



Psalms 113:3
From the rising of the
sun unto the going
down of the same the
LORD'S name is
to be praised.

David - Open

Life Line

Can Nothing Really Separate Us from the Love of God?

What Does 'Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God' Mean?

In 1 John 4:16, the apostle writes "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." We can't have God without love so to be separated from his love means to be separated from him entirely. Living without God means living without his direction or influence on our lives.

Being separated from God is a choice. We have free will evident in the very beginning with Adam and Eve's choices in the Garden of Eden. God wants us to choose him. If we have been presented with the Gospel message, we have the choice to join with God and his love or reject him.

The Context of Romans 8.

Having been beaten and imprisoned, Paul was familiar with trials. In 2 Corinthians 11:24-25, he writes "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea."

Yet, none of these events pulled Paul further from God. Quite the opposite could be argued, that during all his pain and despair, Paul became more familiar with the love of God. How else can one bear such suffering?

Romans 8:35-37: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

During difficult times, God is not watching his people from above, throwing them a lifeline, hoping they'll grab on. He comes into the trenches with us. He fights with us and for us. Not only are we not separated from God's love, but he provides the armor of his love to be able to endure our battles.

In Romans, Paul is writing to fellow believers. These are people who believe in the Gospel message. They believe Jesus was the Son of God. When he died, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live within his people. Therefore, believers always have a part of God with them.

God's word is alive. The promises written in the past are the same truths in the present. God's love extends through all of time, therefore, the principles in Paul's letters are the same today as they were back then.

Acts 2:42 states "And all who believed were together and had all things in common." As a Christian community, we are together in our struggles. We're not meant to live them alone. The love of God can also be spread when his people serve one another. God's love goes beyond one person and stitches believers together to support each other in times of need.

Can Anyone Be Separated from the Love of God? God wants to be with us and share his love, but he needs to be invited into our hearts. He won't barge down a door where he's not welcome. To accept Christ is to give that invitation and therefore inherit God's promises, including his love.

Once we invite Christ into our lives and accept him as our Savior, our name is written in his book of life. Our names cannot be blotted out. John makes this clear in Revelation 3:5 where he writes "The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."

"Christ has his book of life, a register, and roll of all who shall inherit eternal life . . . Christ will not blot the names of his chosen and faithful ones out of this book of life . . . Christ will produce this book of life, and confess the names of the faithful who stand there, before God, and all the angels; he will do this as their Judge, when the books shall be opened; he will do this as their captain and head, leading them with him triumphantly to heaven, presenting them to the Father." If we truly accept Christ, we become his and cannot be separated from him or his love. As believers, God is with us and we can never be separated from him. There may be times in our lives when it feels like God is missing, but he hasn't left us. No matter what trials we are going through, he is there. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Praise Jesus!

August 2022



Worship Hour continues to be broadcast live on the church's Facebook page and a recording of the latest service will continue to be posted weekly to the church's website www.fccrochesterwis.org.

Bible Study - Evening Bible study meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 7:00 pm.
We are studying the book of Revelation.



Sunday, August 7th 9:30 am Worship Hour. Special Music by Steve Dolphin.

Sunday, August 14th 9:30 am Worship Hour. Special Music by Joni K.

Monday, August 15th 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting.

Sunday, August 21st 9:30 am Worship Hour. Special Music by Cindy Ovokaitys.

Annual Church Picnic at Bill and Joyce Gerard's from 12:00 to 3:00 pm.

Saturday, August 27th Ice Cream Social and Music from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Sunday, August 28th 9:30 am Worship Hour. Special Music by Jubilee.



Annual Church Picnic is Sunday, August 21st
from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

*Bill and Joyce Gerard are hosting the Annual Church picnic at their beautiful lake home on Lake Tichigan.
Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.*



Saturday, August 27th

Music in the Church Yard Ice Cream Social

from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.



*Come out and enjoy your favorite ice cream sundaes, cones, and floats, while listening to great music from our local bands!
Food will be available on a donation basis.*



To Everyone who loves to sing, it's time to "MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!"

