

OPEN
to me the
GATES *of*

RIGHTEOUSNESS

that I may
enter through
them *and*

GIVE
THANKS

to the

LORD.

Psalm 118:19, NRSV



First Church of the Brethren

730 Church Street, Eden, NC 27288

November 10, 2021



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Sometimes bigger is better. Sometimes it's not. Examples of small and powerful can be found throughout the bible. In our Tuesday morning Bible Studies, we have started looking at some small and often overlooked books of the bible. So far we have studied Jude and Philemon. Both contain only 25 verses – there isn't even a need for a division into chapters. If you are flipping through your bible, you will almost never land on either of these letters - in my bible they take up just the front and half the back of one page. You have to look for them if you want to find them.

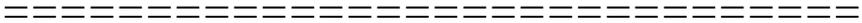
But despite their lack of size, they both carry big messages. Paul's letter to Philemon reminds us that we are equals and family in Christ while Jude's letter to the church is extremely pertinent to where we are in the world today. These little books are an important part of the fabric of the whole scripture.

Similarly, we can think of some characters from scripture who, at first at least, were considered little guys. Gideon was called to lead God's army even though he considered himself to be the least of the least of the least. David, of course, was looked down on by his brothers and they mocked him and told him to go take care of the few sheep that he had dominion over.

So, what is your role in the kingdom of God?
Whether you are the star player or someone behind the scenes, you are important to the work of the kingdom. Never stop doing what God has called you to do.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young [or old, or shy or add whatever someone else might see as your limits], but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (brackets mine)



Time to double down

After you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the Devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation, and good deeds. For if Satan's temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, he'll have an incentive to leave you alone.

—St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

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Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

Thinking of You

Kathy Bridges

District Prayer Request

Pray for Amiel Tutolo, a member of the Troutville/New Bethel Church of the Brethren in Botetourt County, Virginia, as he anticipates licensing to the ministry. Let us pray that the Spirit of God might call forth more men and women for the set -apart ministry.



If you can't attend Sunday services you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren and catch up on the weekly sermons.

The Home and Family Life Committee are hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 13th from 8 am until 3 pm. There will be a large variety of vendors selling their wares so plan to come by and work on your Christmas shopping!

The subversive table

“The Lord’s Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants,” writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. “The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where ‘there shall be no difference between them and the rest.’” Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom “them” refers to “the wicked and the righteous.”

In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through Christ’s body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn’t like him. But at the Lord’s table, though “divided in the larger world,” we shared a sacrament with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another’s rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer, and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God’s kingdom subverting the world’s tendency to divide.

-Heidi Hyland Mann

Upcoming Birthdays

November 12: Nancy Bateman

Hayden Roach

November 13: Diane Hudgins

November 14: Chris Blackwelder

Kennedy Perfetti

Ava Villanueva

November 17: Anna Apple

Hope Diamond

