



Christ • Communion • Community

CASCADIAN WEEKLY

July 30, 2021

Week 71

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Cascade Christian Church,

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God." Philippians 4:6,7

Recently a beloved former member of the church who had moved out of state over 30 years ago was back in church for a two-week visit. It is always good to catch up with our church family members, wherever God had led them, and no matter how long we have been apart. As we visited over these two Sundays this friend offered two insights that I think you'll find encouraging. First, she said how this church is "home". I have heard that time and again, that Cascade Christian is home, and no matter how long someone has been away, they know they'll be welcomed back with open arms and with a seat at the Lord's Table. I commend you and encourage you to continue to be a church that "Opens doors, hearts, and minds for Christ, Communion, and Community." During our founding in 1865, this was the intent of our forefathers and mothers, that this is a welcoming church. The basement in the chapel was dug 36 years after the chapel was built to provide a place for the community to meet, to have fun like apple bobbing, meetings, taffy pulls, and social opportunities for young people. We want this church to be your home, and we invite all to join us in person or online to worship, love, and serve our Lord and God.

Our former member was also deeply touched that we name people by name in prayer. That kind of surprised me, because this is just what we do - as a church family, we pray for each other. Prayer has been and will always be central to our worship services, and prayer is such a wonderful spiritual practice. Our prayer list is in this mailing, and if you have a prayer joy or concern, let us know at the church office. Prayer has been a big part of our week of Vacation Bible School, and we will be having an evening prayer service early this fall. Join us in prayer - we are disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, this is what we do, and this is who we are. Thank you for your prayers for the church as we seek a new office manager, and your prayers for Vacation Bible School (it has been a wonderful week).

As the Apostle Paul writes to the people of the city of Philippi, don't be anxious or worried, but instead pray. Talk to God, let God know your needs and your gratitude. Prayer changes things - and it always changes the person who is praying.

I'm praying for you, church, and may we all keep the faith - Jill

NOW HIRING: WE ARE SEEKING AN OFFICE MANAGER

Cascade Christian is hiring a new Office Manager. This job can be anywhere from 26-32 hours per week, and the responsibilities include: running the office and phones, welcoming visitors, church communications including the weekly mailings, bulletins, Constant Contact, the church website, and Facebook, managing the Prayer Updates, advertising church events, managing the church directory and membership lists.

If this is of interest, please contact Mark Langenbach, our Church Business Manager, and/or stop by the office for a complete job description and application.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday</u> (8/1).	Sunday School - 9:30 AM Crib Room - 9:30 AM Worship - 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM Mission Trip - Leave at 2:00 PM
<u>Monday</u> (8/2).	Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Tuesday</u> (8/3).	Men's Group - 6:30 AM (Coffee House) Brown Bag Lunch - 11:30 AM (Centennial Hall)
<u>Wednesday</u> (8/4).	Scouts - 7:00 PM (Centennial Hall) Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Thursday</u> (8/5).	Mission Trip Returns - 1:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Friday</u> (8/6).	Men's Group - 6:30 AM (Coffee House) Church Office Closed Funeral for Phyllis Hendricks - 10 AM (Chapel)
<u>Saturday</u> (8/7).	

Financial giving for
the week ending in
7/25/2021:
Budgeted: \$10,652
Given: \$5,859.73

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT

On August 8 Pastor Jill will be concluding the sermon series on Joseph. We will be having a special showing of our church production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" from the year 2002! We will show this in the sanctuary at 1:00PM - and invite everyone to this celebration.

If you know any of the people who were in the production, please invite them! The cast included: Elise Witt, Dan Hazlett, Aaron Lawrence, Gabby Grady, Felicia Hekman, Jami Schaefer, Kat Maile, Tim Reusch, Camille Page, Quentin Calmet, Allie Hartley, Katelyn Talsma, Tom Sahajdack, Alex Belding, Mike Scott, Ana Rodriguez, Chelsea Oberlin, Chloe Page, Jordan Murray, Doug Eck, Michael Dirksen, Emily Mowers, Jen Groot, Stephanie Jones, Abby Wills, Kelly Gormley, Kat Wirth and Audrey Belding, as well as our children's choir.

CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Every week at the **9:30 service** we have in-person Sunday School for children ages 4 and up. The children begin the morning in the sanctuary with their families and then are dismissed to go to class.

Students will be brought back down to church after the service. For elementary school, we are also offering a virtual Sunday School, which is mailed out with the Cascadian each week. If you would like your child added to this list, please call Adam or Michael in the church office.

CRIB ROOM REOPENED

Our crib room has reopened for infants and toddlers through age 3 at the 9:30 service. Parents must make a reservation for this kind of childcare. Call the church office by Wednesday to make your reservation.

VBS SUCCESS

We had a great week of vacation bible school! Thank you to all who made it possible!



SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

WE ARE RETURNING TO OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM. That means we need Sunday School teachers. Over the summer we are going to continue to do a combined class, but in the fall we will once again continue differentiated learning. Whether you have a kid in Sunday School or not, we need your help! Contact the church office for more details.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

MISSION TRIP 2022

We are going to have a meeting about Mission Trip 2022 on *SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH* in High School Room immediately following the Unity Service. Bring your questions, comments, and get excited for a lifechanging trip!

MICHIGAN'S ADVENTURE

The Middle School and High School Youth Groups will be going to Michigan's Adventure on Thursday, August 19th. We will meet in the Church parking lot at 10 AM and be back by 8 PM. Please contact Michael Dirksen if you wish to sign up and bring \$40 for your ticket and money for souvenirs and dinner. If money is an issue, please reach out to Michael Dirksen and we will make sure you can still go!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday Night Youth Group will be starting up once again on September 15th. Come ready to learn more about God, play some wacky games, and have a good time with all the people here in youth group!



VOLUNTEERING WITH YOUTH

As we begin to look at ministry here after COVID, distinct middle school and high school youth groups, and differentiated learning at Sunday School in the fall. In order to do all of that, we are in **need** of some parent volunteers to help us out. If this is an area where you may have an interest in helping, please send an email to Michael Dirksen at mdirksen@cascadechristian.com. No need to have kids in the program! All volunteers need to be screened before they are able to help.

ADULT MINISTRIES

FUNERAL FOR GUY CHANDER

The congregation is invited to the memorial service of Guy Chandler on Tuesday, August 10th at 11:00AM. The service will be in the chapel, and will be followed by lunch in Centennial Hall. Guy Chandler was a long time member at Cascade Christian before moving to Traverse City. Our sympathy to Guy's wife Katie, and to their children Greg and Jill and their families.

KEYS AT CASCADE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

You may have noticed we have a new way of locking and unlocking doors here at the church. Doors are now locked and unlocked with key fobs, as opposed to traditional keys that will no longer work in the door locks. To have access to buildings on the campus of the church, please call the church office and speak to our Business Manager, Mark Langenbach. Note that you must be present for the duration of the time the door(s) are unlocked as scheduled, making sure the doors are locked when you leave. The goal of this new way of locking and unlocking doors is to help keep everyone safe and the buildings secure. If you have any questions, please contact the church office during regular business hours. Thank you.

AUGUST BROWN BAG LUNCH

Make plans to join us for our 3rd Bag lunch! Please note it is on **Tuesday, August 3rd** at **11:30 AM**. Tamasha James will be joining us. She was principal at Pine Ridge for three years and has recently accepted a new position -Director of Educational Equity and Inclusion. She is just getting started and will share about her new position. Please make a reservation by signing up in the office. Hope to see you there!

COLLEGE BOX MINISTRY

For those of you who have participated in the College Mail ministry in the past, expect a letter from Marsha Steensma here shortly seeing if you would like to participate once again this year! For those of you who are new and would like to sponsor a child, grandchild, relative or friend who is in college, please contact the Church office or Marsha Steensma to get your name added to the list. This ministry will start up once again in September. Thanks for all your support!

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT CAMP CRYSTAL

Join the women of the Michigan Region in a three day retreat called "I Have Called You By Name" based on Isaiah 43:1. Keynote speakers are the Reverends Brenda Etheridge and Shirley Martinson. Opportunities for sightseeing, golf, or shopping will be part of the fun. Please contact Jill at the church office for more information or if you would like to go to this retreat.

