Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community
November 2026 ~ Volume 103



The Connection

A Word from Pastor Dave

What does it really mean to live "the good life"? Is it found in comfort, success, and life's little luxuries—or is there something far more meaningful? This month, Pastor Dave invites us to discover how following Jesus can turn life into an unforgettable adventure.

> ***"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."***
> *~ Romans 12:11-12 (NIV)*

Flip to Page 2 to discover how surrendering to God's guidance leads us into the adventure of a lifetime.

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 7th ~ Harvest Party & Campfire 4-7:30 pm

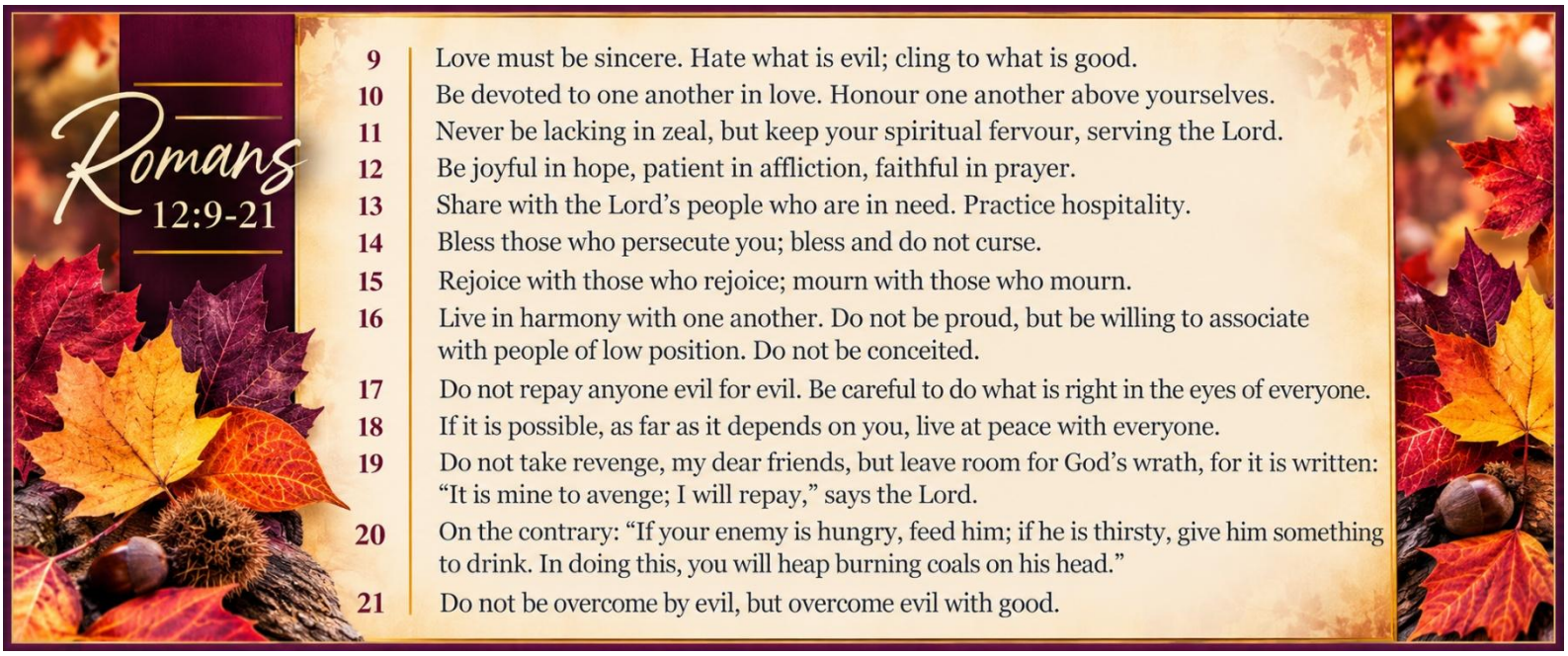
Nov 17th ~ The Landing **BEGINS!**

Nov 28th ~ Christmas Parade 6 pm

Dec 5 ~ Christmas Banquet & Kids Christmas Play

This Month at a Glance

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The Adventure of the "Good Life"

"Now *this* is the good life!" We hear the phrase used everywhere. We hear it in movies, advertisements, even in casual conversations. Usually, it refers to a life of luxury: relaxing at a cozy cabin, dining at fancy restaurants, or jetting off to Europe. But is that truly what makes a life "good"? Or does the genuine, good life stem from something deeper? Is it a life defined by integrity, contentment, and divinely infused righteousness? It has often been said that authentic, biblical Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; rather, it has been found difficult and left untried. At first glance, it is easy to see why. Read through Paul's instructions in Romans 12: love sincerely, honour others above yourself, bless your persecutors, and feed your enemies. It feels overwhelming!

