

SCHWEITZER NEWS

A Word from Pastor Sheila

Hello Schweitzer Friends!

SCHOOL is in SESSION! Last Sunday in worship we prayed specifically for our students, our parents, and our educators. I recently saw on social media a program at one school called "No One Dines Alone". It's a student-run program ensuring that no student sits alone during the lunch hour. It has created a ripple effect that includes everyone and encourages friendships! What a wonderful idea! Maybe we're not in school any longer, but are there times where YOU could be a friend to someone who is feeling alone? God has given us all the tools we need to reach out and care for one another!

This coming Sunday, August 25th, Pastor Spencer will be delivering the fourteenth sermon in our Summer series about Moses. The sermon this week is entitled "When Leaders Lose It" and the scripture is from Numbers 20:1-13. We hope you can join us for worship but, if you can't, we invite you to join us online. You will receive a blessing from these powerful sermons!

Here's an update of some of the things happening around your church:

- If you would like to have home communion, please let me know.
- If you have a special celebration and would like to send a photo, please send it to spippin@schweitzer.church and tell me about your celebration!
- If you're in the hospital or have a new address or phone number, please call the church office to let us know.
- We will be hosting a "Night of Worship" on Wednesday, August 28th . You're invited!

Thank you for your support of the many things that God ordains through Schweitzer Church!

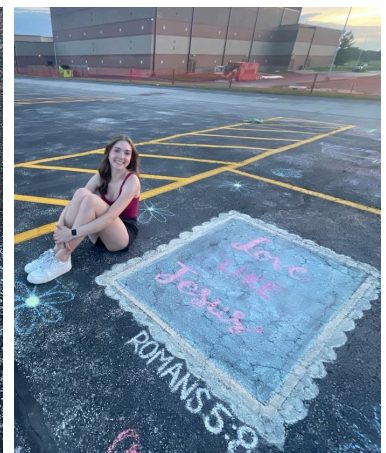
We are continuing to pray for our Global Missions Focus. For the month of August, we encourage you to pray for the Bashkir people in Belarus.

One of our Schweitzer Seniors, Alexis Jared, started the school year by decorating her parking space at school. I was so impressed by her witness in such a creative way and I wanted to share it with you! In case you can't see it well, it says, "Love Like Jesus", and includes Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us." Thank you, Alexis, for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Until next week, we care about you and we're praying for you!

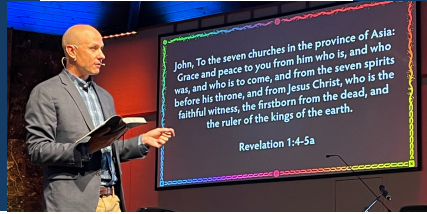
Joyfully,

Pastor Sheila



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Pastor's Note



**SCHWEITZER
CHURCH**

Friends,

Last weekend we introduced a new ministry launching this fall called Practicing the Way. Practicing the Way is a small group class designed to help us grow to become like Jesus. This is built off the work of John Mark Comer. Practicing The Way is not another Bible study to learn more information, this class is about helping us to learn how to be disciples - or apprentices - of Jesus. You may not have thought about it before, but there's a world of difference between being a Christian and a disciple of Jesus.

John Mark Comer writes,

"The word Christian is used only three times in the New Testament. To put that in perspective, the word disciple (or apprentice) is used 269 times, which comes as no surprise since the New Testament was written by apprentices of Jesus, for apprentices of Jesus.

Just to make it clear...

Christian: 3x

Apprentice: 269x

The word Christian literally means "little Christ" (or "mini Messiah"), which is beautiful. It was originally used as a religious epithet to mock followers of the Way. But over time, our spiritual ancestors embraced the slur and used it to self-identity as those devoted to the imitation of Christ.

Here's the problem: That is no longer what the word conveys to many people today. To many in the West, a Christian is just someone who mentally ascribes to the bare bones of Christianity (a word never used in Scripture) and may or may not occasionally attend church.

...in the West we have created a cultural milieu where you can be a Christian but not an apprentice of Jesus."

Certainly we know this to be true. To be a Christian is mostly about what you think (i.e. Jesus is the Son of God) to be a disciple (or apprentice) is about how you live. For many, to be a Christian means I raised my hand and prayed a prayer. To be a disciple, on the other hand, is to trust Jesus beyond my salvation to every aspect of my life.

But how do we do that?

We need some practical teaching to help us grow in the tools to become disciples of Jesus. We need tools to help us to learn to live as Jesus would. To spend time with him. To become like him. To do the kinds of things he did.

