



The Countryside Messenger

Splendoria Countryside

Methodist Church

Sharing God's Love in Our World

October 2021

Pastor's Message

By Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot

Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14:22-33 (NASB)

22 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. 23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. 24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

*28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.*

33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

We've all heard the story of Jesus, walking on the water across the tumultuous sea, out to the boat, which carried the disciples away from the shore, a long distance from the relative safety of dry land. When we discuss this story, we tend to talk about Peter stepping out of the boat. We tend to discuss his faith, which enables him to get out of the boat and walk to Jesus across the waves, and we talk about his doubt, which caused him to fear and to sink, and we talk about Jesus being there with an outstretched hand to save him and pull him back up and help him back into the safety of the boat. But today, I want to take a step back and look at the larger picture surrounding this miraculous event.

If you remember the story, this particular chapter in the Book of Matthew starts out with Herod ordering the beheading of John the Baptist as a gift to the daughter of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod's niece danced for Herod and he was so pleased that he promised her anything, and she asked for John's head on a platter. *(continued on page two)*
(continued from page one)

When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew to a boat to a secluded place by Himself, but the people heard about the events that had taken place and they followed along the shore, and their number grew until there were 5,000 men plus women and children. So Jesus came ashore and felt compassion for them and healed many of the sick. That evening the disciples said that they should send the crowd away to let them get food, but Jesus said, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" 17 They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." 18 And He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19 Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, 20 and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. (Matthew 14:16-20)

So this is the context of our story of Jesus walking on the water, there is horrific tragedy and loss, followed by amazing, miraculous, healing and provision, and then a short time later the disciples are back in the midst of chaos, being buffeted and tossed about by the wind and the waves. And isn't that a lot like life? Isn't that what we experience? As believers, we aren't exempt from tragedy, and life's storms don't pass us by. We don't have a hall pass from life's bumps and bruises. We move from joy to sorrow and back to joy again; sometimes experiencing all of it in the span of a single day. It's enough to make a person disoriented with doubt and fear; enough to make a person throw up their hands; throw in the towel; enough to make a person look up to the heavens and say, "What the heck, Lord?" It's enough to make a person lose their balance...

Balance. Balance is a remarkable thing. Physically, it has to do with a person's equilibrium; their sense of up and down; their sense of orientation and direction;

their sense of the distribution of their own weight; their sense of proper proportion and their ability to maintain themselves in an upright, steady position.

Spiritual balance is very similar. Our spiritual balance has to do with our understanding of what is right and wrong; our understanding of orientation and direction with respect to the cross and to God's will for our lives; our understanding that proper distribution of the weight of our burdens onto the capable shoulders of God makes for a much easier time remaining upright, steady and stable, with our heads above water, no matter how high the waves get. Spiritual balance... provided by the Holy Spirit of God as an indwelling, internal gyroscope for our lives, keeping us oriented to righteousness and to faith in Christ.

The lesson of Matthew Chapter 14 is bigger than the tragedy of John the Baptist's beheading; bigger than the miracle of the loaves and the fishes, bigger than the faith of Peter or even the glorious rescue provided to Peter by the saving hand of Jesus in the middle of that tumultuous sea. The lesson of Matthew 14 is the lesson that throughout all of our lives, we need balance, not of our own making, but of God's making. We need to lean, not on our own understanding, but on God's omniscience (His all-knowingness), and on His power. In so doing, we find our footing, even when the way is slippery, rough and scary.

By His Grace
Steven†





Calendar of Events

- 3rd- Laity Sunday & Worship 9AM*
 - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
 - 6th- Bible Study 6PM**
 - 10th- Holy Communion & Worship 9AM*
 - Communion Rail Gifts go to World Communion
 - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
 - Board of Stewards Meeting 12:15PM
 - 13th- Bible Study 6PM**
 - 16th- Food Pantry Day 9AM
 - 17th- Worship 9AM*
 - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
 - 20th- Bible Study 6PM**
 - 24th- Worship 9AM*
 - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
 - 27th- Bible Study 6PM**
 - 30th- *Fall Festival 5:30PM*
 - 31st- Laity Sunday 9AM*
 - Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- *In person & Online
**In person & Zoom

Holy Communion

Since Pastor Steven will be out of town on October 3rd, we will not have Holy Communion until October 10th. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 30th between City Hall and the Police Station. It will be a “drive-thru” and we need volunteers to help with giving out candy and the Evangelism Station. Please support the Fall Festival with your prayers and participation. See Cindy Reed to help. A sign up list will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Watch our Sunday Worship Live stream on Face Book/Splendor CountrySide Church



October Celebrations

- 8 Susan Schaefer
- 9 Isabella Reed
- ♥10 Bob Hantelman & Kris Duke
- ♥10 Pete & Diane Moonjian
- 12 Sharon Morris
- ♥12 Jacob & Ashley Vasquez
- 13 Diane Moonjian
- ♥16 Gary & Merle Fritz
- ♥18 Fred & Jill Farrell
- 19 Theresa Gray
- 19 Hunter Grupa
- 20 Charlie Ipes
- 30 Estelle Holmes

Serving the Board of Stewards

At the October Board of Stewards meeting on October 10, the members of that board will be named for 2022 year. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Stewards, please let Pastor Steven or Cindy Reed know. The Board of Stewards approves the church budget, its leadership, its ministries, and some of our policies. It is another way to serve our church. You need not be a member of the Board of Stewards to attend such meetings, as all of our congregation is welcome and invited to attend. Each meeting is held the 2nd Sunday of the month with the exception of August and December. There is no meeting scheduled for those two months.

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.”
--Matthew 5:16



“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?”

--Psalm 8: 3-4

Prayer List

Tammy Adams Family – Loss of Mother-in-law
Robin Barroso – Healing & Peace
Baby Noah – Continued growth & development
Safe Travel for Pastor Steven & Family - Vacation Days
Sean Keith – Cancer/Last radiation treatment Monday
Shirley Madruga – Eye & nose healed so tubes will be removed
Mary Giles – Stage 4 Cancer
Kathy Frost – Stage 4 Cancer – very rare with no cure
Chantel Swift - Cancer
Jeremiah Johnson – Injury to “other foot” – Keep him safe
Debbie Truitt – Still in hospital with COVID – Truitt Family
Dewey Family – COVID
Norm & Lovada Linquist- COVID
Sherry Stallings – Neighbor has COVID – Sherry is “playing it safe”
Patti Lyons – Continued Healing
Jim Reed – Continued Healing
Dean Hartless
Tony Hartless
Todd & Rachel Smith – Guidance
Nancy Goodrum
Billie & Jesse Goodrum
Billy Gibson
Charles & Mawana Jones – Healing
Frankie Jones – Brooke & Evan Jones
Sue Jolley – Healing
Debbie Szymanski & Family

Sibyl Allenson
Barbara Truitt
Sancho’s family & friends-grief
Linda Dunaway
Safe travels for Bobby & Kris
Safe travels for Craig & Christie
Gary @ Turbo Valves
Joey Masterson
Dorian Brewer
Lori Snowden
Claudia Murphy
Martha McGee-stroke
Kelly Gaudreau-cancer
Baby Lindley-born too early
Steve Flick-job hunting
Allyson Welch
Robert Reed
Rebecca Reed
Spencer Reed
Unspoken
Karl & Sheila
Don & Brenda
Our Country
Our Military
Our Leaders



Link your Kroger Card to our church KrogerCommunityRewards.com or call 800-576-4377. The ID for our church is **68162**. Thank you.



TMF-see our Website
For details
www.splendoracountrysidechurch.org