MEN'S RETREAT AT CAMP CRYSTAL

Join the men of the Michigan Region for three days of camp with keynote speaker Alex Ruth on "Beyond Brotherhood: Developing Life-giving Relationships with Men." Opportunities for fishing, golf, and a camp work project are also part of the weekend. Call the church office for more information.

7.25.2021 SERMON: LIBERATED



As you look at these photos, all of these people have something in common. They all went through tough times, really tough times, and they made it through. Some of their stories are familiar, some unknown. One of these photos is of Milton Hershey who got fired from his apprenticeship when he dropped his hat into the printing press. He dreamed of making milk chocolate, persisted, and his sweet success is Hershey's chocolates. Milton wasn't the only one to get fired. Oprah Winfrey was let go from her first job in television and Terri Gross of Fresh Air on NPR was fired 6 weeks into her teaching career. Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper because they thought he lacked creativity.

Some of these people overcame financial ruin: Mark Twain and George Foreman survived bankruptcies. Harland Sanders was 65 years old, and his chicken recipe was rejected 1009 times before someone took a chance on Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Some overcame the judgment of others: Ulysses S. Grant overcame addiction and depression before becoming the 18th President of the United States. Sidney Portiere was told he had too strong of an accent to be an actor and that he should be a dishwasher instead, Thomas Edison's teachers thought he never amount to anything because his mind wandered in school, Charles Schultz couldn't get his cartoons published in his high school newspaper. Soichiro (Soy see do) Honda saw his factory destroyed several times, but he kept innovating, and many of them drive Hondas today. George Lucas couldn't get a studio to work with him on his first Star Wars movie because no one understood his vision. JK Rowling hit bottom as an impoverished single mother trying to write a novel that became the Harry Potter series. Eleanor of Aquitaine was the queen of France until her jealous husband annulled their marriage. She went on to become the Queen of England, and the mother of Richard the Lionhearted.

With the Olympics beginning, it is good to remember the story of Wilma Rudolph, a girl with a paralyzed leg, who was told she would not be able to walk. At age 9, she removed her metal leg brace and began to walk without it. At age 13, she decided to become a runner. She entered a race and came in last. Everyone told her to quit, but she kept on running. One day she actually won a race. Eventually, the little girl who was told she would never walk again went on to win three Olympic gold medals.

None of us would have blamed any of these people if they had given up. They faced such a challenging situation, the obstacles were huge, many people were against them, and few believed in them. Maybe there is one of them you can identify with - maybe you've been broke, divorced, anxious, fired, rejected, or lost a business. If you have, then this Bible story is for you. We are in the book of Genesis - looking at the lives of the sons of Jacob during a famine. You'll recall Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, his father Jacob was told Joseph, his favorite son, had been killed by a wild animal. Twenty years passed, and Joseph went through all kinds of rejection. He had been passed over, forgotten, and lied about. He'd been thrown in a pit, sold as a slave, and thrown in prison for a crime he did not commit. No one would have blamed Joseph if he had given up and grown bitter.

But Joseph didn't - and that is why his story is as relevant today as it was 3600 years ago. He got through his troubles and inspires us to do the same. Max Lucado wrote a wonderful little book about Joseph called *You'll Get Through This*, and Max includes this affirmation of hope and confidence in our Lord and God. I invite you to read this aloud with me. **With God's help, I'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime, I won't be foolish or naïve. But I won't despair either. With God's help, I will get through this.**

Joseph got through. We left him last week as Zaphenath-Paneah - the Prime Minister of Egypt. He had come a long way from slavery, the pit, and prison. God had given Joseph the insight that a famine was coming, and Joseph had the opportunity to influence the Pharaoh of Egypt to prepare. Pharaoh appointed him Prime Minister, and Joseph went from having nothing to having wealth and power. He got married, had two sons, and chose to forget his troublesome family back in Canaan. Then ten of his brothers came to Egypt to buy food, Joseph knew them immediately, but they didn't recognize their brother in this mighty Egyptian.

