

# The Lemoore Caller

140 Skaggs St. Lemoore, CA 93245

559-924-2373

lemoorechurchofchrist.org



## Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Sunday A.M. Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Sunday P.M. Worship.....5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m

## **Sweet Hiding Place**

When we were children, a good hiding place could keep us occupied for hours. Even small children love the idea of making a little tent by draping a bedsheet over a couple of dining room chairs. It was good to feel safe and protected from imaginary forces lurking about, seeking to find our secret lair.

Fast forward a few years and discover that, buried deeply within, our longing for a secret hide-away is still a pleasant thought that occasionally comes to the surface, especially in difficult times. With childlike trust, we seek refuge in the loving arms of our refuge and fortress, the God in whom we trust (Ps. 91:1-2). The outside forces are no longer imaginary as they once might have been in our childhood. But, in the shelter of His presence, there is sweet rest from the worries and cares which threaten to undo us (Ps. 31:19-20; Ph. 4:6-7).

The inspired psalmist picks up on this precious theme, praying, "Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance" (Ps. 32:6-7).

In 1776, while walking along the gorge of Burrington Combe in the Mendip Hills of England, Augustus Toplady was caught in a storm. Finding refuge in a gap along the rocky ridge, he scribbled down the initial words of what would become a timeless Christian hymn. "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee...." Of those penned by mortal man, few words have buoyed the spirits of wearied and troubled disciples as have these words. David sums it up in eight powerful words: "You are my hiding place and my shield..." (Ps. 119:114).

# Lemoore Church of Christ

September 8, 2019

[www.lemoorechurchofchrist.org](http://www.lemoorechurchofchrist.org)

## Services:

Today: 9:30 Bible Classes  
10:30 Morning Worship  
5:00 Evening Worship

Wed. 7:00 Bible classes

## Servants for August/September:

**September:** Herminio and Isabel Gutierrez

## Men Leading Services today:

**Welcome/Call to Worship:** Gary Rice

**Song Leader:** Garth Radcliff

**Opening Prayer:** Randy McCord

**Prayer List:** Gary Curtis

**Lord's Table: LEAD:** Craig Case  
Jordan Willis  
Herminio Gutierrez  
Brandon Hodgson

**Scripture Reading:** David Sander

**Announcements/Cl. Prayer:** Frank Baldwin

**Alternates:** Clofas Case, Rich Rhoads, Richard Bullough, Gary Cole

**P.M. Song Leader:** Garth Radcliff

Wednesday Night: Sept. 11.

**Songs:** Gary Curtis

**Speaker:** Gary Cole

**Announcements/Cl. Prayer:** David Sander



## Upcoming Events:

**Sept. 9** Men's Meeting  
**Sept. 14** Grief Seminar w/ Mike Whitworth  
**Sept 21** West Visalia Ladies Day  
**Sept. 22** Birthday Fellowship  
**Oct. 4** Men's YBC Meeting  
**Oct. 4-6** Ladies Retreat at YBC  
**Oct. 11-15** Youth forum at West Visalia  
**Oct. 25** Area Wide Singing – Lemoore hosts  
**Oct. 26** FYBC meeting – Fresno  
**Oct. 31** Trunk or Treat



## Upcoming Singing Opportunities

The area Wide Singing will be held Here in Lemoore on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be needed following the singing.

## Prayer List:

**Lynda Sander** is scheduled to have her second infusion later this week.

**Gary Cole** will be going for knee replacement surgery Tomorrow – Sept. 9 – at Fresno surgical Hospital.

**Paula Beene** recovering from heart attack.

**Chris Downs**, brother of Tiffany Radcliff, experiencing life trials. Prayers are requested that he can get the medical help he needs.

**Taylor Radcliff** has graduated boot camp in Texas. It will be some time before he will be able to come home.

**Dick Coxsey** continues rehab

**Marjory and Mark Cooper** Mark is doing well at this time.

**Bill Butts** has been given medication for eye infection and pain following his surgery.

**Victor Manna, service man for our air conditioner**, Valley Fever

**Bob Martin** recovering from a fall

**Tito Cano's, husband of Angie**, had chemotherapy on 9/3. His next is scheduled for 10/7.

**Janice McCord**

**Jordan Willis** for strength

**Lora Virden** had a procedure last Monday.

**Don and Shirley Blackwell**

**Bart Massey**, friend of Dixie Blair, diagnosed with stage 4 stomach cancer

**Cindy Fuentes**

**Ron and Kris Cole** Ron's Myeloma has returned. Infusions have not been effective at this time.

**Becky and Glen Fraley**, Glen is on the SF transplant list.

**Hal Crain** experiencing pain following a leg amputation.

**Leon and Lois Collins**, Wilma Cole's brother and family, for strength with daily issues.

**Casey Case, Jr.**, ongoing Oncology treatment.

**Dennis Thomas**, nephew of Jeanne and Clofas Case, undergoing cancer treatment.

## **Our Mission Work:**

\*First Responders

\*Our Preachers in Nicaragua

\*Agape Village

\*Crossover Ministry

\*City of Children

\*Manuelito Children's Home

\*church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund

\*World Christian Broadcasting



### Birthday Fellowship

The September birthday fellowship will be held on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. in the fellowships hall. Shirley Garretson will be our hostess and Pasta Night is the theme for the evening.



### Ladies Retreat

Registration forms are in the foyer for Ladies Retreat. It will be held at YBC Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>. Early bird registration is 90.00 prior to Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. The Saturday only fee is 30.00. This year's retreat is being hosted by Madera.



