

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 13, 2022

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

God made all mankind in His image (Gen. 1:26-28), so whether we begin with Adam and Eve or with Noah, we all come from one couple with different pigmentations like everything else God created on His earth. No species God created has the same color. Whether it is the same species of dogs, cats, birds or even grass or sands on seashores around the world (Eleuthera Bahamas - pink sand). God loves variety. Diversity of races or cultures no matter where around the world exposes the greatness of God. Diversity creates pictures that we all admire when we sit down and review the transitioning of trees in autumn as they prepare for winter or the cascade of mountains with a variety of animals among them. We love those pictures of nature, and we place them on our walls, computers or phones. Somehow the differences of colors emit hate, superiority complexes and anger when it comes to mankind.

All of mankind came from one couple Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:26-28). Many respected scholars believe that the Garden of Eden was located either in Africa or near Africa (Gen. 2:13 - Cush as descendants of Ham; Genesis 10:6). They also believe that Adam and Eve could not both be white because from Noah and his wife came all the races of the earth. Also, all the people near Africa or in Africa are either brown skin or dark skin. This does not mean, however, that they looked exactly like African Americans. After the flood all of mankind, like it was with Adam and Eve, came from one father and mother (Genesis 5:32; 9:19); Noah and his wife.

Africans descended from Ham (the names of Shem, Ham and Japheth described their nature). Shem means "dusty or olive colored" and he is considered to be the father of the Semites (Arabs and Jews). Ham means "dark, black or hot" and he is considered to be the father of the Negroes, Indians and mongoloids. Japheth means "bright or fair" and he is considered to be the father of Caucasians. Christ circles back to one family at the end of times when all nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate us not by race, but by our faithfulness to Him (Matthew 25:31-40).

So, regardless of your race, color or ethnicity, God requires us all to do one thing; **Love One Another!** "Beloved, if God so Loved us, we also ought to Love one another. No one has beheld God at any time; if we Love one another, God abides in us, and His Love is perfected in us." (1 John 4: 11-12) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)



UPCOMING Events



Men's Ministry Bible Study - Feb. 19th 9 a.m.
Come and join the Men's Kingdom Builders Bible Study as we go through the Book 'Landmines' by Charles F. Stanley and learn how to avoid the hidden dangers that get in the way of the believer experiencing God and His blessings.



LEGIT Museum Day Out - Feb. 26th 9:15 a.m.
Come join L.E.G.I.T. Saturday, February 26th 9:15 AM - 2 PM at The African American Library at The Gregory School for an exploration of over six decades of cultural artwork, good food, and great conversation! The exhibit will showcase African American Artists in Texas: Selections from the John L. Nau III Collection of Texas Art LEGIT will meet at the church at 9:15 to pray and connect for carpooling.

Register on the events page of our website or for more information contact **Keron Brown** at keron.brown@lwffellowshipchurch.org or **Moniqua Glasper** at 832.977.9674



Black History Month Health & Wellness Event
The Silver Stars 55+ are hosting a Black History Month Health & Wellness Event on Saturday, February 26th from 11 a.m. — 1 p.m. in Legacy Sanctuary. Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact **Jacquelyn Jordan** at Jacqjordan@att.net



COVID-19 Q & A With Dr. Judy - Sun. Feb. 27th
Our very own Dr. Judith Campbell (Dr. Judy) will answer all of your questions about Covid-19, the vaccines, quarantine times, safety of the vaccines with your children and more on Feb. 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary. See you there! Watch the interview between Pastor Cannings and Dr. Judy on our YouTube channel here <https://youtu.be/BPwAZyMsjOE>



Usher & Greeter Ministry
The Greeters and Ushers Ministry Needs You! The Ushers serve faithfully at Sunday Worship Service, Bible Study, Funerals, and Special Events. Join us to welcome and greet family and guests with enthusiasm and love! We are always looking for more volunteers who have a heart for people from all walks of life to join this team. If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Lula Hays** at lulahays1@yahoo.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