7.25.2021 SERMON: LIBERATED

Joseph tested them to see where their hearts were, put them in prison, sent most of them home, told them to bring back their youngest brother, Benjamin, and when they did, he tested them again – and sent them home a second time with his silver cup in Benjamin's grain sack. Joseph wept over this situation, and didn't seem to know what to do, his pain, the memories of the past hurts and humiliation, the time away from his father – grieved him, it was heavy. The past, which he tried to forget – was now kneeling before him, begging for food and mercy. The hearts of his brothers were heavy too, they carried with them a 20 year old lie – they'd told Dad that Joseph had been killed when what they'd done was sell him. They have heavy hearts for the hurt that their families suffer in the famine.

Everyone was at their lowest. Last week we left the brothers kneeling before Joseph, they are accused of being thieves and spies, they still didn't know who he was, and they wondered about their fate. They vowed they'd be the Prime Minister's slaves if the silver cup was in their possession, and the one who took it should be executed. Joseph said no – just Benjamin, who had the cup, would be his slave. Judah then begged the Prime Minister to spare his little brother. Their Dad already knew the sorrow of losing a son, it would kill their father if this son did not come home. So Judah begged to take Benjamin's place, and let Benjamin go free. This is man who threw Joseph in the pit and profited off the sale of a brother, this is man who slept with his daughter in law and was ready to burn her alive for becoming pregnant, this is man who had been Joseph's nemesis. Judah was humbled, changed, and he was ready to lay down his life to spare another. The room was full of hurt, pain, fear, grief, and the eleven sons of Jacob wondered what would happen next. Things were not looking good for their liberation now. Judah's plea hangs in the air. That is where we pick up Genesis today – with one of the most surprising reveals of all history:

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

This one of the sweetest moments in all of the Bible. Joseph saw Judah's changed heart, Joseph saw the fear, worry, supplication, and helplessness in the eyes of his brothers. This anger and hurt that Joseph carried for so long melted. His heart was free – he was liberated to forgive, free to break open with mercy, free to reconcile with his family. He wept again – for the third time. The first time he wept with the pain of seeing his 10 brothers, he wept again in the hurt of seeing Benjamin after 20 years apart. Now he cries so loudly that he asked his attendants to leave him, but his sobs, his anguish was heard though out the palace. Imagine being the 11 brothers, the Prince of Egypt is crying in front of them! What could this mean? What had they done? And then they heard the words, choked out between sobs – I am Joseph. What did that do to the brother's hearts – it would be heart stopping, earth shattering. It was so unexpected – how is it that the boy they last saw being dragged off, pleading for mercy as they counted the coins that they got for selling him, is now, here, before them, in power, in honor, in majesty. This is Joseph? They were terrified – and they had good reason to be. How would the vengeance come – prison, maybe execution? What about their families, their father? Their hearts must have been racing, their palms cold, their breathing almost stopping, their minds can't take it in. This man is Joseph.

I would guess they waited to hear anger and vengeance, but what they heard was "Is my father still living?" Joseph didn't go over the hurts and horrors of what they had done to him – he asked about their father, his father. Rather than vengeance, Joseph chose to lay down his hurt and anger. The man who had been knocked down by life so often, the man who rose above hurt, lies, and misfortune, rose again – and gave his brothers what they need most – not food, he gave them mercy. In doing this, Joseph liberated himself. When we show mercy and forgive someone whom we could hurt, when we share compassion with someone we could punish, we give ourselves freedom – we liberate ourselves. Listen to this gift of mercy:

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.

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10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks, and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

12 "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. 13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Instead of wrath and retribution, the brothers receive hospitality and grace. Instead of punishment, they are drawn in close and embraced. Instead of being cast out, they are invited in, and are to include their father and families. And when mercy and grace are shared, there is a spillover effect. The Egyptians rejoiced as well:

16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. 17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, 18 and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.'

19 "You are also directed to tell them, 'Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. 20 Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.'"

These brothers who came as beggars find that the Prince of Egypt is their brother. These emaciated men, stained with travel and weariness, broken by the poverty that a global disaster can bring – receive the best, the very best of the land. They will return home in style and then bring their father and families back with them. Imagine in a modern-day setting what this would be like – they arrive in a beat-up old church van, bald tires, exhaust system full of holes, leaking oil – barely getting to Egypt, and hoping to go back with a few bags of groceries. They go home in 11 pick-up trucks towing trailers of food, livestock. Their ragged clothes are replaced with new jeans, leather jackets, cowboy hats. And there is even more for Benjamin:

21 So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. 22 To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin, he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes. 23 And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. 24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving, he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!"

