

Luke 12, Warnings and Encouragements

12 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be[a] on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 3 What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

4 “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. 7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

8 “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. 9 But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. 10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14 Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” 15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

16 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down

my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

21 “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Do Not Worry

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life[b]? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

27 “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchfulness

35 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for



him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. 39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

42 The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Not Peace but Division

49 “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53

They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Interpreting the Times

54 He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. 55 And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. 56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?

57 “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

The Summer Solstice

Coming up this Sunday we have the summer solstice and the official first day of summer. The Sun will be placed about the Tropic of Cancer on our Earth on this day at 3:25am. If you live there the Sun will appear straight up at noon. We'll see the Sun 73.5 degrees high (not straight up) at noon and we have our longest day at 15 hours and one minute. “Solstice” means “Sun still.” Ancient skywatchers, possibly using the shadow of a stick, would notice the noon Sun’s altitude doesn’t change much day by day during this time of the year. Why not find a stick or



Hello Everyone!
I hope everyone is having a great Summer so far. The kids are out of school, the pools are open, the grass is growing!
Our Vacation Bible School at Countryside UMC will be June 23, 24, and 25 from 9:00 A. to 11:30 A. each day. It promises to be a lot of fun! Bring your kids!

Last week, I got new glasses. Finally! The last time I was at the eye doctor was 2018, so I think I was due! My eyes had gotten weaker over the years, so I was wearing reading glasses over my regular glasses. It looked kind of silly, but it helped me see. When I got my new glasses last week, everything looked clear and sharp and in focus! I didn't need to wear two pair of glasses any more. Amazing when that happens! LOL

I remember the first time I realized I was having trouble seeing. I was in 8th Grade, and all the chalkboards at school looked fuzzy. I had to squint to see anything. When I put on my first pair of glasses, everything was sharp and in focus, and my grades improved. Imagine that!

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus Heals a blind man, but He Did it in stages. “Jesus Took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man’s eyes, He Laid His Hands on him and asked, ‘Can you see anything now?’ The man looked around. ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘I see people, but I can’t see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around.’ Then Jesus Placed His Hands on the man’s eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly.” (Mark 8:22-25) What

a Blessing to have your eyes Healed by the Lord Jesus! This man was no longer stumbling around in the dark, but his eyes were opened by God Himself! He saw everything clear and in focus, and didn't need a new pair of glasses.

Even though the disciples could see with their eyes, they were spiritually blind to what Jesus Was Doing. He was bringing people from the darkness to the light in a spiritual sense, so they could understand that Jesus was the Savior of the world. The disciples eyes were finally opened after Jesus’ Resurrection.

Some people accepted Jesus right away and experienced the peace that passes all understanding. They were forgiven and set free. The woman caught in adultery was set to be stoned to death, but Jesus Forgave her, the religious leaders dropped their rocks and left her alone. Jesus simply Told her, “Go and sin no more.” The rich man came to Jesus and asked what he must do to inherit eternal life, and Jesus Told him to sell everything he had and to follow him. The rich man turned away from Jesus and refused to follow him. His possessions were more important than following the Master.

I pray that we all have 20/20 spiritual vision, and follow Jesus down the road to discipleship. We will clearly see that we have made the right decision.

God Bless all of you!
Pastor Jeff Stahl
Countryside and Ogden
United Methodist Churches

In the night sky

By David Leake



pole or the like in your yard and take a photo of it with your phone, then repeat the photo in December. You may be surprised at the difference in shadow length. We won't experience sunset this week-end until about 8:26pm. Also

check out where the Sun sets. We're taught the Sun sets in the west, but it's really more northwest this time of the year. The days will start to get shorter in about a week, but don't let that affect your summer plans!

OSF Peace Meal Menu

Here is the Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum Peace Meal menu for Thursday, June 18 through Wednesday, June 24.

Thursday, 6/18/26 – BLT wrap, baby carrots, grapes, strawberry crisp, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 6/19/26 – Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, fruit cup, wheat bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Saturday, 6/20/26 – BBQ chicken pasta with corn and black beans, cantaloupe, yogurt, and a half pint of milk.

Sunday, 6/21/26 – OSF Peace Meal is closed.

Monday, 6/22/26 – Pigs in a blanket (crescent roll), pickled beets, hominy, fruit cup, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 6/23/26 – Brats with hot dog bun, baby bakers, brussels sprouts, apple cobbler, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 6/24/26 – OSF Peace Meal is closed.

OSF Peace Meal provides seniors, age 60 and older, with a nutritious lunch Monday through Saturday and are closed on Sunday and Wednesday. There is a suggested donation of \$4.00 for each meal, however, no senior will be denied a meal because of an inability to financially contribute. The Illinois Link Card is an accepted form of payment. For more information, please go to <https://www.osfhealthcare.org/osf-peace-meal/> or call 1-309-665-5900.

The Homer Peace Meal congregate site is at the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street. It is currently carry-out only. For reservations, please call 1-309-665-5900. Home delivery in southern Champaign County is currently available in Sidney, Homer, Philo, Tolono, Sadorus, and Pesotum.

Menu substitutions may occur due to global supply chain shortages, but a nutritious meal is still guaranteed.

The OSF Peace Meal menu is submitted for the OSF Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.

Southern Champaign County
TODAY

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