*Choir rehearsal begins on Wednesday, Sept. 7th at 7:00 pm. Choir will sing on the first and third Sundays of the month.
We have new and exciting music to learn, plus some favorites! Please consider giving us a try, and bring a friend.
Choir is a wonderful place for fellowship and to sing God's glory!*

Please contact Vicki Will, Choir Director at 262-343-1326, if you have any questions.

Lectionary Readings

7/7 Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40.

7/14 Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29;
Luke 12:49-56

7/21 Isaiah 8:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12: 18-29;
Luke 13:10-17.

7/28 Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16;
Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.



Prayers and Concerns



COVID19 Responders and Caregivers

Victims of Terrorism

Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide

Our Nation's Leaders

All military personnel and their families

Casa Bernabe Orphanage

Rachel Frashingbauer

Julie Gren

Oscar Jacobs

Tom and Lynn Koeper

Neely McNeal

Dan Medkalf

Stephanie Mutz

Matthew Olson

Julie Pagan

Torin Philips

Reid Shamus

Jack and Jeanie Smith

7 year old Clinton

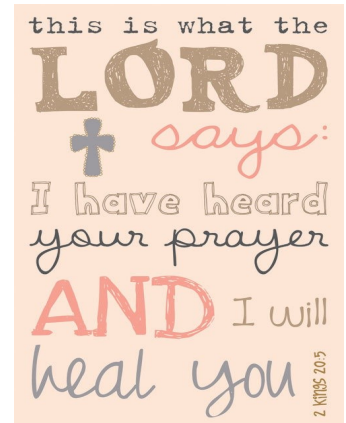
Barbara

Lois

Pray for the Ukrainian people.

Health Care Facilities:

Jean Moyer has returned to her old address.
Oak Park Place 1700 Tuet Road
Apt. 1118
Burlington, WI 53105



COUNCIL MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS



Treasurer's Report

- Pastor is planning a sermon series on the Book of Acts for the summer.
- Pastor is planning vacation time in August.
- Thank you to Mary Krall and Kathy Ketterhagen for preparing the new church directory.
- Memorial service for Louie Paetsch will be held on Saturday, July 16th at noon, reception to follow.

Worship Committee

- For the month of June: deposits (income) were \$7,356 and withdrawals (expenses) were \$6,073.

Education Committee

- Sunday school is on summer break until September.
- Jessica Frailing prepared activity packs to occupy kids during Sunday services over the summer.

Mission Commission

- Rummage sale on Saturday, May 28th was a success. Thank you to all the volunteers! We raised \$1,804, which was donated to Casa Bernabe Orphanage, TLC and Love Inc. (\$600 each).
- Love Inc. resumed in person meal site (still Monday and Wednesday only). We are planning to sign up for a meal serving over the summer.
- Transitional Living Center moved from Burlington to the Town of Dover.

Building and Grounds

- Thank you to the volunteers who help with mowing the lawn.
- Mary Krall is working on landscape redesign on the north-west corner of the church property (the one with the sign).
- Sign on hwy 36 is in process of being repaired.
- David Ball fixed and painted the front door.

IT/Marketing Committee:

- The services can be viewed live on Facebook or through a GoPro camera link.
- Events and services are posted on Facebook.
- We will no longer be posting pastor's recorded sermons on the website.

Next Council Meeting is Monday, August 15, 2022



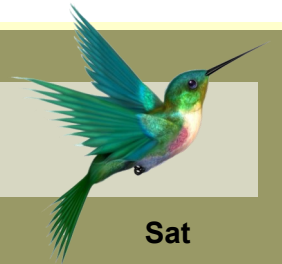
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

103 S. State Street
P.O. Box 8
Rochester, WI 53167
PH. (262) 534-6582
Email: fccrochester@tds.net
Pastor PH. 508-837- 4611

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.org

August 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Church Steve Dolphin in the Pulpit. Special Music by Steve Dolphin.	8 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 am Church Special Music by Joni K.	15 Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Church Special Music by Cindy Ovokaitys. Annual Church Picnic @ Bill and Joyce Gerard's from 12:00 - 3:00 pm.	22 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	23	24	25	26	27 Church Ice Cream Social and Music in the Yard from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.
28 9:30 am Church Special Music by Jubilee.	29 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm	30	31			

Pastor Ray's Office Hours are Monday through Wednesday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

