

The Connection



Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
November 2021– Volume 51

A Word from Pastor Dave

“Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.”

“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.”

“Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.”

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God...”

“Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the LORD.”

(Leviticus 19:30-34, 37 NIV)

Leviticus 19 is literally a handful of random commandments relating to the simple acts of living out one’s life with the intent to please the Lord in what one does and doesn’t do. It is easy to see the repetition of the phrase, “I am the Lord”. All these commands are based on the facts that God is Holy, we are created in God’s image and therefore we are to be Holy. This holiness is defined by the perfectly consistent nature of who God is and what God does. Our challenge of course is that our

November Dates:

- 1st Women’s Social Gathering 7 pm
- 3rd Prayer at Church 10:30 pm
- 7th Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 10th Prayer at Church 10:30 pm
- 14th Coffee Talk Service & Communion 9 & 11 am
- 15th Women’s Social Gathering 7 pm
- 17th Prayer at Church 10:30 pm
- 21st Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 24th Prayer at Church 10:30 pm
- 27th Christmas Parade at Point Pelee 6-8 pm
- 28th Coffee Talk Service 9 & 11 am
- 29th Women’s Social Gathering 7 pm

character is, at best, a work in progress; and frankly our actions prove it.

But when it comes to those who are our elders God is not messing around. If all these laws are established by God, in relation to who He is and how He has created us then verse 32 is twice as much! “Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.” Isn’t that interesting?

You’re in a crowded waiting room. Someone older than you come in, but all the seats are taken. Because you revere God as quick as possible you offer your seat. Your sitting in a meeting room and an older person comes into the room. There are plenty of seats, but you stand out of respect, greet the older person appropriately and don’t sit down again until after they have taken their seat. Oh sorry, I guess I am describing how around the world Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus treat their elders. We on the other hand have become casual about these kinds of customs. Unfortunately, when we notice the connection between how we treat our elders and how we revere God it begs the question if maybe we have become casual about God too.

To be honest I am not a very big fan of customs that just create the impression that we care when in truth we are “too busy” to actually care but what if we dared to back this train up a little? What if we let some of these customs (AKA commandments) become reminders again of God’s priorities in our lives? What if we not only honoured our elders but even visited them or took the time to listen to them? I think I know what would happen actually. We’d be incredibly blessed by a group of caring, kind, generous and wise people who have time to listen, visit, encourage, and pray for us. We’d be surprised to find out that when we spend time with the widows and widowers, we notice the presence of God is a little more tangible in our own lives. We’d discover that life at a much more human speed can be better and richer than the hustle and bustle we have become accustomed to. You know, just stuff like that.

The glory of the young is their strength; the gray hair of experience is the splendor of the elder.

Proverbs 20:29



Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.

- Psalm 71:18 -



Honoring our Elders

How has a senior positively impacted your life? In what other ways can we honor our elders?

Senior citizens have a lifetime of experience. They comprise a generation that has survived The Great Depression, World War II, and The Great Recession. These people have a thing or two to teach us about enduring change and handling life's adversity.

Even if a senior's hearing or memory isn't what it was in the past, our elders have great wisdom to impart. It's one thing to read about World War II, but it's more engrossing to hear about it from someone with first-hand knowledge. Younger generations must learn the importance of respecting their elders and make time to listen and spend quality time with them.

Many seniors get lonely, whether they're retired and no longer have their work social schedule, or they've lost their spouse and some friends. Regardless, they still need a rich social circle for happiness as many can get isolated over time, which can lead to health decline. It's important to take time to visit elderly loved ones to not only spend precious time with them and learn from them; but also give them purpose, as relationships are key to healthy aging. When in the presence of an elder, make sure to listen as the senior's words come from a place with many decades of experience. The conversation can be beneficial to both of you.

Being polite to an elder is a demonstration of respect. Older people grew up during a time when manners and respect were part of everyday life. If they are talking, listen to them. Don't interrupt them or address them by their first name, unless given

permission. Being respectful may not only brighten their day, but also yours, as you may learn a thing or two (or just feel good about brightening someone's day!).

Sadly, ageism exists, even though elders are some of the wisest people in society. It's a shame to think that an elder, with a lifetime of experience, would be overlooked for their advice. Seniors have a lot to contribute to society through their life experiences, so seeking counsel from an elder is time well spent. You will both appreciate the sentiment.

Eating together is one of the greatest social customs for mankind. While nourishing your bodies, you also get to catch up and have fun. Whether you venture to a favorite restaurant, pack a picnic, or visit your senior loved one's home, try to eat together on a regular basis.

Even if you demonstrate that you respect your elders through your actions, it's important to actually tell them how much you appreciate and respect them. Compliments and giving people purpose, especially older people, is a very positive message. If there is a senior who has positively impacted you, make sure to share this with them; it will probably bring a smile to their face.

Whenever possible, seniors should help younger generations in need. This is evidenced by passages such as Psalm 71:18, which says "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."

Volunteer Highlight

This month the theme for our newsletter is honouring our elders, based on the Bible verse found in Leviticus 19:32. I found it interesting that this week I received an article by Carey Nieuwhof in my Inbox, entitled “Shut Down The Bus Tours: What Older Church Members Should Really Be Doing”. In the article it states: *“The default in many churches is simple: provide programming for over-50 adults that caters to their needs: potluck lunches, Bible studies and social gatherings for their demographic, and, of course, bus trips.”* The article points out that the next generation wants and needs the older generation and there can be significant wisdom that’s lost if years get spent only in business, at the lake house, eating potluck lunches, and taking trips (Just to note: the article was written by a gentleman in this older age group that feels that the church needs this generation). It was an interesting article that I agree with but when I thought about our volunteers here at South Point, I just could not relate. At South Point, we are so very blessed to have so many people in their retirement age that choose to give their time and serve at our church and in the community. When I think of the volunteers in our older generation, this group who shares their time, wisdom, encouragement, resources...spend their time here serving as Prayer Warriors, Sunday School Teachers, in the Nursery, Local Missionary’s, on the Worship Team, as Greeters, Small Group Leaders and so on. We are so thankful for their contribution and for their example of how to use our lives as an offering of service to God and His people.

