

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 3

The Suburban Connection

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From the Pastors Desk: Our Year Verse 2023

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

Psalm 34:8

Save the Date!

AWANA Resumes

January 8th

Normal Sunday
night activities
resume at 5:00 pm

Family Covered Dish Dinner

January 18th

6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Senior Ministry Mtg.

January 19th

11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

AYM @ Haynes's

January 22nd

5:00 pm

For you to know that a particular food is good, you have to taste it yourself. Over the past few years Wendy has started a new Christmas dinner tradition, her world-famous "Linebacker Lasagna." In my opinion it is the best lasagna I've ever had. It was so good this past Christmas that we had it for dinner the next day. The sauce is to die for, the cheese is scrumptious, and the meat has a nice mixture of heat and sweet. Well, I could go on and on describing how good it is but unless you taste it for yourself you just have to take my word for it.

In Psalm 34, David is inviting the nation of Israel to taste of the goodness of God. David has personally experienced God's goodness and now he wants others to experience the soul satisfying goodness of the Lord. In this Psalm we learn how to personally experience the goodness of God.

***We taste God's goodness by bringing our fears, troubles, and afflictions to him.**

David wrote this Psalm, as he reflects on a time in his life when everything was being stripped away. King Saul was trying to kill him; the Philistines would not welcome him...David didn't know where to go. In his fears David sought refuge in the Lord. Psalm 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." In this life, we are going to experience many heart aches, but it is in these times where God has promised to walk with us, to protect us and ultimately to deliver us. We experience God's goodness, when like David, we take refuge in him when times are hard.

Continued...

continued from the Pastor's Desk...

***We taste God's goodness when we bless the Lord at all times.**

David says in Psalm 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall continually be in my mouth." We have a saying at Suburban, it goes like this..."God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!" To David these were not just words, he actually lived them. It is easy to bless the Lord when everything is going great, but not so much when troubles come our way. David could bless the Lord in hard times because the hard times drove David to the Lord. It was in the hard times that David experienced how good God is. More than likely this new year will bring hard times for some of us. But know this, "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!"

***We taste God's goodness by continuing to live according to His Word.**

One of the lies the devil has been peddling since the beginning of time is that happiness can only be experienced outside of God. He convinced Adam and Eve that disobeying God would bring them true satisfaction. He has convinced many today that following God and living according to His Word will lead to a boring and miserable life. However, in Psalm 34:12-14, David says that those who love life and desire to see many good days must... "Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." It is only when we live our lives in the fear of the Lord that we experience the goodness of God. Experiencing the goodness of God can only come from a life of obedience to God.

My prayer for our Suburban family in 2023 is that we will all...taste and see that the Lord is good!

Tasting God's goodness with you,
Pastor Todd



O Taste and See
That the LORD is GOOD:
Blessed is the man that
trusteth in him.

Psalms 34:8

What's Happening In... Suburban Kids

Children's Church

It's easy to think of fun, active things to do with children when the sun is shining and it's warm outside. It can be harder in winter. Here are some winter activities to get you and your family going when it's cold or wet: Put on coats, hats and gloves and head outside. Show your children what the beach looks like in winter or visit parks and gardens when the plants are all wet, glossy, or frosty. Talk about the changes that happen each season. Take your children to see how the flow of creeks and streams change after rain or snow. When it's wet, dress up in rainboots and raincoats. Look for some big puddles to jump in. An umbrella can be fun to take along too. Your child might have fun opening and closing it a few times. If it's darker, let your child play with a flashlight when you go out for a walk. Gather leaves, sticks, shells, and stones from outside. Children love collecting things! You can take them inside and use them for sorting, painting or building.



If you're stuck indoors here are a few ideas for keeping your little ones busy: Move to music, make up dances and play dress-ups. Maybe your children could act out a new adventure based on a favorite superhero or book character. Set up an indoor treasure hunt. If you have space, use chairs, blankets and boxes to build a fort or set up an obstacle course. Many of our malls have free play places for younger children to get out their energy and maybe meet new friends. There are plenty of free things you and your children can do around your home and neighborhood. God gave us all the seasons for a reason. Use them to teach your children about our Creator and how good He is. Wendy Haynes

Sunday School

Carry the Light

Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be. God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident. Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God. Train them up in the authority of His Word. Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control. Empower them to know they can change the world. Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it. Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan. He knew Daniel could handle the lion's den. He knew David could handle Goliath. He knew Esther could handle Haman. He knew Peter could handle persecution. He knows that your child can handle whatever challenges they face in their life. He created them specifically for it. Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime.



Rise up to the challenge. Raise Daniel's, David's, Esther's, and Peter's! God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world. He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth. Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.

By Alex Cravens (submitted by Laura Tyler)

Food Pantry Ministry

As grocery prices continued to rise this year, we experienced a steady increase in the number of people who visit our food pantry each month. Thanks to the loving, generous hearts, and unwavering support of our Suburban church family, we are able to help many families. We provided 18 Thanksgiving meals and 21 Christmas meals to families in need this year! What a blessing it is to serve these lovely people! A special thanks to those who volunteered to do bulk shopping for the pantry; your help is very much appreciated! If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Marsha Utley (757-469-1849) or Gloria Livingston (757-613-1797). Marsha Utley

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Cereal | Beans |
| Jell-O | Instant Potatoes |
| Rice | Baked Beans |
| Pudding | Mac & Cheese |
| Jelly | Hamburger Helper |
| Tuna | Peanut Butter |
| Crackers | Single Serving Fruit |
| Soup | Canned Fruit |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Pasta Noodles |
| Apple Sauce | Pasta Sauces |
| Breakfast Bars | Canned Vegetables |
| Fresh Fruit | Fresh Bread |
| Laundry Detergent | Paper Towels |
| Dish Soap | Toilet Paper |

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



MISSION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

To glorify God, by making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION: WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE?

