



Southwest

Church of the Nazarene

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
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BACK TO SCHOOL

Nothing can bring excitement, fear, and anxiety to the forefront of our minds than the words “back to school.” Thinking back on my adolescence, I can remember these feelings very well. Also, as a parent, I’m having to work through those same feelings with my own children. Whether you are a student, parent, or teacher, there is no other year than this upcoming school year that these emotions are more prevalent. How can we navigate this situation? Here are a few things that we can be reminded of and take with us as we go back to school.

– **Make prayer a priority.**

Prayer is such an important part of a healthy and meaningful relationship with Him. Not just making it a priority but having a balanced prayer life is important. Don’t just go to the Father with “wants” and “needs.” Take time to give thanks for all that has been provided in our lives. We are so undeserving of His goodness; make sure and acknowledge your thanks to Him for all He has done.

– **Faith and fear go hand-in-hand.**

Francis Chan says, “the reality is, whoever you are, the moment you see God, you are going to fear Him. We all will.” When we see His Glory, it brings to light all our weaknesses and shortcomings. We become fearful that we are not enough or even good enough to be in His presence. When we walk in faith, we can see how amazing His love and power is - making it about Him and not us. He wants us to be a part of what He is doing in our own lives and the lives around us.

– **God never changes.**

“The new normal” is a phrase that is being thrown around with great use these days. For those who don’t like change, this world can be a challenging place to live in because of its ever-changing landscape. We should take great comfort in knowing that our God does not change. He is the same today, as He was yesterday, and as He will be tomorrow. We can gain peace in knowing that no matter how this world changes, His love, grace, and mercy given to us will never change.

– **God is in control.**

As someone who likes to have a certain level of control over things, this can be the biggest challenge in my relationship with Christ. When we take a step back and look, we realize that we have no control over God. Understanding this will help us realize just how much He is guiding and directing our lives and keeping us in the center of His Will.

As we go forward into this new school year, we can take with us all of these reminders: making prayer a priority, understanding our faith and fear, gripping the truth that He never changes, and ultimately finding peace and comfort that He is in control. Keep every single student, parent, and teacher in your prayers over these next few weeks as we all go “BACK TO SCHOOL!”

Dave Metcalf

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

by Mary Rita Schilke Korzan

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,
And I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
And I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make my favorite cake just for me,
And I knew that little things were special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I heard you say a prayer,
And I believed there is a God that I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I felt you kiss me good-night,
And I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
And I learned that sometimes things hurt,
But that it's alright to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw that you cared,
And I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked . . .
And wanted to say thanks for all those things I saw
When you thought I wasn't looking.

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I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND ALL THAT STUFF
YOU SAID ABOUT SHEEP GOING ASTRAY

Praise:

- Praise the Lord, for a blessed service Sunday! God's presence was real from the first song and God's people responded with praise!
- Praise the Lord, for the new families that joined us Sunday! We even had to sit people on the front row... God must be up to something!
- Praise the Lord for our Youth Leader, Dave Metcalf! The youth had a great trip to Holiday World last week and then met Sunday evening outside for some fun, food, and devotion time. It was an excellent turn out!

Prayer:

- Schools – Administrators, teachers, and students.
- Our Government and Country
- COVID-19 to end
- All those affected by unemployment, companies and business laying off or closing, and the continued hardship on those trying to survive financially.
- New families last Sunday.
- God's Spirit to continually guide our church.

Psalm 34:11

*“Come, my children,
listen to me;
I will teach you the
fear of the Lord. NIV*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **Safety Team help needed:** We want to have a meeting soon with everyone who is interested in being a part of the Safety Team. This includes security, and/or emergency situations such as tornados, health emergencies, etc. Jim Hanavan is our lead person for this area. See Pastor Scott or Jim Hanavan if you are interested.
- ❖ **R!OT Youth Meetings** - Sundays, from 5-7pm. We will be meeting outside for now. Bring a lawn chair and a friend!
- ❖ **Wednesday Prayer** - 6:30pm each week in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. Bring your cares and concerns to the Lord and pray for one another.
- ❖ **Church Board Meeting** will be August 11th, 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ **Missionaries coming** - August 30th for our Sunday morning service. They are from a Creative Access Area and will be sharing about their ministry efforts.



Don't forget about the opportunity to support our church by **shopping at Rural King from August 2nd - August 15th**. You can submit your receipts online at www.ruralking.com/churchweek (choose our church's name) or bring to the church office by September 1st. Rural King will donate 10% of your purchase total to Southwest Church!

We are collecting **School Pal-Paks & Crisis Care Kits** to send out to meet the needs of individuals across the world! If you want to provide 1 or several of these items, please bring them to the church and place in the properly labeled boxes in the foyer. It is important that you purchase new items **EXACTLY** as they are listed, or they cannot be shipped out to help others. Your contribution is needed and appreciated! Thanks! We would love to see how many of these bags we can complete by the end of August. Questions: See Lisa Fishburn.



- ✓ 1 – Shampoo (12 to 18 oz)
- ✓ 2 – Bars of Soap (Bath size or larger)
- ✓ 1 – Toothpaste (4.0 to 6.4 oz)
- ✓ 3 – Toothbrushes (in original packaging)
- ✓ 1 – Box of Band-Aids (30 or more)
- ✓ 1 – Fingernail Clippers
- ✓ 1 – Sturdy Hair Comb
- ✓ 2 – Hand Towels
- ✓ 4 – Pocket-sized pkgs. Kleenex
- ✓ 1 – Beanie Baby-Sized Stuffed Toy

- ✓ 2 – Composition Notebooks (no larger than 9 ¾ x 7 ½ in.)
- ✓ 1 – Package of 10 to 12 of #2 Pencils
- ✓ 1 – Package of 10 to 12 Ballpoint Black Pens
- ✓ 2 – Pink/White Erasers, 2 to 3 inches long
- ✓ 2 – Rulers with Metric Measurements (6" or 12")
- ✓ 1 – Package of 12 to 15 Colored Pencils
- ✓ 1 – Pair of Blunt Nosed Scissors
- ✓ 1 – Handheld Pencil Sharpener (NOT electric / battery powered)