

Hello, friends! Here's what's coming up at church:

THIS SABBATH:

- Pastor Danny will bring the Message of Hope.
- Offering emphasis is for Religious Liberty – something that I think we truly take for granted. I'm including some information on why your support of this ministry matters.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The very first issue of *Liberty* magazine rolled off the presses in 1906 at a time when there was a lot going on in America. In the early decades of the twentieth century there was a massive political effort to pass a national Sunday observance law, and to alter the U.S. Constitution in ways that would make it difficult for seventh-day Sabbathkeeping Christians and for other religious minorities.

In response, the Seventh-day Adventist Church launched a new magazine to share our biblical understanding of religious liberty with America's lawmakers and other thought leaders. On the very first page of the first issue of *Liberty* magazine, the editor outlined the philosophy that would guide this new publication.

He wrote: "We will champion liberty for the weak and the defenseless because we believe that no power but the power of love can rightfully compel the human conscience."

Today, there are still those who wish to "compel the human conscience" in troubling ways. Important religious liberty questions are being debated in courts, legislatures, and in the media.

- ▶ Is religious speech entitled to the very highest level of protection under the free speech clause of the First Amendment?
- ▶ Can a Christian student club be kicked off a public school campus for choosing leaders who affirm Christian beliefs?

- ▶ Do religious schools have a right to hire staff based on shared doctrines?
- ▶ Can a doctor be required to put aside deeply held convictions and facilitate a patient's request for physician-assisted suicide?
- ▶ Can religious colleges enforce religion-based codes of student conduct?
- ▶ Can an employer rescind a job offer when they find out an applicant is a Sabbathkeeper?

TODAY, THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO WISH TO "COMPEL THE HUMAN CONSCIENCE" IN TROUBLING WAYS. IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY QUESTIONS ARE BEING DEBATED IN COURTS, LEGISLATURES, AND IN THE MEDIA.

As people of the Word, we live in anticipation of Christ's soon return and we know, through prophecy, that threats to religious freedom will continue to multiply.

But regardless of what happens, we have a responsibility to defend God's gift of liberty. As Ellen White wrote: "The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with knowledge of His Word" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 68).

Thank you for your prayers and for your continued financial support, as together we continue to hold high the "banner of truth and religious liberty."

 LIBERTY

LIBERTY
HAS NEVER
BEEN MORE
FRAGILE
HELP US
PROTECT IT

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OFFERING JANUARY 13, 2024

GIVE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE AT
[LIBERTYMAGAZINE.ORG/DONATE](https://libertymagazine.org/donate)



NEXT SABBATH:

- Many of you will remember the wonderful musical program that **JEFFERSON ACADEMY** brought to us last year. We have invited them back, and they will bless us with choral and handbell numbers for the church service.
- January 20th is also our monthly **POTLUCK** which will be hosted by the Seekers Sabbath School Class. Now, just to make sure everyone understands the process, the group hosting the potluck is NOT responsible for providing all the food! Everyone who attends is encouraged to bring food (except guests, of course). The hosting group is responsible for setting out the food and cleaning up after the meal. That being said, we will have at least 25 extra guests with Jefferson Academy attending and are asking that you keep that in mind when preparing your dish(s).
- **CHOIR REHEARSALS** are resuming and will be occurring on Sabbaths instead of Sundays. The first one this year will be the 20th following potluck, so around 2:00. Going forward they will be later in the afternoon on Sabbaths.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

Our next Women's Event is scheduled for Sabbath, February 3rd at 3:30. This is geared for all women, including moms who have kids meeting in Adventurers at the same time. Rest assured that the dads/pastors will cover for you so you can have a chance to connect with your church sisters. If you've never attended one of these events, consider this a personal invitation! Even if you're more on the introvert side, I think you'll receive a blessing!



SECRET SISTERS:

Secret Sisters is a ministry between you and another Sister in our church family. You become her silent prayer partner and her secret encourager. She doesn't know who you are, but she will know you are there, and praying for her and her needs.

Secret Sisters is about encouraging, supporting, and edifying one another in prayer as well as with personal notes, cards, and small gifts. It is our hope that during these months your prayer life will bring you into a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ as you lift up your sister and her needs. And perhaps you will make a new friend as well!

This year's program will begin in February 3, 2024 and run through May 2024 for all women (college age and above) of Burleson Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Each participant can register by filling out a Personal Profile Sheet at the Women's Event. If you can't make it to that event, just contact Auri Powell at auri1517@gmail.com and she'll get a profile sheet to you. The deadline to sign up is Feb 10.




That's it for this week. I'm sure you're aware that the first part of next week is going to be brutally cold (for Texans at least). If you find yourself in need of assistance, please call one of the Pastors or our Head Deacon.

Kevin Walkowiak: (214) 274-0389

Danny Verdugo: (626) 243-3472

Brady Gendke: (682) 323-9503

By the way, the office will be closed Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Be safe, my friends, and warm yourself with the promise that "Yet day by day the Lord also pours out his steadfast love upon (us)." Psalm 42:8. ~ Liz ~



When you stumble,
as you will,
**a hand will
lift you up.**



GraceNotes

Make covenants, not resolutions, as you walk into the year, for covenants give us company in keeping what we pledge. A resolution with no witness is too often just a wish, a good intention with nothing but our declining willpower to make the vital difference.

The covenants we really need are bigger than our diets and more urgent than our visits to the gym. We need companions to whom we'll make the most important promises of all: to tell each other just the truth; to remind each other of how good the gospel is; to continue walking side by side through any guilt or fear the new year brings.

Agree with someone in your life—a spouse, a friend, another sinner saved by grace—with whom you'll travel in days ahead—by phone, by app, by real steps on real roads. Pledge perseverance, not perfection, for walking with another sinner will reveal how much you both need constant grace.

And when you stumble, as you will, a hand will lift you up, and brush you off, and help you keep on walking.

As this year starts, invite some other to what Jesus now invites you: “Come walk with me: keep covenant.”

That's how you'll stay in grace.

—Bill Knott

FUNNIES:

Looking at next week's temperatures like



When you're freezing but you can't complain cause you said you prefer the cold weather