The brothers are now liberated – free from the guilt and shame they have carried for 20 years. Free of fear for the future. Free from worry in the present. They have been shown mercy, they have been forgiven, they have been given grace they did not deserve from one they hurt the most. And they have the repeated reassurances from Joseph that there is no ill will, no distress, no anger. So how can Joseph do this – how can he forgive them and be so gracious to them? He told them, and the scriptures remind us, it is not of his doing. Listen to Genesis 45:7-9 again:

7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.

If you are keeping count, Joseph does what he always does, and this time four times over he references and credits God. God sent me here, God sent me ahead of you, this is not your doing, but God's. This is part of God's plan for our forever family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – this is the plan for the 12 tribes of Israel – God did this, God is doing this – this is the will of God. Joseph teaches us that when we've got a lot to go through – look to God.

When we are in our pit or prison, look to God. When we are in the palace and want to forget the past, look to God. When the person who hurt you looks you in the eye, look to God. God, God, God, God- whatever the circumstance, whatever the issue or problem, Joseph looks to God, follows God, does what God says, follows God's plans. And in doing this he saves the family of Abraham, he doesn't let the line that will lead to the birth of Jesus be broken, he keeps everything centered on God – and that is why he doesn't break, doesn't seek vengeance, doesn't hold on to grudges, hurts, or the past.

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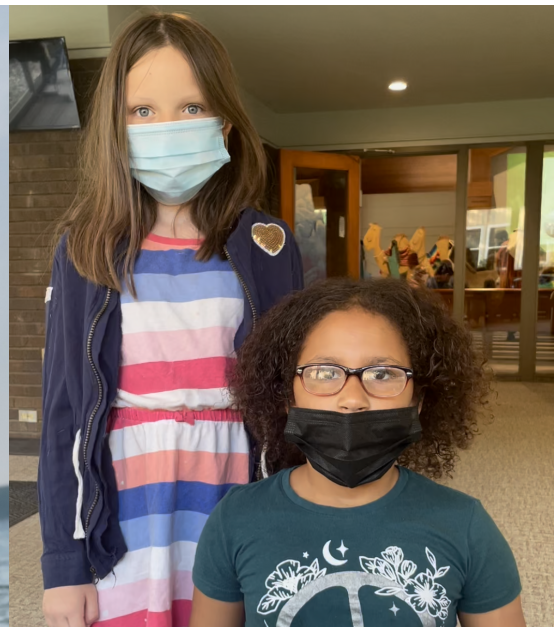
He simply follows God, and by him doing so, God saves Joseph's world, the family of Abraham will continue to grow to be as numerous as the stars, and that includes you and me and everyone here. And Joseph, by looking to God, liberated himself and his family from the past, from all of the hurts.

And here is one more grace note from Joseph, "brothers, don't quarrel along the way." Joseph knows his family well, even after years apart - these brothers who will become the 12 tribes of Israel fight among themselves. Joseph frees them in this statement - meaning don't delay in your return. He did not want his brothers to waste time accusing each other, blaming each other, ganging up on Judah, or accusing Reuben. The past is over. Rehashing it is pointless. Be free now, hurry home with all of the new finery, and bring back Jacob to Joseph. Let the family reunion free Jacob's heart from grief and pain.

In any story in the Bible you need to find yourself, how does this apply to you, who in the story is most like you? Are you a Jacob, a Judah, a Benjamin, a Simeon, a Reuben? Do you at times rise to your best self and are a Joseph to another? When we choose to be a Joseph and share the grace and forgiveness that has been shared with us, we are also liberated. So often we are imprisoned by our lies, guilt, shame, secrets, burdens, anxieties, worries, anger, and sadness. That is not God's will for us. Christ came to set us free. Galatians 5:1 says - **Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free.** Free from the unbearable heavy laws of the Old Testament, free of the lies the evil one whispers in our ear, free of the judgment of another, free of low self-esteem, free of all of those things that are not of God. The grace and mercy Joseph shows his family is but a small reflection of the grace and mercy God shows you.

