



# THE VISION

October 2020

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*

*Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*

It has been since February 2020 that our nation has been dealing with the COVID 19 Pandemic. During these 7 months, we have also experienced racial protesting and criminal looting taking place. It seems that we are losing our respect for each other and worse of all we are disrespecting our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Since all of these events are occurring simultaneous, I have been asked several questions: “Is the world coming to an end? How could God allow these events to take place? Is it time for God to destroy the world and start over?

I wonder what people thought when Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin lived and nearly genocide entire ethnic races! Do we think people in those times thought the world was coming to an end? I have heard some people on television say if one political party wins then the world will come to an end.

Personally, I believe our Heavenly Father is in control and His Holy Word remains our guide. NO HUMAN has the power to cause the destruction of God’s created world. Just remember as long as Christ’s church is still on the earth, the end of the world will not take place!

The Bible does speak of the time when the church is Raptured, “taken away.” Please allow me to share some thoughts on the subject of the Rapture from a former mentor of mine, Rev. Dr. Tom Lovorn.

In October 2017, Dr. Lovorn was asked about the Rapture of the church. He wrote: “Many

signs Jesus gave point to the “snatching away” of believers which we call the Rapture. Many of these are being fulfilled all around us; however, I don’t believe in setting a date. Jesus said in (**Matthew 24:36**), ‘*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*’”

“Some of those signs Jesus predicted in (**Matthew 24**) are: our hearing of wars and rumors of wars, false messiahs, the Word of God preached all over the world, persecution of believers, a falling away of many who once claimed to believe, an increase of iniquity, and upheavals in nature such as famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. We’ve had those things happen individually before, but Jesus warned in (**verse 33**) to beware when all of them happen in rapid succession. Then, in (**verses 37-41**), He described conditions of the Rapture; and in (**I Cor. 15:50-56**) we find the battle plan of Christ’s coming to take his own out of this world.

Bible scholars differ on the timing of certain other end time prophecies which may happen before or after the Rapture: “a confederacy of Russia with the Islamic nations attacking Israel as described in (**Ezekiel 38-39**), the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, the establishment of Babylon, reference to Rome as a world capitol, compromise toward a world-wide ecumenical religion, and one man claiming the ability to solve the world’s problems. However, I personally believe most of these remaining prophecies will happen after the Rapture.”

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# Deacon's Devotional

## A Change of Season by Debra Wood, Deacon

Fall officially began on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The weather has already started to get cooler at night, a much appreciated respite from heat, but we don't generally start to see significant changes in Autumn colors until October. I enjoy the Fall and Spring for their temperate climate and for their beautiful expression of colors. Spring offers the renewal of life after the bleak and harsh winter but Fall seems to offer such a bright display of colors as the world around us prepares for winter. One of my favorite aspects of Fall is that we can once again sit outside around a fire or in the evening in comfort. This is especially important considering how "locked up" we have been since Spring. This year, in particular, offers renewed hope with this glimpse of change.

I'm reminded that the Holy Bible often references changes by recognizing them as new "seasons" in our lives. They are simultaneously new opportunities, new beginnings, and renewed hope while demonstrating God's reliability and constant nature: after all, this is not my first season or even my 100<sup>th</sup> season. Even though we experience change, God is always there desiring a relationship with us and available to engage in our daily lives if we invite Him in.

One of the most disquieting things I've read recently as a consequence of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic is the rise in mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. We are, by nature, social creatures so it isn't difficult to imagine how being locked down, advised to stay home, and mandated to "social distance" can quickly take a toll on our sense of well-being. Our health is a beautiful balance of our biology, sociology, psychology, and spirituality so distressing part of that equation affects the whole person. Some are certainly more susceptible to the consequences of stress than others but, in reality, we all crave a sense of belonging. As we began regathering for worship services, I noticed that some just really have a hard time not hugging or not touching people. Certainly, they respect the boundaries of others but it isn't hard to see how much they crave a return to "normal". I refuse to believe that this present situation will be the new normal. My faith just won't let my head go there.

It only takes a glance to see the fruit of our faith. We quickly and generously respond to calls for donations for others in need; we jump at the occasion to pass out ice cream as a show of love and welcome; we are willing to endure the hardship of heat and face coverings just so we can share in the celebration of life for a beloved person who passed; we reach out to stay in contact with each other and keep loneliness away; and we faithfully support our church's progress with the expansion of our facility. Though the future is not clear at present, just as it never is, it is clearly in God's hands and we trust Him to guide us into this new season.

For me, I want to always try to focus on the positives. I want us to always be optimistic and see the opportunities rather than the obstacles. Look what storms we have already weathered and how far we have already come. We can be faithful and strong (especially together) to carry-on a little longer.

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. [Galatians 6:9](#)*

# Thank You



After 30 years of dedicated Christian service as the Deacon Benevolent Ministry Coordinator, Gloria Breeden has retired. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and praise for her service to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Our Deacons have asked Betty Jane Duncan to serve as the new Coordinator. We extend our thanks and welcome Betty Jane to the Benevolent Ministry. May our Lord bless both of these servant ladies and also bless GPBC.





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I agree with Dr. Lovorn that the above events will take place AFTER the Rapture. I believe when Christians are Raptured, who would come to the defense of Israel? They will be left alone and only our Heavenly Father can save His chosen nation.

