

A Word From The Pastor

It seems to me that I am hearing a lot of people who are facing issues in life that are causing them to lose hope. The result of the lack of hope is manifesting itself in issues like depression, sadness, despair, lack of energy, etc.

There are so many things that happen in life that can leave us without hope. The death of a dearly loved one brings great sadness. Financial setbacks can leave us reeling. The loss of a job or career is very disheartening. National reverses or calamities pull the enthusiasm and energy out of us. Betrayal of someone we thought was a trusted ally can certainly catch us off guard and bring disappointment and despair into our heart. Well, you name it, many events in life can rob us of our hope and leave us in a miserable state. And for many today one, or a combination of these events, has taken the wind out of their sails and left them broken and defeated. Perhaps you are one of those who have lost hope or are near the breaking point.

Numerous biblical people experienced this same hopelessness. Listen to Job of old:

“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle,
and they come to an end *without hope*.
Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath;
my eyes will *never see happiness again*.
The eye that now sees me will see me no longer;
you will look for me, but *I will be no more*.
As a cloud vanishes and is gone,
so he who goes down to the grave does not return.
He will never come to his house again;
his place will know him *no more*. Job 7:6–10.

And Jeremiah of old wrote this: “He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes. And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity. And I said, My strength and *my hope is perished* from the LORD” – Lam. 3:16–18

Hence, we are not alone in suffering from this loss of hope!

Even though many persons in the Bible experienced this loss of hope and times of despair, they would eventually realize that all hope was not lost! When we continue to read Jeremiah’s words in Lamentations three we discover this about his hope: “This I recall to my mind, therefore *have I hope*. It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will *I hope in him*.” – Lam. 3:21-24

Our hope is not in the events of this world, nor in the leaders of this world. Our hope comes from the Lord! We do not hope in our health, our finances, our loved ones, but in the Lord our God. As the songwriter said, “We have a hope within our souls, Brighter than the perfect day. God has given us his Spirit, and we want the world to hear it; all our doubts are passed away.”

Even now, in the midst of such uncertain times, we need not lose hope, for our God is still with us and He declares, “So there is hope for your future,” – Jer. 31:17. Beloved, continue to hold onto our Lord and His promise of hope for our future!

Dr. James L. Fleming

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CHURCH OF GOD**

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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor

Dr. James L. Fleming

Children's Director

Vanessa Small

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 a.m. - Worship Team
Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays

No Small Group
until further notice

Wednesdays

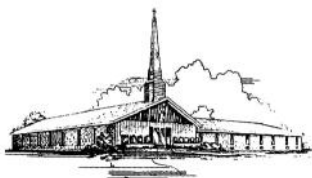
No Evening Bible Study
until further notice

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Last Sunday - February 28
Food Drive Collection for
Interfaith Emergency Services

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00/4:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our adult Sunday School class will resume February 7 at 10:00 a.m. with safety precautions in place, including the wearing of masks and 6-foot socially distant seating.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The *Bridges* adult Sunday School books for this quarter are available in the narthex. Cost is \$7. Please label your envelope and place in offering.

CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE

Pastor Fleming's Sunday School lessons and sermon videos for the last several weeks are on our Facebook page. Check them out! [Facebook.com/CollegeParkChurchOfGod](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeParkChurchOfGod)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry will meet Saturday, February 20, in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to attend.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Women's Ministry is once again collecting gifts for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Our suggested item during the month of February is **toys**. Ideas include: stuffed animals, balls, toy cars, marbles, jump ropes, yo-yos, puzzles, dolls, etc. Collection box is in the narthex.

SOUP LABELS

The Women's Ministry is requesting everyone to save Campbell Soup labels for a neighbor of our church. A collection box is in the narthex. Thank you.

FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 28, is our collection day this month for nonperishable food items for Interfaith Emergency Services. Thank you for your generosity.

Happy Birthday!

- 01 - Charles Ray
- 02 - Holly Hogsten
- 08 - Peggy Campbell
- 12 - John Gardner
- 12 - Vince Small
- 13 - Hope Marchese
- 16 - Mabel Keiser
- 17 - Zachary Souders
- 17 - Carol Aldridge
- 18 - Vanessa Small
- 19 - Pat Struzzieri
- 25 - Grace Edwards

Happy Anniversary!

- 01 - Wayne and Grace Meiser



*If you would like your birthday
or anniversary added to this list,
please contact the church office.*