



*Hello
July*

Faith Matters

Becky's Billet-doux

Why are you so afraid?

"Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Mark 4:40

During July we celebrate Independence Day. We remember the courage of our founding fathers, we celebrate the hard-fought battles, and we honor our national heritage. This is a unifying ritual. Amidst the red, white, and blue, and the "uhs" and "aahs" of the fireworks, however, we live in a country divided. We are divided politically, racially, and socially. We are divided over the fundamental ideas of rights and privileges. The global economy is tightly linked to our own; foreign politics and international cyber attacks are inescapable. If you are a worrier, you have plenty to worry about. Such worry causes great fear.

We may fear the direction of our great nation. We may fear another pandemic, we may fear another economic downturn. There is plenty about which to worry and plenty of which to be afraid. What is a good Christian to do with our surrounding circumstances that welcome gloom and doom?

Read the story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35-41. Jesus had been teaching beside the sea, telling people what the kingdom of God is like, then he decided, with the disciples and some other boats, to cross the Sea of Galilee, which is really a large lake. A "great windstorm arose." An intense storm came upon them. An intense storm while you are in a boat is a terrifying thing. Of course, the disciples were shaking in their sandals. Wouldn't you be? It makes sense to wake Jesus up. Shouldn't he be awake, shaking in

his sandals too? Why was Jesus asleep at a time like this?

Jesus, from all eternity, present at the creation of the world and all that is in it is not afraid of weather. He created weather. He has complete power over weather, not the other way around. Jesus, Son of God of all creation, has no need to fear a storm. Why not close his eyes and catch forty winks?

In "great" fear, intense fear, mega fear, the disciples awaken Jesus and ask why he didn't care about them. They didn't realize that Jesus is Lord. They didn't call him, "Lord" but, "rabbi." They were not aware that the power over all the earth and everything in it was in the boat with them. They were trying to rely on their own wits to save themselves, but realized they were massively outplayed by the storm. So, they woke up slumbering Jesus. And Jesus got up and told the storm to shut up.

The word often translated as "Peace!" in v. 39 means to "be muzzled," "shut-up." The voice of the storm that was speaking fear to the hearts of the men was told by the Lord to shut up. What speaks fear into your heart? Who is beside you in your boat? What is his word to your storm? Let Jesus and his words capture your attention. Listen to his voice. He is the power over all things, including the things you fear. Listen to him speak to you, "Peace! Be Still!"

Prayer of the Month

Holy Lord, Great Creator, you reign over all things great and small. Continually speak to our hearts during our times of fear and frustration. Fill us with your peace when our minds race with tragic possibilities. Keep your voice in our ear. Lead us into your way of peace and faith. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer Requests

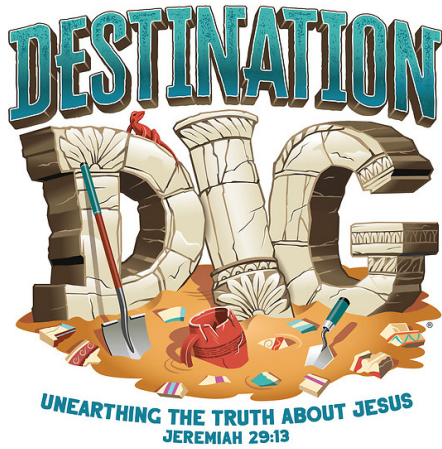
- † Adams, Calvin (Angie Gullett's dad, prayer for salvation; health; eye issues)
- † Ard, Farrell & Kellie (healing)
- † Arnold, Dale (healing)
- † Brown, Donna (healing)
- † Boring, Carma (Jo's step-daughter, Covid, healing)
- † Boring, Jo (healing)
- † Burditt, Larry (Angie Gullett's brother-in-law, Parkinson's & his dad for healing)
- † Candace (mom), Avyn (son) in NYCAvyn healing, treatment for cancer)
- † Carr, Billie (Betty Lively's sister, healing)
- † Collerd, Tyler
- † Cox, Wanda (Angie's sis-in-law, heart issues, health, life choices)
- † Duff, Norma (recovery, healing)
- † Eilers, Melvin (healing)
- † Estrada, Mary
- † Graves, Steve (rec. from surgery)
- † Pr. Fisks, Paul (healing)
- † Fowler, Ginnie (treatments)
- † Fowler, Jerry
- † Gullett, Angie (eye injections, back therapy, health)
- † Hennig, Pearl (at home doing PT, healing)
- † Pr. Kaskela, Jerry (healing)
- † McCarter, Sarah (healing)
- † Merritt, Kidd Family (in the loss of Gertrude Merritt)
- † McClelland, Lee (Sally's nephew)
- † McGee, Helen (healing)
- † Mullins, Ellie (6 yr old, received kidney, but her autoimmune disease (FSGS) is trying to fight it, they are doing a lot to get her disease to go into remission)
- † Nance, Bodhi (Watson's grandson)
- † Otwell, Joyce (health)
- † Perez, Marsha (health)
- † Scott, Abe (cancer, for healing)
- † Scott, Becca (for son and grandson, Dillon and Lincoln - custody issue)
- † Silhan, Charlie (Complications back in hospital)
- † Southard, John (healing)
- † Strickland, Gary (salvation)
- † Turner, David (former mayor of Odessa) & Beth Libson family in loss of their mother, Ruth Turner.
- † Vencil, Naylan (at Encompass in Midland for Rehab)
- † Watson, Bobby & family in loss of his sister, Sharon Shipley
- † Watson, Marlene (Complications from Covid, rec. from surgery)
- † Weaver, Sharlene (healing, MCH)
- † West, Kim (healing)
- † White, Bill (healing)
- † White, Brecken (recovery from Pneumonia)
- † White, Liam (Sally's great-grandson, rec. from surgery)