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As I said on Sunday, I hope that everyone who calls Schweitzer home will participate in The Practicing the Way Course over the next couple of years. No matter if you've been following Jesus 5 days or 5 decades, all of us can benefit from some practical teaching helping us move from information about God to experiencing the life and the way of Jesus

This fall we will have five groups starting The Practicing The Way Course at various times of the week. We will also have some other classes and groups starting up this fall.. If you're not connected in a group or class take a step this fall. You never know what God will do with a small step of growing in a deeper relationship with your church.

God is Faithful.

Spencer

Photo Gallery



SCHWEITZER NEWS

Prayer List

Health & Encouragement

Marie Hewlett	Freddie & Beth Lane
Brent Owens	Kory Bowman
Millie Heinemann	Julia & Austin Porter
Phil Wilkins	Ed Waters
Tregg & Tara Geren	Zeke Ambrosius
Chris Gerhard	Dave Scott
Nancy Curry	Jenny Carnahan
Bryce Evans	Lindsay & Paul Reaves
Pearl Hartley	Ann Collard
Sue Shook	Brenda O'Connell
Kathy Nunn	Jeff Wilson
Jackson Gourvitz	Kim Townsend
Janet Ellis	Marilyn M. Moore
Ann Earl	George Blowers
Ashley Colter	Ken Walker & family
Carol E Austin	Bob & Carma Messerli
Mildred Climer	Jeff Bopp
David Bigelow	Len Bartlotti
Kaleb Crouch	Kathy King
Rochelle & Michael Carroll	John Vertz
Tom Bean	Mike Bliss
Sharla Hafer	Cynthia Gilpin
Ashley Wells	James Jorgenson & family
Jim & Cheryl Fitch	Mike & Nancy Ronsse
Anne Reynolds	Nicole Jones & Jerry Guyette
Pat & John Purtell	Nick Fenton
Lisa Mason	Rachel Bough
Janie Wilson and family	Betty Owen
Molly Plate	Colton Cash
Sarah Tobin	Joe & Sandy Hall
John Blakey	Susan Rich
Bob Brown	Paul Gingrich
Brian O'Connell	Declan Nanney
Shirley & Marvin Chavers	Joel Reeter
Lynne Logan	LeeAnn Durbin
Betsy Brown	The Koenemann family

Special Prayers

- Bashkir people in Belarus
- Our outreach ministries through Flourish CDC
- For all those serving in all branches of the military
- Prayers for those suffering due to conflict and war in the Middle East and Ukraine
- Slavic Church Emmanuel, meeting on the Schweitzer Church campus

SCHWEITZER NEWS

Praying for Unreached People Groups

August Focus: Belarus

The Chuvash People

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

Their Turkic ancestors lived in central Siberia, dwelling in the Irtysh Basin starting at the end of the third millennium BC. They are associated with the Bulgar tribal federation. The Mongol Empire disrupted their lives in the 1200s. The Russians conquered their land in 1552 and demanded tribute. The Chuvash lost most of their land and worked for the Russians in the timber industry and on barges. The Chuvash became poor. Russians have maintained control over the Chuvash ever since. The Russians tried to force them into a Russian Orthodox mold in the 19th century before trying to force them into atheism during the 20th century. The Chuvash people kept their language after the fall of the USSR in 1991, but Russian is a key language for them.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Chuvash families are small, but they are often larger in rural areas. Men and women marry any time between the age of 18 and 24. The women have full-time jobs as well as doing housework. Most Chuvash are farmers who produce potatoes, wheat, rye, hemp, hops, dairy products, poultry, and meat. Their diet is rich in root vegetables and grains. They pickle some of their vegetables for the winter, especially sauerkraut. They eat soups, rye bread, and, above all, porridge. The Chuvash people make their porridge from buckwheat or millet. Despite obstacles, the Chuvash still have their own cultural forms. They love embroidery, sewing, woodworking,

ceramics, and making goods with beads and silver. They have their own epic tales, fairy tales, songs, legends, and skits. Weaving the gospel message into Chuvash art forms would be a good way to open spiritual doors.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Chuvash people need their own identity as a people. More importantly, they need the chance to pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

The Chuvash are mostly Russian Orthodox, though some have preserved their ancient shamanistic practices. A small minority is Sunni Muslims because of their contact with the Tatars hundreds of years ago.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for Chuvash fellowships to be centered on Christ rather than tradition.
- Pray there will soon come a day when the Chuvash people will send loving workers to unreached people groups.
- Pray for spiritual hunger and a discernment that will keep the Chuvash away from spiritual counterfeits. May they be led to put their faith in Christ alone.