Prayer Corner

Good morning, Lord.

I have woken up tired and discouraged.

Forgive me for allowing negative thoughts to crowd out thoughts of you.

I do want to continue to fight the good fight and my desire to win the prize at the end of the race remains solid, deep in my soul.

Thank you for the beauty of the sun rising from behind the clouds. You are faithful!

That sparrow that just landed on my windowsill. I truly am lovable ... loved by you!

The butterfly I saw yesterday in the garden, a promise, that one day the cocoon of who I am will be transformed by you into a new and glorious body!

You have not forgotten me.

You remember that each beat of my heart is for you.

It’s you in me that reminds me that I can still be used by you!

So, here I am Lord, bending down before you on the calloused knees of my heart.

Sharpen again what could become dull, to remember the needs of others.

And Lord, as my vision blurs from time to time, help me to stay focused on what is unseen, instead of what is seen.

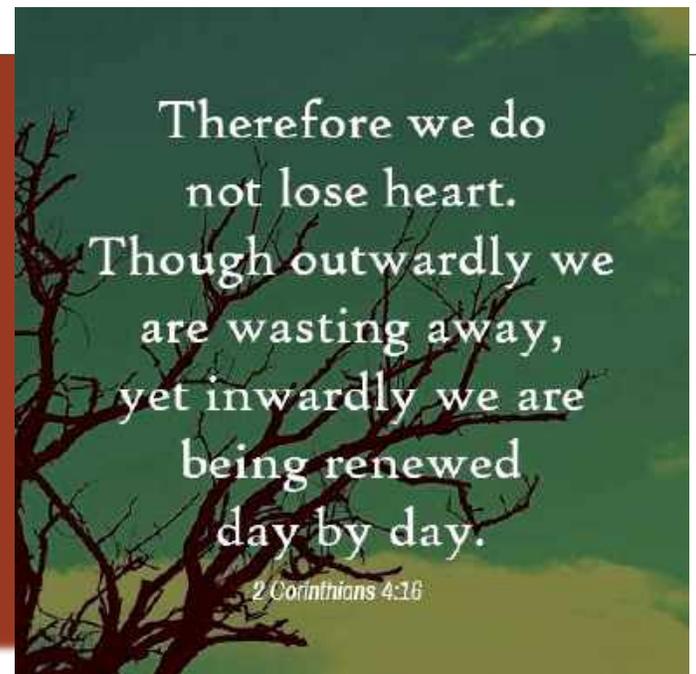
What we all see in the mirror is temporary.

And to that I say Hallelujah!

But what you have planned for those that belong to you is eternal. Again, Hallelujah!

No more pain. No more tears. No more sorrow.

And all of us together, young, and old, say Amen!





Slow Cooker Butternut Squash Soup

INGREDIENTS

1 large butternut squash, peeled and cut into cubes (approx. 7–8 cups or 1200 g once cubed)
1 white onion, diced (approx. 2 cups)
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup chopped carrot
1/2 tsp black pepper
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp chili flakes, optional
4–5 cups vegetable stock (or just enough to barely cover the squash)
1/2 cup coconut milk or cashew cream, optional
salt and pepper, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Add all the ingredients (except for the coconut milk, if using) to a slow cooker and cook on high for 3-4 hours or low for 4-5 hours until the squash is soft and tender.

Once it's cooked, either blend directly in the slow cooker using an immersion blender or carefully transfer to a blender and mix until smooth and creamy. Blend in the coconut milk now, if using. Season with salt and pepper if needed and serve.

Yield: 6 Servings



November

5th Bob
9th Cheylynne
13th Laura B
13th Paul
18th Ben T.
19th Georgia
19th Luella
24th Maria W
24th Wendy



Could you share a time when someone older than 65, influenced your life in a positive way?



Trevor:

Very often I think about my grandma. I'm reminded of her through her children and grandchildren. I'm reminded of her through the dividend cheques that I receive throughout the year. She left a real legacy. What an influence. I'd like to be as influential. I'd like to leave that kind of legacy.

Lois:

I think of many of my loved ones my parents, grandparents that lived thru many great hardships and grew greater in their faith and the wall hanging that said Trust in the Lord always was lived in all circumstances and because of their struggles, their faith still showed thru. I think that my great grandma would be at the top of the list. She was such a joy and lover of life. I was 12 and she was 98. She loved to sing whenever I stopped in to visit her. She helped put some sunshine and joy in my life when things were not going so well for my parents financially and I had a hard time finding the "Trust in the Lord always" thing. Grandma always had the right song to sing.

Jessica:

When I was a young mom and had three kids under 3, I would go to the early years center every day in Kingsville. The teacher there was Ms. Joan, she was so encouraging and kind, she made a huge difference for me in my day-to-day life. She was so steady and patient and was easy to be around. She helped me learn how to enjoy motherhood.



Tom:

Alden Clark would always remind me about life that's ahead by saying: "Don't Get Old".



Tracy:

As a new Christian there was a lady who was in her 80's named Anna who had an impact on me. She was there to answer my many questions and always reinforce the truth of the Bible. Now, I am so blessed to be surrounded by many women at our church who speak into my life with their wisdom, to pray for me and inspire me with their strength (Ruby).