Week of 12/30/2024

Words of Encouragement

"In the New Testament, wisdom centers on a person's response to Jesus Christ and the message of what He has accomplished for unworthy sinners. Paul discusses wisdom and folly in relationship to the message of Christ. This message is that Christ died on the cross for sinners. The problem with this message is that it goes against the wisdom of the world. A crucified Messiah is a stumbling block to the Jews because they were looking for a conquering king. The problem for the gentiles is that this message was pure foolishness. Rome crucified criminals. Paul argues that the preaching of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Through the death of Christ on the cross, God was providing salvation for sinners who have no power to save themselves. What looks like pure folly is God's way of delivering people from the power of sin and death. What looks to be foolishness is wiser than people's wisdom. What looks to be the way of weakness is the way of strength, the way that God conquers all His enemies."

-Richard Belcher Jr.

Calendar

- Sunday: 9:45 AM Prayer Time for the Lost at the church
- Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship Service

Pray for the Unreached

Soninke People in France

Population: 41,000 | Primary religion: Islam | Percent Evangelical Christian: 0.0%

Pray that the Soninkes in Africa, France and beyond would be open to Christ's answers for their lives and respond with love and devotion to him. Pray that believers would not grow weary in reaching out to Soninke people in France through Bible portions and the God's Way videos in the Soninke language.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Michelle Mason as she goes to a doctor in Winston Salem this week to hopefully find some relief from the pain in her foot. Please pray for healing and comfort
- Meghan Larose Please pray for a friend of mine who may have to have several toes amputated due to a bone infection. This would put him in a wheelchair. Please pray that some other alternatives will work and this will be a last resort. Please pray for healing.
- Brenna Peterson Please pray for my friend Mary Katherine's baby who is showing signs of trisomy 18, which is severe developmental condition where most babies do not survive past birth or infancy. Please pray for her and her husband, Ricky, as they continue with the pregnancy. Praise the Lord though that even in the sadness, Mary Katherine has immense peace in her Lord and Savior.
- UPDATE: Please pray for Brad as he starts his new job at Blue Ridge Health this week.
 Please pray for divine appointments and opportunities for him to share the love of Christ, as he serves with those with mental health issues in our community.
- UPDATE: Breanna had a follow-up with the PA in the cardiologist's office and she believes that Breanna's POTS could be back. She said to tentatively treat it with lifestyle changes and to keep the electrophysiologist appointment in January. Thank you for your continued prayers.
- Please pray for Metta Bauman's father. He continues to be in Hospice care.
- Breanna Peterson Please pray for my friend's husband, Justin Wong, who was recently diagnosed with mesothelioma. Thankfully it is not in his lymph nodes. Please pray for him and his family, he is married with three young children.

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Scripture Reading

Consider reading 1 Chronicles 28 in preparation for this week's sermon.

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