Yet in contrast to Paul's daunting list, Jesus offers a gentle invitation: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28–30, NIV) So, how do we reconcile these two ideas? On one hand, Paul presents a long list of intense, challenging commands to incorporate into our daily walk. On the other, Jesus tells us to rest, take His yoke, and let Him guide us. How do they fit together?

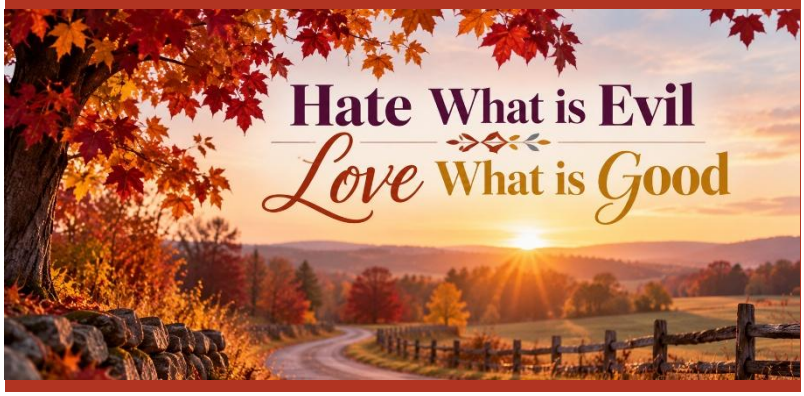
To answer that, consider an experience I had years ago white-water rafting. Intellectually, we all know the power of moving water because we see evidence of it in giant canyons carved deep into the earth over generations. But when you get into a heavier set of rapids, with your ankles theoretically hooked into a silly little rubberized bubble of air, that water is more powerful than you ever in your wildest dreams could have begun to imagine.

Here is the good news: the raft doesn't actually need your help to travel downstream. With or without you, the river's current will carry that boat to the finish line in no time. Yet, if you've ever seen rafters on TV or tried it yourself, you know that everyone is paddling like crazy. Why? The river guide tells the crew when and how to paddle for one primary reason: to keep everyone in the boat. An overturned raft will still float down the river just fine, but it makes for a much colder, much more dangerous experience for the passengers!

So why do people go white-water rafting in the first place? Because it is an unforgettable adventure. Living out the Christian faith operates much the same way. The Apostle Paul understood that stepping into God's will is where true, meaningful life is found. Surrendering to the teachings of Romans 12 isn't about earning your way downstream; it is how life becomes a thrilling, worthwhile journey.

This meshes perfectly with Jesus' invitation. Jump into the boat, He says: "I'll be your raft guide. You can trust Me and enjoy the ride. There will be moments when I'll ask you to paddle hard, particularly to prepare for the heavy rapids I know are just around the bend. But ultimately, just lean in. This is going to be great."

Barnabas Notes



The scripture passage, Romans 12:9-21, was sent to all of us who contribute to the newsletter of our church with the following question attached.

Reflecting on Chapter 12:9-21, what are some times in your life when you have had to put these things into practice? Did it make your life more difficult or meaningful?

As I read through each verse I thought of the many times in my life when it was necessary for me to respond and "put these things into practice". As a matter of fact, most of these things are not just in the past, but are in the present, and I'm certain they will continue into the future.

People have commented about the good old days. You know, the time when life was slower, more simple, people were polite and courteous. My good old days go back only around seventy years. I'm living in the present time where everyone is in a hurry, passes you on the shoulder of the road and honks angrily. (Happened to me this summer while I was driving my tractor).

Around 57 AD Paul wrote the Book of Romans near the end of his third missionary journey, during his stay in Corinth. And as I read each verse in the above scripture, I can't help thinking that all of the actions mentioned and reactions listed point to there being similar problems to those there are now. Paul's instructions give us a clear direction of how we are to conduct ourselves.

I'm so, so grateful for The Word of God. It has become an inspiration to me. It gives me direction; it gives me peace. And as I read passages like this, I'm reminded of how God loves the sinner (you and me), but hates the sin. The sin that keeps us apart from Him. But God has sent His Son Jesus so we can confess our wrongdoings (sins) and ask for His forgiveness.

At times these things have made my life more difficult. However, it's through these times that I've also learned how meaningful difficult times can be. I think we all learn from our trials and troubles. "Though sorrow may last through the night, Joy comes in the morning." Psalm 30:5.