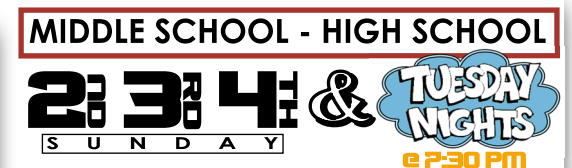
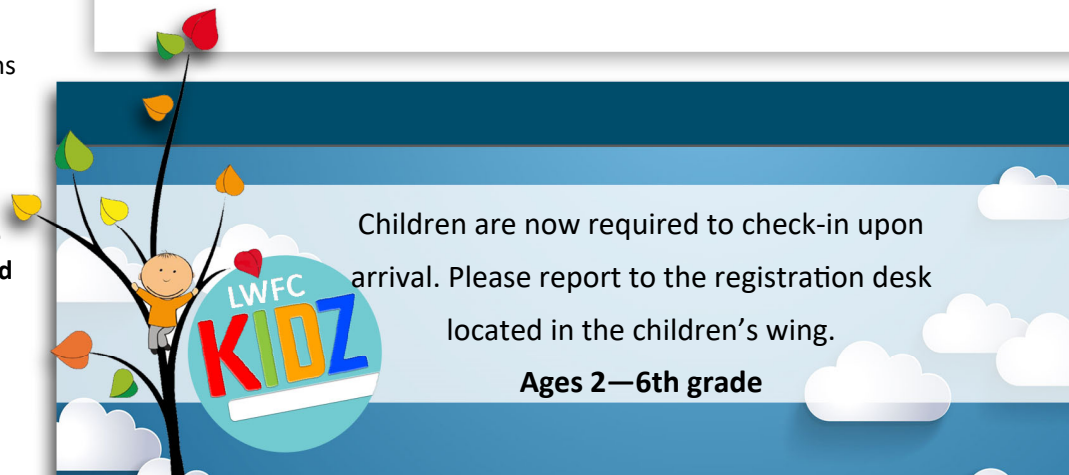
"Friends"
Proverbs 10:12, 17:9, 17

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Friends

Proverbs 10:12, 17:9,17

A. Don't Hate (Proverbs 10:12):

1. The hatred described here is a strong feeling that can lead someone to violence or murder.
2. Hatred rouses (like awaking someone) people to actively seek quarrels and much discord.
3. Love is the opposite of hate because it is affectionate, like in the case of David and Jonathan, in the scriptures, it establishes genuine friendships.
4. Love forgives or conceals a multitude of sins.
5. Love either conceals or forgives a person who willfully rejects the Lord's authority.
 - a) Love on the other hand ".....bears all things, believes all things hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

B. Don't Gossip (Proverbs 17:9):

1. A person who is most willing to forgive a person who confided in them demonstrates a desire to maintain a genuine friendship. (Matthew 18:15).
2. The person who conceals or forgives someone, as in the case of David and Jonathan, in the scriptures, develops a genuine friendship with the person whose trust they have gained.
3. The person who actively seeks to alter the words that were shared in complete confidence damages a good friendship.
4. The person who breaks the confidence of a person who trust them, splits into pieces a genuine relationship of loving individuals and even family members.

C. Endures All Things (Proverbs 17:17; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8):

1. A person who is a personal friend because of strong emotions is committed to their relationship at all times.
2. A person who is affectionately committed to a relationship comes to life when circumstances are distressful.
3. When circumstances are so distressful and there is much anguish in a person, the true character of a friendship is exposed.
4. When the friend is emotionally supportive and provides unrelenting encouragement in difficult times a close friend is born.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Pam Collier & family, Doris Henderson & family, Eleanor Wilson & family, Helen Wardlow & family, Vivian Buckner & family, and the family of George Kiel.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, and Rutha Patrick.



PROVERBS 10:12, 17:9,17