



Coffeeville First Baptist Church
By **Craig Baker, Pastor**

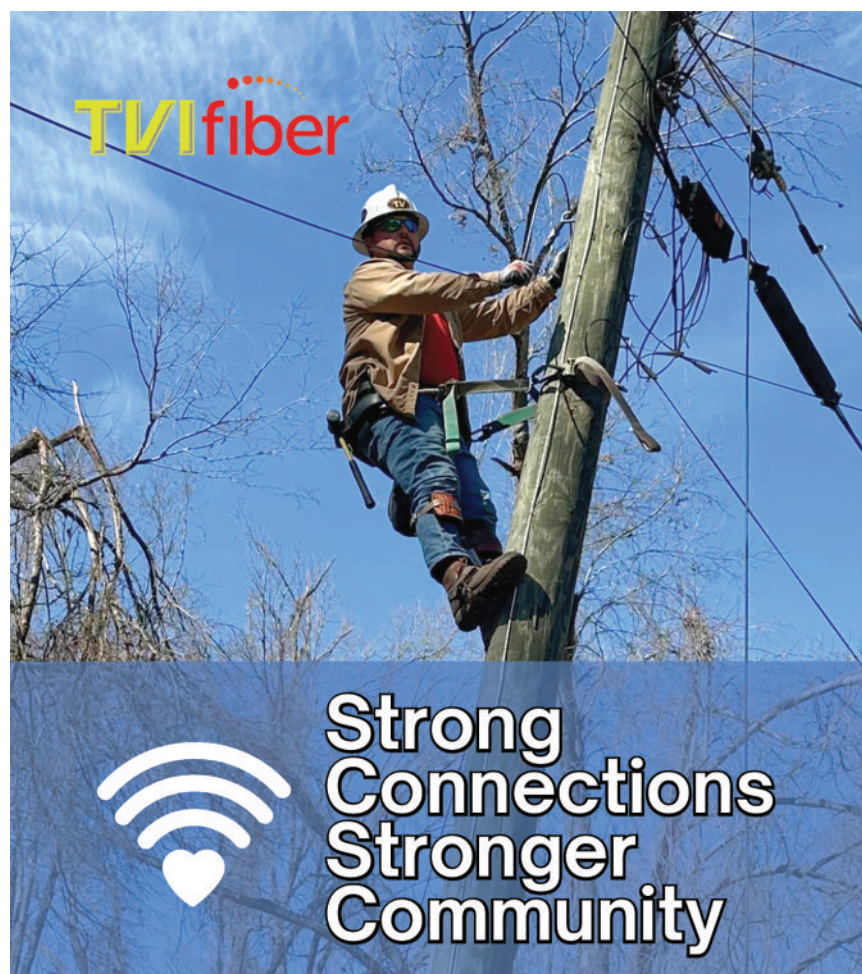
Throughout the Bible we are told of many people who God placed in certain situations and locations for a reason, for defining moments in their lives; moments when they often had to make a choice of whether or not they would be obedient to God or go their own way. Some were big decisions with little doubt that they would be life changing such as God commanding Noah to build the Ark, Moses confronting Pharaoh, Joshua marching around Jerich, David facing Goliath, or Jonah being asked to preach repentance to the Assyrians. Others decisions probably seemed insignificant at the time such as the boy giving his two small fish and 5 small loaves of bread to Jesus, the Samaritan woman talking with Jesus at the well, or Zachaeus allowing Jesus to stay at his home. These moments are the legacy of these people; defining moments in their lives that they are remembered for. As we consider Esther 4, we learn of a defining moment in Esther's life.

evil, vindictive man named Haman to second in control over the kingdom and ordered that everyone bow in his presence. However, Esther's cousin Mordecai knowing Haman is a descendant of the Amalekites, people cursed by God and sworn enemies of the Jews, refuses to bow to Haman. This enrages Haman, and he plots to revenge not only on Mordecai but all the Jewish people. Through lies and manipulation, Haman gets the king to decree that in a few months on a certain day all the people throughout the kingdom were to take up arms and kill all the Jews. Hearing of the king's decree, Mordecai is no doubt frantic and overwhelmed by dread. As a Jew, he had done the right thing by not bowing to Haman the Amalekite and was prepared to face whatever the consequences were for his disobedience. However, he likely never imagined the consequences would be the annihilation of his people. In despair, Mordecai tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth, throws ashes on his head, and goes to the wall of the palace where he is wailing and crying in sorrow and agony (Esther 4:1-3).

We do not know how many days Mordecai came to the wall wailing and crying hoping to get Queen Esther's attention, but when she heard that Mordecai was in sackcloth and ashes making a scene at the wall, no doubt Esther was confused. A short time ago,

Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate acting as an official for the king, now he is making a fool of himself wailing outside the palace walls. Esther first sent servants to dress Mordecai appropriately for a man of his position and get him to act accordingly, but Mordecai refused. She then sent a trusted servant, Hathach, to find out what was going on with Mordecai. Hathach returns bringing Esther a copy of the king's decree concerning the killing of the Jews and instructions from Mordecai for her to go to the king and intervene on behalf of her people (Esther 4:4-9).