Barnabas

November Dates

1st Worship Service 10:30 am
3rd Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
4th Prayer at Rosewood Erie Glen 10:30 am
5th Catalyst Meeting 7 pm
5th Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm
7th Harvest Party & Campfire 4 pm

8th Worship Service 10:30 am
9th Women's Gather & Grow 10 am
10th Celebrate Recovery 7 pm
11th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
12th Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm
12th CR Leaders Meeting 7 pm

15th Worship Service 10:30 am
17th Celebrate Recovery & The Landing 7 pm
18th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
18th Young at Heart 12:15 pm
18th Pastoral Team Meeting 7 pm
19th Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm
21st Men's Breakfast 8:30 am

22nd Worship Service 10:30 am
- Pledge Cards Due

24th Celebrate Recovery/The Landing Monthly Meal 6 pm
25th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
26th Men's Genesis Bible Study 2:30 pm
27th My Father's House Prayer Service 9 pm
28th Christmas Parade 6:00 pm

29th Worship & Communion Service 10:30 am

Dec. 5th Christmas Banquet & Kids Christmas Play

Pumpkin Spice Cookies

www.craftyteacherlady.com



Ingredients:

- 1 box spice cake mix
- 1 can pumpkin
- 1 bag chocolate chips



Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Mix the dry cake mix & pumpkin together
- Stir in the bag of chocolate chips
- Drop the dough onto a sheet pan
- Bake for 8-10 minutes





In September of 1966, NBC started showing a sci-fi TV show. Weekly, hour-long episodes, supremely cheesy and filmed on a shoestring budget. It wasn't super popular and only lasted three years during its initial TV run. Then syndication came. Two seasons of animated episodes. Then a movie. And another, and another. Sixty years later, that goofy little show has grown into so much more than anyone ever expected.

I grew up watching Star Trek because it gave me hope for the future. It took place in a universe where humans had figured out how to work together for the greater good. Did that co-operation perfectly fix all their problems? Nope, but there was definitely a firmer foundation upon which to stand.

In Romans 12:9–21 the Apostle Paul spells out a concise and cohesive example of how to live with and in a Christian community. Each verse offers a snippet of advice on how to be a good person, and I couldn't help but laugh as I read through the book and fell down the rabbit hole of 'which Star Trek episode best demonstrates this?' When I hit the bottom of that rabbit hole, I realized I'd gotten all the way through that section of text and not once did it occur to me to think about times in the Bible where Jesus' example tied to Paul's commentary.

If you ever feel like you've got six or seven hours to sit down and get lost in the Bible, looking for direct comparisons between Jesus' actions and the above-mentioned chunk of Romans is an extremely humbling experience. You find yourself flipping back and forth through the gospels, seeing and trying to grasp at the true power of Jesus and His love for us. He perfectly models and demonstrates Paul's points and it uncovers a very uncomfortable truth: no matter how perfect you believe yourself to be, you're just not perfect. And that's OK. You don't have to be perfect to be a beloved child of God.

This part of the Bible is supremely challenging because it says a lot of things that seem counterintuitive to us as humans. What do you mean we're supposed to feed our enemy? Be patient in affliction?! Don't take revenge? Honor others above myself? For someone like me, whose first typical response to negative situations is usually anger, verse 18 is especially difficult. "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

As the days get shorter and the cold creeps in, I would encourage everyone to take a few extra moments to slow down and focus on your time with God. Grab a cup of tea (Earl Grey, hot), curl up on the couch and read the parts of the Bible that you find challenging. It can be genuinely difficult to absorb information that rubs against our humanity, but working together in co-operation with God will absolutely open your eyes and help you see the world in a different and exciting light.