Dr. Lovorn concludes, “Yes, I do believe God has been trying to get our attention in the last few months to say the Rapture is nearer than we may realize! Why? Because I think the last 2 signs that have to be fulfilled before Jesus’ return for his Church have already happened. They were fulfilled when Israel was regathered as a nation in 1948. **(Luke 21:29-32)** notes that the fig tree represents Israel; and when satellite communication made it possible to beam the Word of God all over the world **(Matthew 24:14)**, I think

the present world-wide calamities mark the beginnings of the final days of this age **(Matthew 24:8)**.

Remember, **(Romans 8:22-23)** predicts the earth groaning for its redemption from the curse of sin. I believe it’s time to make peace with our Maker, Jesus Christ, and heed **(Luke 21:28)** which says to lift up our heads because our redemption is drawing nigh!”

Beloved, in 2020, let us stay focused not so much on when the world will end but dedicating ourselves in sharing God’s Love, our Love for Others and servings Christ in His world!

May our Lord Strengthen us,  
Pastor Bud Goude

How being a Christian  
is like being a **pumpkin**.



God picks You from the patch and brings You in.  
~~~~~ (John 15: 16) ~~~~~

Then He washes all the dirt off of You.  
~~~~~ (2 Corinthians 5: 17) ~~~~~

He opens You up and scoops out all the Yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed etc.  
~~~~~ (Romans 6: 6) ~~~~~

Then He carves You a new smiling face.  
~~~~~ (Psalm 71: 23) ~~~~~

And He puts His light inside You to shine for all the world to see.  
~~~~~ (Matthew 5: 16) ~~~~~



**Deacon of the Week**

10/4—Debra Wood  
10/11—Keith Belvin  
10/18—Bill Breeden  
10/25—Jimmy Diggs

**Nursery Workers**

10/4—L. Walton/G. Breeden  
10/11—TBD  
10/18—M. Wagner/Youth  
10/25—A. Crummett/A. Zepeda

**October Ushers**

Jimmy Diggs  
Amy Jacobson  
Gus Saunders

**October Tellers**

Amy Jacobson  
Lynn Walton

**Sun. Sch. Nursery**

Sharon/Howard Warren



**CHURCH  
WORKER'S**

**Older Children's Church**

10/4—Theresa Svoboda  
10/11—Jennifer/Lauren Hall  
10/18—D. Gandee/M. McNeil  
10/25—Connie West

**Younger Children's Church**

10/4—Tim Owens  
10/11—S. Anthony/N. Dyson  
10/18—J. West/J. Marshall  
10/25—L. Sentz/R. Wells



## Sunday Schedule

Sunday School (All Ages)- 9:40am  
Worship Service— 11:00am  
C.A.R.E. Ministry—2:00pm

# October 2020

## Wednesday Schedule

5:30 pm: Children & Youth Dinner  
6:00 pm: Children's/Junior Choir  
6:30 pm: Children/Youth Bible Study  
6:30 pm: Bible Study & Prayer Meeting  
7:30 pm: Choir Practice

| Sun                                                                                   | Mon                                         | Tue | Wed                                                                       | Thu                                                                     | Fri                                                   | Sat                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                       |                                             |     |                                                                           | 1                                                                       | 2                                                     | 3                                                                                              |
| 4<br>Deacons' Meeting<br>3:00pm<br><br>Youth Meet<br>5:00pm<br><br><b>Budgets Due</b> | 5<br><br>American Heritage<br>Girls 6:30pm  | 6   | 7<br><br>Children Meet<br>6:00pm<br><br><b>Deacon Nominations<br/>Due</b> | 8                                                                       | 9                                                     | 12                                                                                             |
| 11<br><br>Youth Meet<br>5:00pm                                                        | 12                                          | 13  | 14<br><br>Children Meet<br>6:00pm                                         | 15<br><br>Acree Circle<br>10:00am<br><br><b>Vision Articles<br/>Due</b> | 16                                                    | 17                                                                                             |
| 18<br><br>Youth Meet<br>5:00pm                                                        | 19<br><br>American Heritage<br>Girls 6:30pm | 20  | 21<br><br>Business Meeting<br>6:00pm<br><br>Children Meet<br>6:00pm       | 22                                                                      | 23                                                    | 24<br>AHG Costume Carnival<br>1:00pm-2:30pm<br><br><b>Sanctuary Reserved<br/>3:00pm-6:00pm</b> |
| 25<br><br>Youth Meet<br>5:00pm                                                        | 26                                          | 27  | 28<br><br>Children Meet<br>6:00pm                                         | 29                                                                      | 30<br><br><b>Sanctuary Reserved<br/>3:00pm-6:00pm</b> | 31                                                                                             |

## October Birthdays:

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Jeannie Barrera    | 10/2  |
| Doug Blaylock      | 10/6  |
| Atley Wiese        | 10/9  |
| Tristan Eifes      | 10/11 |
| Teresa Kelley      | 10/11 |
| John West          | 10/11 |
| David Patton       | 10/12 |
| Sean Saunders      | 10/17 |
| Dayton Wiese       | 10/19 |
| Steven Moret       | 10/20 |
| Irving Ordonia     | 10/21 |
| David Strickland   | 10/21 |
| Kendall Sentz (KC) | 10/25 |
| Gloria Breeden     | 10/27 |
| Buddy Hogge        | 10/29 |

## Anniversaries:

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| James & Carrie West | 10/10 |
| Jamie & Lee Moore   | 10/12 |

