

Who Is My Neighbor? (Luke 10:29)

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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A certain white man named Greg had a bad view towards African Americans. He had grown up in a community with lots of racial tension and his interactions with black people were often met with hatred and name-calling. Eventually, Greg moved away from that town and found himself living next to a black man named Nathan. When Greg moved into his house, Nathan made efforts to get to know him. He introduced himself, invited him over for coffee, offered to help with chores, and so forth. Greg found himself perplexed by such kindness and hospitality from his newly acquired neighbor. All he had ever known was hate and violence and division when it came to relationships between black and white people. Greg learned a valuable lesson that first month in his new place. He learned that his perspective was wrong and he thus denounced his racism. The actions of his neighbor Nathan showed him that kindness could come from anyone, no matter their ethnic background. The actions of Nathan helped Greg realize how unkind he had been in the past towards African Americans and how he had not been a good neighbor to them in any sense of the word. This realization was a springboard for Greg, as he and Nathan grew in their friendship and eventually became best friends.

Have you ever looked down upon someone in your community due to one reason or another? Have you ever scoffed at families who are in the welfare system? Have you ever thought yourself better than those who believe differently than you in their religion or politics?

Jesus came to break apart any preconceived biases and prejudices we might have when it comes to the value of another human. In Luke 10, a Jewish lawyer asked Jesus an important question. He asked, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). Jesus proceeded to answer his question by presenting the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-36). A Jewish man was robbed, beaten, and left half-dead. When his own people wouldn't reach out to him in hospitality, an unlikely hero stepped in to offer kindness. A Samari-

tan – someone the Jews looked down upon – went above and beyond to make sure this beaten Jew would live. Jesus ended the parable by asking a question that probably caused that Jewish lawyer to blush and tremble. He asked the lawyer, "Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" (Luke 10:36). The obvious answer is the Samaritan, yet the lawyer wouldn't even utter his ethnicity. He simply said, "The one who showed him mercy" (Luke 10:37). Jesus, in urging this man and the crowd to see the value in their neighbors to the north, said, "You go, and do likewise" (Luke 10:37).

We want to love God with all of our being (Matthew 10:37-38), but do we genuinely want to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39)? Do we ask ourselves that same question of, "Who is your neighbor?" and then act out of love towards them? By way of reminder, here are some of the people who are considered your neighbors: that person who thinks Christianity is a ridiculous fairytale; that alt-right woman who believes that everything is a conspiracy theory; that Muslim who believes that Jesus was just a mere prophet; that homosexual couple you see holding hands at the mall; that owner of that car that still has an Obama sticker on it; that house nearby that has MAGA signs all over their lawn; that illegal immigrant who works in your town; that terrorist who wants to kill you for your faith; that family next door who sees you nearly every day.

Our "neighbors" are not up for debate. Everyone from every stripe and color and belief is our neighbor and Jesus says that we need to reach out to them. We need to love them because God loves them (John 3:16). We need to value them as souls, as they were made after the same image of the same God that you want to please (Genesis 1:26-27). May we be more diligent to be like Greg and Nathan, once Greg realized his sins. May we be more diligent to be like the good Samaritan. May we go and do likewise to our neighbors.

Luke Yates

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Fred Bukowich, John Burlingame, Joyce Clarkson, Angela Collett, Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tim Dawkins, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Chester Lyons, Bob Murray, Rita Murray, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Gary Nielsen, Pat Riskey, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Velda Wood.

Jacob Surridge came forward on Wednesday night asking for prayers.



every ONE counts! Thanks to everyone for giving an extra dollar on Sundays to help someone in need.

Devo & Donuts is every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the Activities Center.



You can help! Bring chunky soups and canned beans to restock our pantry to help people in need.



ONE WORD

Remember to read your *One Word* devotionals this week, and fill up on the Bible's teaching about peace.

Church Library: There are books set up on the table in the library free for the taking. Be sure to stop by and see what you like.

The first section of **updated picture directory pages** is available at the back of the auditorium. A few



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: *The ABCs and LMNOPs of Prayer*
(Danny Boggs)

PM: *Lads to Leaders Present*

empty binders are available to new members who do not have a binder.



Green Valley Bible Camp: Our week is June 10-16, only 82 days from now! Start making plans and inviting friends. Register at greenvalleybiblecamp.com.

Come Sunday evening and see how the students in **Lads to Leaders** have progressed. The girls and the younger boys will share their Bible readings and speeches and lead songs at 4:30, and our Christian young men will lead our evening service.



Neosho Christian School:

- NCS is participating in the city-wide yard sale, April 6-7. Please bring your yard sale donations to the school.
- Chili Feed/Pie Auction, April 12, 5:30--7:00, at the NCS cafeteria. All proceeds will go towards Spring Celebration for the high school students.
- Neosho Christian School Benefit Banquet is April 21, at the Neosho Civic Auditorium. There will be a silent auction, dinner provided by Butcher's Block, and entertainment. Please RSVP to 451-1941.



Our gospel meeting on the move is less than a month away, April 16-19. Fliers in the foyer give details. Make plans to attend at Carthage, Seneca and Joplin, and invite someone to be here that Wednesday. The church bus will run to the out of town services.

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, March 25

- AM Opening: Pete Babb
- AM Closing: Wayne Douthitt
- PM Opening: Alec Fehring
- PM Closing: Tim Murray

Wednesday, March 28

- Opening: Sam Collinsworth
- Closing: Bryan Reiboldt

RECORDS	03-18-18	03-19-17
Bible Study	118	141
AM Worship	187	195
PM Worship	135	122
Wednesday	123	131
Contribution	\$8,645.49	\$9,743.85
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67