Random Thoughts from The Road



Sounds easy, straightforward even, doesn't it? We all know the scriptures, know what they mean. We know what God expects from us even! However, we have a problem, at least I do. My flesh gets in the way! God's word gets drowned out by the worldview I still carry! I inadvertently move it to the back burner—well, not always so inadvertently if I'm being honest here! I truly hate what is evil—well, actually, sometimes, and if it is found in others. If it is found in me, then not so much! Having a strong analytical mind, I can rationalize why it isn't so much an evil or sinful nature in me as much as it might be in someone else. Does justifying it make me right? Of course not! What it does, however, is twist scripture to accommodate me, and yes, the evil and sin within me. I am reminded of the times I have hurt my spiritual walk by wishing evil on others to deflect it from myself. I am reminded of the story of Jonah. Why, you may ask? My point is this. Jonah was sent by God to have the people of Nineveh repent and turn from their evil ways. Fearing for his life, Jonah runs away. God finds him and brings him back (no spoilers, read it yourselves). Jonah preaches a 5-word message and goes up on a hill to wait for the destruction he proclaimed! The people of Nineveh repent, however, and change their ways. This upsets Jonah greatly! Instead of rejoicing over the saving of the people of Nineveh, he complains to God that this is why he didn't want to come in the first place. Well, that's just dumb! No one would act like that towards anyone, and especially towards God. From personal experience, I can tell you that they can and have. I have done this myself. There have been times when I haven't done God's bidding towards someone because I have let my prejudice and resentment cloud what would otherwise be an example of God's grace and mercy! My judgement of a situation has made me deem someone unworthy of God's favour! Now I know what I am called to do with the gospel! I know the scriptures! I know what God wants to have me do to please Him! So why can't I always do it? Ah, we return to the sinful nature! That's the crux of the whole thing. Truth be told, I'm selfish! I want others' salvation and repentance on my terms, not God's! However, you know what? God knows this about me! About us all! There is a reason we are told to die to our sinful nature on a daily basis! I am reminded of a statement I heard once. Holding bitterness and resentment for someone else gives them the ability to live in your head rent-free! The other part of this chapter tells us to "love one another," "to honour one another." What do you think would happen if we were so busy caring for each other and their needs that we didn't have time for bitterness and resentment towards anyone? Wow, we could focus on the true art of the gospel. Being the "Hands and feet of Jesus." Instead of wishing ill of someone, we lift them up, or better yet, we pray for them! How often do we see a homeless person on a street corner and pass on by? We might offer up a little prayer or wish he gets help. We tend not to dwell on it! Oftentimes, however, I find myself passing by, trying not to notice. Why? If I don't notice, then I don't interact or dwell on the fact that I am one wrong decision from being there with him. That is not what Jesus called me to do or be in this chapter, though, is it? In the Matthew West song "My Own Little World," he describes seeing a homeless person on his drive, but he is so absorbed in his own daily struggle that he doesn't dwell on it. Then one day, he stops, rolls down the window, and not only notices but interacts with the person. At that point, he says the population of his world is population 2. He overlooked the external. He noticed the person beneath the dirt and grime. We tend to do that as a society, don't we? We are taught to dehumanize people, so we don't have to get involved! Again, is that what God wants? Over the years of my life, I am learning that this life of mine isn't just mine! It is God's, and He is just to use it as He sees fit! It is a simple choice. We can build up, or we can tear down! Which do you think God wants you to do? In my old house was a wooden plaque that read "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). It's easy to have a sign of the words! Now is the time for me to stop "playing the part" and step up as a Christian. We don't get to pick and choose which parts of Jesus we are going to be! We are all to be "all in," so to speak! It's time for the rubber to hit the road, as they say! And that starts with me most times, even if I don't want it to! Sometimes I need to be reminded of that! Through the struggles, the business failings, the family squabbles, the messy lives, the losses, etc. ~ Amen.







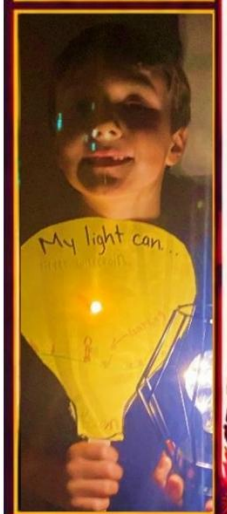




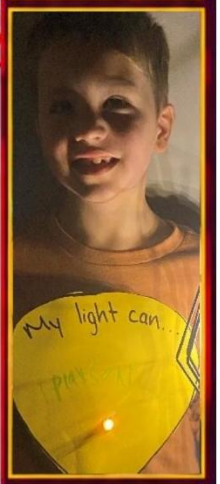


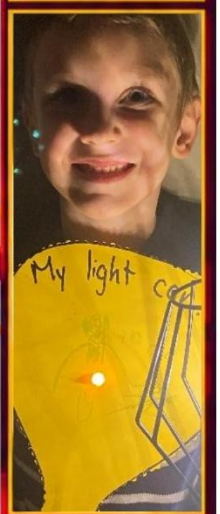












The Kids Wing

This month, we would like to highlight the "Kids Wing." This ministry is so important because it is an investment into our children. Every lesson taught, every prayer prayed, every child who feels loved is an opportunity to plant seeds of faith that can grow for a lifetime. It is a great place to serve, and we are so thankful for all of our volunteers and for our ministry leaders Joni and Anna.

The Kids Wing is separated into two age groups. The first group,

Journey with Jesus is for children in JK to Grade 3.

