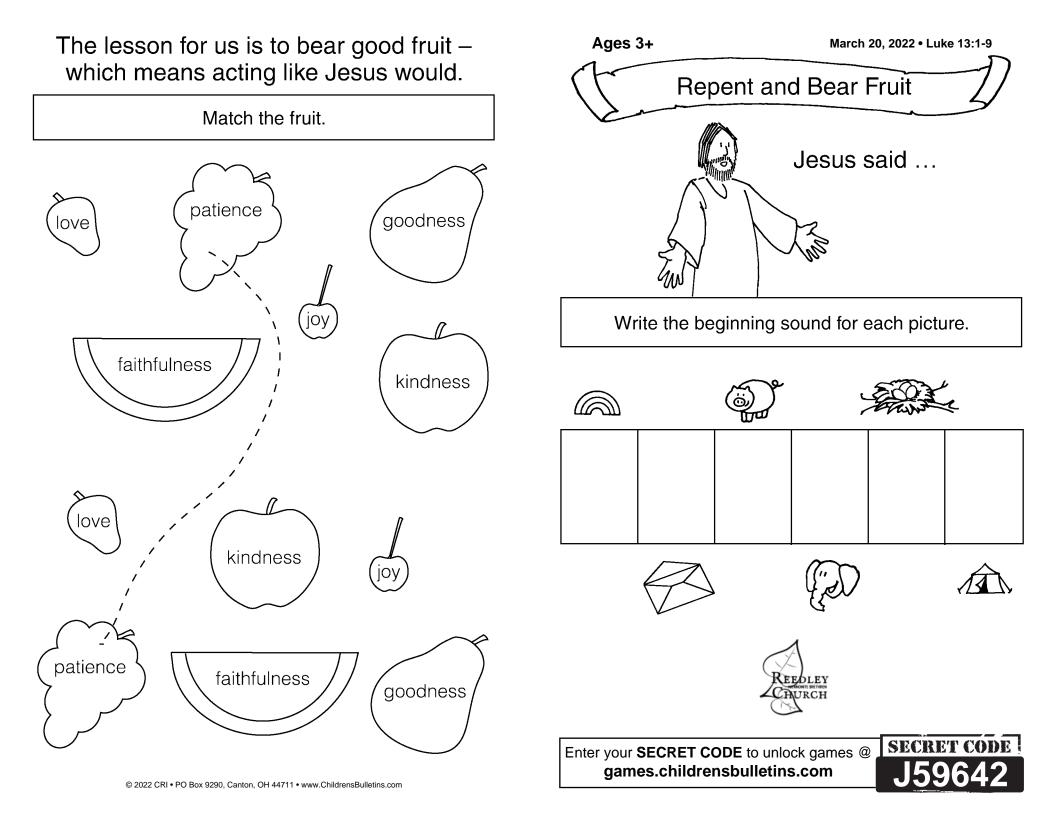
There is deep Christian ______ between Paul and the church he planted.

We need to view these experiences in life as ______ to change.

God wants His church to _____ Jesus.

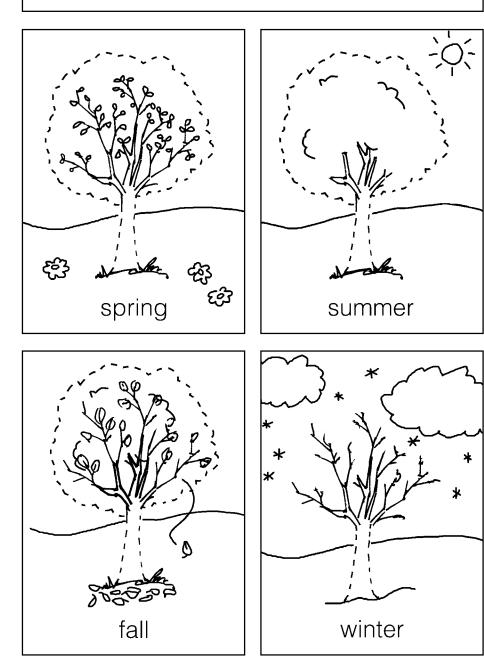
The world will know that we are Christ's disciples by our love for _____.

How is your soul?



Jesus told about a fig tree. It had not grown fruit.

Trace the tree in all seasons.



The man wanted to cut the fig tree down.

Circle 6 things wrong in the picture.

