

Celebrate the Future

Our church celebrated its 50th anniversary this weekend, with a special concert, picnic, fellowship and, most important of all, in worship. We have accomplished much in the first half century of ministry, leading many people in their Christian walk, and providing the foundation for what is to come. We're not done yet!

God is all about celebrating. *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (John 15:11).* Celebration helps people to acknowledge what has been accomplished and prepare us for the *next* challenge.

At church, we celebrate communion, baptism, marriage and confirmation. We celebrate Jesus' birth and victory over sin and death. We celebrate His love for us through worship and inspirational music. We give thanks to God daily through prayer, giving God the glory as we invite Him into our lives. *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).*

At a time of sorrow we miss loved ones who have passed on, but we celebrate their accomplishments and our hope for their heavenly home.

At home we celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and Mother's Day. We also celebrate accomplishments of family members, such as graduation, or a baby's first steps. Whatever brings you wholesome joy is worthy of thanks. *Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Psalms 47:1).*



Indeed, we have much to be thankful for. Include God in your celebration, because it is His blessings we celebrate. *For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).*

God especially celebrates when people who have strayed now have come to faith. He loves the transformation of overcoming evil to seek His rightful path. *Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance (Luke 15:7).*

So, celebrate your blessings – at home, work, at church and in the community. Let your celebration be Christ-filled as you encourage others in the faith. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Question: How can you celebrate God's blessings in your life and utilize that celebration to prepare for the next challenge?

Prayer: Dear Lord. There is much to celebrate. We thank you for the many blessings in our life. We hope we can show thanks in the way we serve you by serving others. Amen.