Daring Disciples is for children in Grades 4 to 8.

We Need Your Help:

We are looking for adult teachers and older student volunteers who love Jesus and are enthusiastic to share their love of God and His Word with their students.



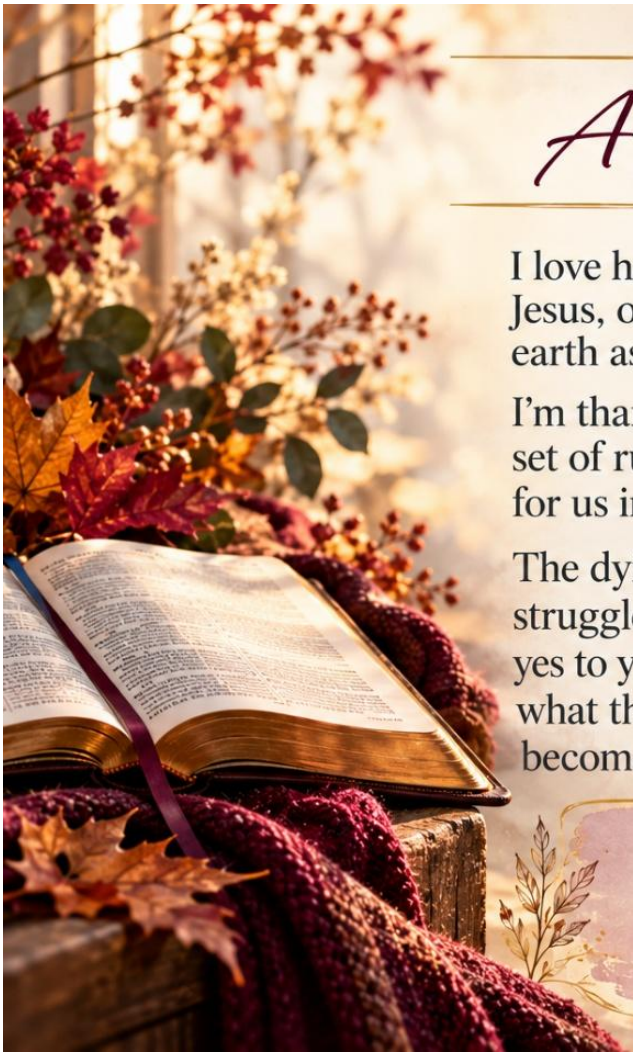
- **Time commitment:** Teachers serve in 3-week blocks throughout the year, teaching three consecutive Sunday mornings.
- **The younger class** enjoys a special lesson or craft with Miss Hollie on the 4th week, and the older class stays in the service and partakes in Communion.
- **Volunteers** can sign up for the weeks that work best for them (kids are dismissed after worship is done).
- **Volunteers** need to have a police clearance and participate in the Plan to Protect training.
- They must also be willing to help with special events (Harvest Party, Teddy Bear Picnic, crafts, etc.).

If you are interested in volunteering in either the Nursery or in the Kids Wing, or you want to learn more or just sit in a class and see what it is all about, please let Joni (joniwall7@gmail.com) or Anna (anna@southpointcc.ca) know.

Mark Your Calendars:

Harvest Party
Saturday, November 7th
4 – 7:30 pm

Kids Christmas Play
Saturday, December 5th
during our Christmas Banquet.
It is very important, if you would like your child to be a part of the Christmas play, that they try and attend regularly for the month of November.



Prayer Corner

A Living Portrait of Jesus

A PRAYER BY WENDY

I love how you had Paul paint in detail a portrait of you, Jesus, of how you lived out your life as you walked this earth as a man.

I'm thankful that you don't demand that we follow some set of rules to show our gratitude for what you've done for us in Christ but only ask that we live as you did.

The dying to self and surrendering to you can be such a struggle at times. The wrestling with saying no to me and yes to you—though it's a battle, it's there that you uncover what the meaning of life is. What seems to be impossible becomes a possible adventure.

May our walking as you walked paint a living portrait of you, Jesus.

As you are lifted up in our living and in our dying, may you continue to draw all men to yourself.



Birthdays

DATE	NAME	DATE	NAME
Nov 1	George	Nov 19	Georgeia
Nov 2	Brianna	Nov 19	Luella
Nov 4	Will	Nov 24	Maria W.
Nov 13	Laura B.	Nov 24	Wendy
Nov 13	Paul	Nov 25	Shawn
Nov 16	Neta	Nov 28	Joel
Nov 18	Ben T.	Nov 29	Milan