Mordecai is very clear about what Esther needs to do. Esther is to just go talk with the king about the whole situation. Surely, the king will listen to his queen and stop the massacre. The problem was one did not just simply go see the king. Historians tell us that the king was always guarded by heavily armed soldiers, and it was understood and practiced that if anyone approached the king or got too close to him at any time uninvited, they were killed, no questions asked. It did not matter who you were or what your reasoning was. Not even the queen was given an exception. However, if the king wished for the person's life to be spared, he would hold out his golden scepter, which was an elaborate golden staff, to signal the guards to back down and let that person approach. Esther sent a messenger to explain all this to Mordecai. Mordecai responded, "Yet, who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther, "Could it be that this very moment is the reason you were chosen to be queen?" Esther had a huge decision to make. Put yourself in her place for a (Cont'd. on page 14)



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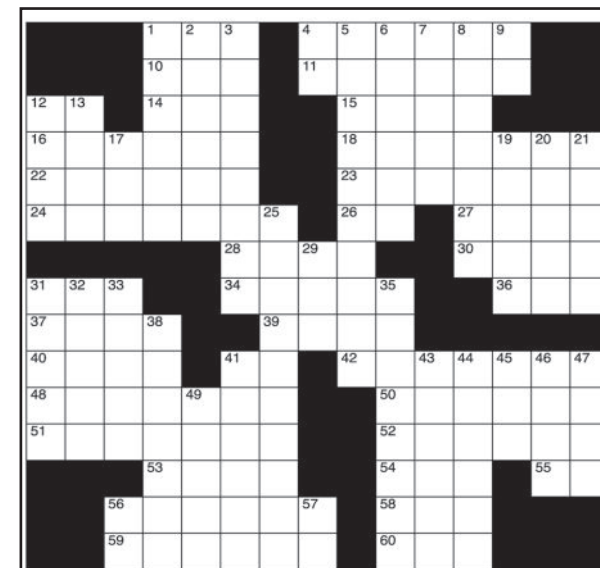
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Inclined to do
- 4. Sketches
- 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 11. Atomic #58
- 12. Dorm official
- 14. Small Eurasian deer
- 15. Southern constellation
- 16. Workers' groups
- 18. Former
- 22. Excellent
- 23. Romance language related to Spanish
- 24. Reference
- 26. Equally
- 27. Dirty towels
- 28. A cargo (abbr.)
- 30. Ammunition
- 31. You get one in summer
- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Swiss river
- 37. Exchange rate
- 39. British School
- 40. College teacher
- 41. Foreign Service
- 42. Horse gear
- 48. Cost to fly
- 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
- 51. Mocking
- 52. One who bird-watches
- 53. Concluding passage
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 55. Sodium
- 56. A way to produce
- 58. Soak
- 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
- 60. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Moth species phalonia ___
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: ___ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen shrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- 21. James __, painter
- 25. Popular dessert
- 29. Payment (abbr.)
- 31. Cuisine style
- 32. Genus of true flies
- 33. City in western France
- 35. Arrogance
- 38. One holding a position of command
- 41. Weekday
- 43. An evening party
- 44. Print errors
- 45. Not good
- 46. Egyptian Sun god
- 47. East German town
- 49. Olfactory property
- 56. Atomic #37
- 57. "Pollock" actor Harris

SUDOKU

			4					
6		5						
		1	3				4	
2				7	1	8		
1		6			3	5		2
	8		6					
						4		8
					7		9	6
			9			3		

Level: intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SPRING CLEANING WORD SEARCH

I T E S P Z Y L S N R V N T T G Y H L D
 A C I I W E C N A N E T N I A M U I G E
 S T M G R D R A G B S A N I T I Z E Z O
 P U W N X T E S C C E X Z D W N W I M M
 P E R I Z F A E T U V L E L M G N X X D
 G D Y B M R R D P G X T I E M A C X Y P
 N B Z B F E V E I C O D G N G X A P Z D
 I D G U G S E D N X L A U R G C R H I M
 T C E R Z H L A I E R E O A S D V I S S
 S U Y C W O I F D O W D A B Z P I I N E
 U A A S L T Y F T W B A M N O N L O D G
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 S O R T I N G M F D M D N T I Z G I V B
 L A Z E R R W V F P O G A N T G T I P L
 S T S L T H Z P E Y G N I L C Y C E R A
 V F S I E C F L Y G E E X Y R D N U A L

WORDS

- AIRING
- DECLUTTER
- DEEP-CLEAN
- DETOXIFY
- DISINFECT
- DONATIONS
- DUSTING
- FRESH
- HOME
- LABELING
- LAUNDRY
- MAINTENANCE
- MINIMALISM
- MOPPING
- ORGANIZE
- POLISH
- PURGE
- RECYCLING
- RENEWAL
- SANITIZE
- SCRUBBING
- SORTING
- STORAGE
- VACUUM

See Answers On Page 13