### Breakfast Ministry: Coffee Social

Plan on joining us each week at the Coffee Social in the Fellowship Hall from 8-9:15. Come enjoy a time of visiting, hosted by Jordan Willis, as we prepare to worship the Lord.



### Grief Seminar

The Grief Seminar presented by Michael Whitworth is next Saturday. There will be 2 classes in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. A continental breakfast will be held at 9:00 in the morning and a baked potato bar will be available for lunch. Sign up sheets are on the table in the foyer. More help is needed at this time.

## ***What Kind of Flower Would You Want to Be?***

David Sproule

West Palm Beach Church of Christ

It's kind of a weird question, but if you had the opportunity to be any kind of flower in the world, what would you want to be? There are so many from which to choose! In fact, scientists have identified approximately 400,000 types of flowering plant species in the world. Some are extremely rare, like the endangered corpse flower of Indonesia. It has no roots, no leaves and no stem, but obtains nourishment from the Tetrastigma vine. It blooms only once every decade or so. Some flowers are extremely valuable, like the Shenzhen Nongke Orchid, which is supposedly worth \$200,000.

What difference does all of that make, and why ask what kind of flower you would like to be? Because the Bible repeatedly likens us, as human beings, to flowers. How are we like flowers?

Our life is described in Isaiah 40: "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field" (v. 6). You choose the flower, and all your loveliness (beauty, ESV) is like the flower of the field.

Our life is described in Psalm 103: "As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes" (v. 15). All flowers flourish from essentially the same three needs: light, water and food. Our lives flourish from the same.

While we might share beauty and flourishing in common with flowers, the real comparison is found in Job 14: "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away" (v. 1-2). "The grass withers" (Isa. 40:7-8), "its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes" (Jas. 1:11). It does not matter how rare a flower is—it will wither, fade and die! It does not matter how valuable a flower is—it will wither, fade and die! Thus, it does not matter who you are—how rare you are, how valuable you are, how beautiful you are—because you will wither, fade and die! "It is appointed for man to die once" (Heb. 9:27).

So, what hope do we have? We know that once a flower withers, fades and dies, that's it! Is there any hope for us after that? Fortunately for us, the Lord makes this contrast: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands (endures, 1 Pet. 1:25) forever" (Isa. 40:8). Peter, after quoting this verse, concludes: "And this word is the good news that was preached to you" (1 Pet. 1:25). God's enduring word, which shall never "pass away" (Matt. 24:35), was preached to us in the gospel (i.e., the good news), telling us of the love of Christ and how to prepare for that time when we wither, fade and die.

You are like a flower: beautiful and flourishing. But you shall also fade and die. Are you ready for that time?

## Mighty In Power

The Emperor, Charlemagne, known also as “Charles the Great,” ruled from of Western Europe from 768-814. He wanted to be remembered as the powerful ruler he was. Legend says that he requested to be entombed sitting on his throne. His crown on His head. His scepter in his hand. And his royal cape draped around his shoulders.

Power. Leaders lust for it. People are impressed by it. Others are dominated by it. Military might. Political position. Economic Status. Physical strength. All are symbols of power. And some people are obsessed with power. They will do anything to get it. Everything to hold on to it. And are in denial when they are unable to exercise it.

The power in Jesus’ day resided in Rome. Everyone knew it. Their empirical rule reached across the known world. The power was evident in their army. Their outposts of culture. Their massive building programs. Their roads. And, of course, their ruler. He was Pontifex Maximus. The Jews in Jesus day had little power. They were subjugated by Roman and their rulers. When the Sanhedrin Court found Jesus guilty of treason, they had no power to sentence Him. Or to execute Him.

So Jesus was brought to the Roman Governor, Pontus Pilate. John records that Jesus did not respond to the Governor’s interrogation. “Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?’” ([JOHN 19:10](#)).

Soon the force of the government’s power was brought to bear on Jesus of Nazareth. Pilate’s decree of death. The armored soldiers with spear and sword. Merciless beating. Mocking. Ridicule. And finally Jesus was nailed to the wooden cross He was forced to carry. Rome displayed its power on this “helpless” man. But that was Friday. What they didn’t know and couldn’t have imagined that Sunday was coming!

On Sunday he who was “helpless” arose from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit ([Rom 8:11](#)). Rome’s power was negated. Death’s power was overcome. The tomb’s power couldn’t hold him! And so Paul proclaimed that Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” And the blood shed on Friday became a powerful cleansing agent on Sunday to wash away in the sins of the world ([Heb 9:12](#)) Even those who crucified Him! ([Acts 2:36-42](#)).

Ironically, the massive Roman Empire fell. It’s kingdom is no longer. It’s influence limited to history. It’s power finished. Yet, the Kingdom established by the One they killed lives on. It continues to flourish. It’s influence stretches around the world. And it’s power? Demonstrated in the cross. Proclaimed through the Gospel. Evidenced in changed lives. And one day will be consummated in our own bodily resurrection. Our own powerful victory over the Ruler of darkness, death and sin.

Oh, and Charlemagne? Two hundred years after his death, The emperor Orthello sent a delegation to open the tomb and see if his burial instructions were carried out. Indeed they were, but the scene was ghastly and grisly. The crown? Tilted. The mantle? Moth eaten. The body? Disfigured.

So, you’re worried about what happens in Washington? Who’s President? Who’s elected to Congress? What happens on Wall Street? What the power brokers of the world do? Forget it! He has delivered us from the power of darkness. We’re strong in the power His might. And we are complete in Christ, who is the head of all principality and power. ([Col. 1:11,13; 2:10](#))