

CELTICCROSS
CHURCH

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The Comment

January 2024

Use the Gifts God Has Given You

By Pastor Bob Yule

The parable of the talents teaches us that the Master gives us different amounts; we don't get to choose our talents! Here is how one servant responded in Matthew 15:24-25 CEV:

"The servant who had been given 1,000 coins then came in and said, 'Sir, I know that you are hard to work for. You harvest what you don't plant and gather crops where you haven't scattered seed. I was frightened and went out and hid your money in the ground. Here is every single coin!'"

Our responsibility is to build our lives with the gifts and talents we have been given. The one thing we cannot do is nothing. Do not let fear defeat you, take a step. A recent devotional by Pastor Rick Warren provided this insight of reminders that begin with the letter 'C': We all have (1) Chemistry, (2) Connections, (3) Circumstances, (4) Consciousness and (5), Choices." The last factor, our choices, enables us to overcome the challenges of the first four factors.

We cannot change the way we are wired, the family we were born into, the situation we find ourselves in. **"Do not compare your situation with someone else."** We are all in different places in life. We were not given the same number of talents, gifts and abilities. We can make choices, which is the only factor within our control.

Let me suggest these choices to guide our life each day:

1. I can choose to get healthy (*Take a walk*).
2. I can choose to risk connecting (*Volunteer to help someone*).
3. I can choose to trust God (*Daily read God's Word*).
4. I can choose what I think about (*Talk to God-pray*).

Join us each week as we explore the themes of the new series called "You Asked for It."

January

- 7 Pt. 1, "Go With What You Have"
- 14 Pt. 2, "Eliminate the Extra Stress"
- 21 Pt. 3, "The Temptation to Please Everyone"
- 28 Pt. 4, "Hearing Above the Noise"

- **One Combined Service at 10 am**

- Annual Congregation Meeting immediately following the combined service at 10 am

- Reception immediately following in Runquist Hall

Winter Sanctuary - January 7th-13th, 2024

We are blessed to have God's house to share with the homeless in our area. We are one of eight churches providing shelter for 20-25 homeless guests in our city aged 18 or older. We will provide a hot dinner, a safe place to sleep, and a to-go breakfast.

There are many opportunities for volunteers this month, so please check the sign-up sheets outside the church office or contact Kay Quick Grenda or Sue Hurd to help staff Winter Sanctuary. This is a great chance to ask a family member, friend, or coworker to join you in supporting our community and reaching out to help others in need!



Stewardship

By Mike McKibbin

Happy New Year, 2024! At the dawn of this bright new year, we consider our giving to the Lord through our church. Giving is not only a duty, but also a privilege and a blessing. When we give, we honor God, who gave us everything we have. We also support His work in this world, through this church and beyond. And we also experience the joy of generosity, which is more rewarding than any earthly treasure.

The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). He does not want us to give out of guilt, fear, or obligation. He wants us to give out of gratitude, faith, and love. He wants us to give as He gave: sacrificially, willingly, and joyfully. Will you join me in giving this way in this new year? Thank you for supporting the ministry of Celtic Cross!

Treasurer's Report—November 2023

YTD Income:	\$397,702
YTD Expenses:	<u>\$437,392</u>
Variance:	\$ -39,690

Mission Focus

By Joy Lineback

Steve and Dawn Liberti are missionaries who serve through Proclaim! International, a community of missionaries called to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ with creativity, humility, and boldness. The Liberti's current focus is on the Balkans and South Central Europe where they partner with churches to train, equip and mobilize God's people through evangelism and music. We support their ministry through our Mission funds. To learn more about their ministry, check out www.proclaiminternational.com.



The Liberti's: Steve, Dawn, Sofia, Bianca & Dylan

Book Talk

Please join Book Talk on Tuesday, January 9th in the church library at 7:00 pm for an in-person meeting. Due to the first Tuesday being so close to the holidays, we will meet on the second Tuesday this January. Instead of discussing a featured book this month, we will bring book ideas and decide on our book list for the year. If attending, contact Margaret Winslow at 916-722-2672 or mfwins2@surewest.net.



Presbyterian Women, Genesis Bible Study

This month's meeting is Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00 am in the library. Lesson 4: Mary and Martha will be led by Carol Cross with Ginger Summers as hostess. The Scripture is Luke 10:38-42. The mission project is the collection of food for the local food closet.



Prayer Ministry

By Kay Quick Grenda

Excerpts from “Prayer, Peace, and the Presence of God” by Dave Butts

"Peace on earth, good will to men," said the angels to the shepherds 2,000 years ago when they announced Christ's birth.

The Bible promises us the peace of Christ as believers, yet we still often struggle with anxiety and fear—a complete lack of peace.

Here are a few Bible verses you may want to use as a way of boosting your faith and relying on God for peace:

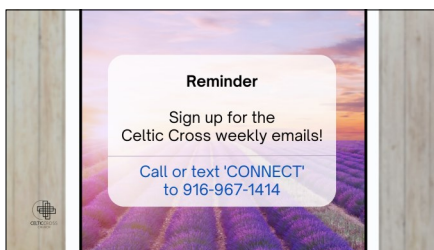
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

"Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength." (Daniel 10:19)

The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)



YOUTH & KIDS MINISTRY

By Jim Staniels, Director of Family Ministries

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Here we are, a new year! Exciting huh? Well, I am sure that not everyone is as excited about the new year as our kids and students are. For them, a new year is full of hope and potential. They are excited about time with friends, getting older and having more freedom. They think that this next year has the possibility of being their best year yet!

When they get older, they can become more cynical and jaded. They may trust less and have more walls for their emotional protection. It's for these reasons that we need to give them the message of hope and the understanding that God is with them in the great moments, but also when dreams and promises seem to fall down around them.

Our kids and student ministry teams look forward to this new year because in small groups and connecting with the next generation, we model how God will be there for them NO MATTER WHAT! How cool to be able to give kids something to hold onto and someone who will walk with them through this next year!

January 7th: ccKids

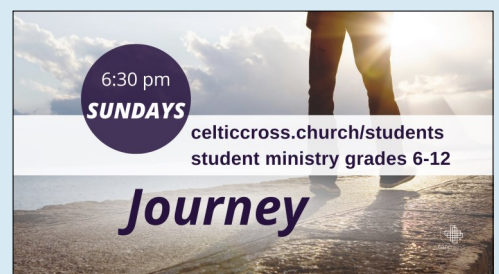
January 14th: ccKids, parent meeting, Journey

January 17th: Summer Camp registration opens online

January 20th: SNOW DAY!

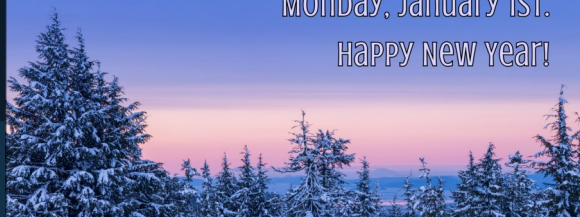
January 21st: ccKids

January 28th: Combined service at 10:00 am, ccKids, Journey





THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
Monday, January 1st.
Happy New Year!



*One Service at 10:00 am
Sunday, January 28th*



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28
After the 10:00 am service

Check out: www.celticcross.church

GET YOUR COMMENT IN COLOR!

Email the church office at
officemgr@celticpc.org
to receive your Comment
in color via email!

**THE FEBRARY COMMENT DEADLINE IS
MONDAY, JANUARY 15 AT 4:00 PM**