

"BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW YOU WILL EAT
YOUR FOOD UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE GROUND,
SINCE FROM IT YOU WERE TAKEN;

FOR

DUST

YOU ARE AND TO

DUST

YOU WILL RETURN."



GENESIS 3:19, NIV

First Church of the Brethren

730 Church Street, Eden, NC March 2, 2022

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



Doug Diamond – Pastor

Wow! Things have changed in the world over the past week. What had been a troop buildup on the Russia Ukraine border has turned into an all-out war. This feels a lot like my “Hope for the Underdog” sermon from a few weeks ago. Ukraine has won the hearts of the world as David stands up to Goliath. The problem is that no matter how strong President Zelenskyy and his people stand, there will be no winner in this war, really, any war for that matter. Hundreds of Ukrainian fighters along with civilians including many children have been killed. Reports are that thousands of Russian soldiers – soldiers who did not make a decision to enter this battle – have already died. No, war brings no winners. Only heartache, pain, and death.

So as Brethren, how do we respond to what is going on? One of our members shared with me on Sunday morning that she had been to another worship service before ours to attend a baptism and that the pastor there prayed that God would send tornadoes into Russia and cause great destruction. She told me that she appreciated the contrast of my prayer that asked God to “miraculously change the heart of Vladimir Putin and draw him to draw his troops out of Ukraine.” Although I can understand that type of rage and passion that would pray a prayer that asks

for destruction, I can't imagine Jesus lifting his eyes to the Father and asking him to do such a thing.

So, I ask again, as Brethren, how do we respond. We pray. We pray to the God of peace for a peace that passes all understanding. We pray for children and mothers and fathers to be protected from missiles and rockets and tanks. We pray that peace would prevail and that the people of Russia would muster a courage to stand up against their evil leader and say enough is enough.

And then we act. Even if this war were to end today, there has still been terrible destruction. During the Spanish civil war, our Brethren Hero, Dan West, while feeding the hungry and broken became weary of just handing people enough food to get them through the day. During that time, he received the vision that caused him to found Heifer Project which still today helps to lift people around the world out of poverty.

What might God be calling us to in this world today. What ministry may he be preparing for such a time as this. We are the people of God, and He will use us to touch and minister to a broken world. May we be at his disposal.

When Mordecai was told what Esther had said, he sent back this reply, "Don't think that you will escape being killed with the rest of the Jews, just because you live in the king's palace. If you don't speak up now, we will somehow get help, but you and your family will be killed.

It could be that you were made queen for a time like this!"

Esther 4:12-14

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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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, Leon & Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

Thinking of You

Patsy Underwood

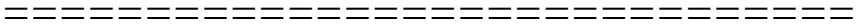
District Prayer Request

Pray for the Virgina District Board, scheduled to meet at the Pulaski, First Church of the Brethren, on March 19, 2022. Let us pray that the Spirit of God will grant discernment, guide every decision and empower every undertaking.



Although we are in church for in person worship if you would like to worship from home you can find 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.

There will be a called Congregational Business Meeting following worship services on Sunday, March 20th. The purpose of this called meeting is to review and approve the renewal contract for Pastor Doug.



*Please join the Challengers and Walk Worthy
Sunday School Classes for a wedding shower for
Brittni Williams,
daughter of Mark and Gina Williams.*

*Join us in the fellowship hall on
Saturday, March 26th from 10 am until 12 pm
as we celebrate the bride to be!*

Brittni is registered at Target and Amazon.

Upcoming Birthdays
March 8: Regina Bryan



“My whole family’s giving up something for Lent. Mom’s giving up cookies, Dad’s giving up cake, and I’m giving up squash.”