We helped nine families in June!

If you have vegetables or fruits from your garden, please bring them to sell after worship. You can put them on our Harvest Table in the Narthex. The proceeds will go to our Food Pantry.



Our Mission is to Gather God's people, and to Grow in faith and Service to Christ



Thank you to all of you helped with VBS this week!

- Pastor Becky Hand
- Donna Brown
- Tracy Dunford
- Terri Bomar
- Betty Lively
- Sally White
- Addison White
- Pat Barrow
- Jo Boring

Thank you to all you who donated towards our VBS!

Thank you to the 7 children for coming to VBS and blessing us!

FFLC Garden Update for June

Station 4:

Repaired the irrigation system. Planted (4) dwarf crepe myrtle (2 Red, 1 White & 1 Deep Purple)

Station 5:

Thanks to Pastor Becky for spreading the mulch! Planted 25 purple heart as a sidewalk border. Planted 12 sweet potato vines for temporary ground cover.

It looks like some more work (and prayer) on my knees while pulling weeds.

Stations 7, 8, 9 & 10:

Bruce will prune the dwarf purple sage (for Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day)



Needs: Numerous tree removals (not cut off at ground level like in the past, but by digging them out at the roots so they will not come back in the future)

Stations 12 & 13:

Still in the planning stage

Other:

July (rest of the year)

Remove the trees Station 2.

Remove the tree Station 3.

Remove the tree Station 4.

Remove the trees Station 5.



Thank you to Blooming Rose Florist for providing us with altar flowers for Sundays.

Blooming Rose Florist

302 E University Blvd

Odessa, TX 79762 (432) 337-7673

Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm

Saturday - 8am - 5pm



Did you know that there are many ways to serve at FF? You can sign-up to host a fellowship event, usher, greet, help in the office, Sunday morning reader... please sign up on the clipboard outside the Sanctuary if interested.

We would like to pre-plan fellowship luncheons. The next one to be planned would be in August. (It does not mean you are required to do all the work.) If you would like to coordinate this fellowship please call Billy at (432) 770-5801.

Tid Bits

(NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH)

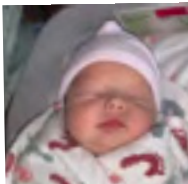
Faith Fellowship gave to the following Ministries 5% of our tithes. (10% of general offerings for the month) -

For April: 5% \$ 543.63 given to Samaritan Counseling Center. The other 5% (\$543.63) went to Augustana District.

For May: 5% \$ 628.74 given to Meals on Wheels. The other 5% (628.74) went to Augustana District.

We received \$250 from Thrivent for our Ball Giveaway Outreach May 23. Thank you to all of you who donated to this outreach.

Congratulations to Brian & Robin Fawcett on the birth of their new grandbaby, Mia Faith on June 21st, 6lbs, 13 oz and 20.25" long. Proud parents: Dustin & Jennifer



Classifieds

We are offering ad space for \$5 donations in our Newsletter. If you have:

- a business you want to promote;
- something you want to sell;
- someone you need to hire;
- or are looking for recommendations

Please fill out a form, or email the office and we'll put it in our next Newsletter.



Church Directory

Office Email office@faithfellowshipodessa.org
Office Tel (432) 362-2549
Office Fax: (432) 362-0573
Website <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org>

Address:

1603 North Grandview Avenue
Odessa, TX 79761

Schedule of Events

- 🕒 Ladies Bible Study - Tuesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
- 🕒 Wednesdays - No Theology Study for the Summer. You can still see the Sundays readings on our Facebook page Wednesdays, after 5pm with Ron Harrison.
- 🕒 Sunday School for all ages - Sundays - 10:00 AM
- 🕒 Worship Service at 11 AM

🕒 July 4—Happy Independence Day; Lunch Fellowship after the Service. Please check with Pastor on what is left to bring, if you didn't sign up last Sunday

🕒 July 5—Office closed for holiday

🕒 July 13—15—Pastor out for Ministry Board in Ohio

🕒 July 14 -15—Angie on vacation

🕒 July 16-19—Pastor on vacation

🕒 July 20—Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

🕒 July 21—22—Angie out of office

🕒 July 30-31—Texas District Convention

Please visit the church calendar on the website for more information at <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org/church-calendar/>