I hope this week you can simply look to God when you feel like you can't get through this - whatever your "this" might be. God is your strength, your grace, your help, your guide when life knocks you down, and God will help you up. And one other thing, should this be the week to reconcile and forgive someone - it is best if you can do this in person - like Joseph did, waiting for the right time to do the right thing. And make a move out of his playbook, and just talk. He wept with his brothers, he hugged and kissed them, but he also just talked with them. Start the conversation, and let the Holy Spirit guide you in where it leads. Sometimes we can't meet a person face to face, due to the depth of our hurt, or maybe because of death or distance, but you can consider forgiving the person in your heart, and you will know, and God will know, that you have done this and you will be liberated from the weight of that pain. God showers you with mercy - and God knows that mercy and forgiveness will set you free.

So maybe you could relate to Oprah, Disney, Hershey, or Wilma Rudolph - something in your life has knocked you down, and it burdens you still. How do you get back up and re-enter the race of life? You get back up by looking to God like Joseph did. You lift your hands, head, heart to God, and accept his mercy and forgiveness, and find you're free. It is a wonderful thing to be liberated, to be freed from the burden of the past, free to live and be who God made you be. Joseph was set free, his brothers were set free. Let God's mercy and grace do the same for you. Friends, God invites you to be liberated in Christ, let's let God set us free. Amen and amen.



OUR PRAYER LIST FOR THIS WEEK INCLUDES:

Sympathy

- Our sympathy to the family of **Dorothy Koessel**. Dorothy has been a beloved member of the church for many years. Dorothy passed away on Tuesday, July 27. Arrangements are pending, and we ask for prayers for Dorothy's sons, Jim and Doug, and all of their family.

Prayer Concerns:

- Prayers for **Sharon Sleeman** as she has just had recent outpatient surgery
- And prayers for the state of unrest in Haiti and for our missionary friend Nora Leon.
- Please keep the western United States in prayer in this fire season, and we pray with Europe as the flooding there has claimed so many lives.
- Continued prayer for **Vicki Gaviglio** as she recovers from brain surgery and prepares for further treatment. Prayers as well for her parents Fred and Bea VanderPloeg, Vicki's husband Jim, and their daughters Jamie and Dana and their families.
- Continued prayers for **Reid Klein** as he works to regain health and strength after his construction accident last year.
- Prayers for our own **Child Development Center** as they work to hire staff members in this challenging time.
- **Joanne Crawford** is back at Mission Point of Forest Hills and would love to hear from you: #48 1095 Medical Park Dr., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546.
- **Barb Coger** is doing well and appreciates your visits. She is at Porter Hills, 3600 Fulton St., Harmony House, Room 251, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.
- **Joyce Kingsland** has been ill with dehydration, and fluid in her lungs. If you would like to send her a card it can be sent to 1225 Spaulding Ave SE, Grand Rapids 49546.
- **Dr. Brian Lane**, a Spectrum doctor, and friend of Scott Robertson, has terminal cancer. Please pray for Dr. Lane and his family for peace and comfort.
- **Marvin Potter**, Doris Burgess's dad – please pray for healing of his various health issues.
- **Those battling cancer: Chuck Bacle, John Goodrich, Bill Richardson, Linsey and Leslie (friends of Marsha and John Steensma), and Mike Forton.**
- **Virgil Westdale and Lila Venneman** and all others who are in health care facilities.
- Please keep **Bev Ferwerda** in your prayers as she is in hospice care at home.

Prayer Joys

- Prayers of thanks for a great week of family camp and for Jill and Chris Hinsch as they led this camp at Crystal.
- And a prayer of thanksgiving that we had VBS again – and a huge thank you to Adam Carlson and all of the volunteers working with him to make this special experience for our children possible.
- And a prayer of joy with the Ostrowski family as Ryan and Shelley's daughter Megan was married on July 24 to River Bilinsky. Congratulations to this wonderful couple!
- Congratulations to Fred and Bea VanderPloeg who just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Bea and Fred reaffirmed their faith in Jesus Christ on Sunday, July 25..

Current military and National Guard members in your prayers: Rachel Carlson, Andy Sullivan, Connor Schwinkendorf, Jason Tiedemann, and Steven M. King.

If you are in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please email office@cascadechristian.com, or call our church office at 949-1360.