A growing faith in God
A growing love for God
A growing love for others

ACTION: HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org

Belong Women's Ministry

On December 1st, the Belong Women's Ministry invited all the women of the church to attend their "Chillin Holiday Hangout." The menu for the night was Ara Miller's Tortellini soup and Wendy Haynes's homemade chili with baked potatoes and all the toppings you could imagine. We also enjoyed building and decorating Ginger Bread houses and spending time with one another.

Mary Justis gave her testimony and shared how a simple invitation to Sunday School was the door that led to her entire family going to church. Mary learned about what Jesus had done for her and accepted Christ as her savior as a young girl but had never been baptized. As Mary taught in our Sunday School program, she shared that the children asked a lot of questions about baptism. She would answer their questions, but the Lord began speaking to her about getting baptized herself. A few years ago, Mary was baptized in the baptistry at Suburban. She spoke of her baptism being a very emotional and spiritual experience for her stating that it may have been because of her age and her understanding of what God had done for her that made it such a special moment in her life.

Yes, Sunday School is an excellent place for the church to join parents in teaching about the wonderful gift of what God has done for us! He sent His Son to be our Savior! He paid the penalty of our sin, conquered death, and is preparing a place for us! This is the entire message of the Bible. It's His personal love letter to us! ^{WH}



Save the Date:

Equip Women's Conference
February 25, 2023 - 8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Bethel Baptist Church
Yorktown, VA
Sign up in the foyer near church office.

AWANA Ministry

It was a great December in our AWANA program! We started the month by making necklaces/bracelets using colored beads to help us remember the Lord's Prayer. Each section of the prayer is represented by a different colored bead so it's a little easier for kids to memorize. As always, Store Night was a HUGE success thanks to everyone who gave items!! These kids have done so well in earning AWANA bucks that I had to max out their spending limit to \$200! We are so proud of them and all their hard work. Our next store night is in May, so please feel free to drop off new toys in the AWANA basket in the foyer. We also had our 1st Family Christmas Night where each group either sang, played an instrument or read a poem/Scripture as it related to Christmas. We were all wondering how our littlest clubbers would do with being in front of all those strange faces, but they did a GREAT job! I think this may have to be a regular night moving forward.

Carol Brooks

Our January calendar:

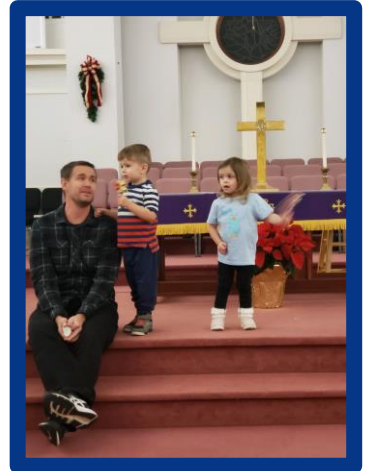
Jan 1 - No Club

Jan 8 - Who I Am Night - exploring Jesus's I AM statements

Jan 15 - Drive-In Movie Night - Kids decorate boxes to look like cars then sit in them while they munch on snacks & watch a movie

Jan 22 - Pajama Night - "Don't let the bed bugs bite" looking at the different bugs mentioned in the Bible

Jan 29 - Pastor's Popcorn Night- the kids get to grill Pastor Todd about anything while eating popcorn!



Operation Christmas Child

This past year was a banner year for Suburban and our involvement with Operation Christmas Child Ministry. We as a church filled over 1136 gospel opportunity shoebox gifts - called this because every gift not only touches a child with joy and love from us, but with love from the very hand of God. Each child receives a booklet about "The Greatest Gift", Jesus Christ and an opportunity to learn more about God through a 12 week discipleship study entitled "The Greatest Journey". At its completion, they receive a Bible in their own language to keep and treasure as a tangible reminder of God's love. What a gift! What an easy way for us to share in such a far reaching witness for our God.

The first weekend of December, Dana and I travelled to Charlotte, NC with the area OCC team to serve in one of the 8 processing centers located in the US. On Saturday, Dec.4, the 200th million shoebox was processed and sent on its way to a child in the Ukraine. Our church helped reach that overwhelming number of gifts. We are part of a global ministry following God's instruction to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations. . ." Even though we might not physically go to distribute the shoeboxes, we are the hands and feet of God when we fill them and equip the ones who do go. Thank you for dedication and support.

We will begin to work on items to fill boxes for 2023 on Mondays at the church from 10-12 each week. Watch the bulletin for a start date or contact me. During those mornings, we'll be making different things to help if we intend to fill as many shoeboxes in 2023 as we did in 2022. Some of the supplies we will need that you can donate are: pony beads, elastic cord to make necklaces and bracelets, 12 pipe cleaners (chenille stems), large colorful or decorative buttons (flat, without shafts), and barrettes or headbands to decorate. Keep praying as the people begin to distribute the gifts and start the new year with joy. Lynn Cooke



Music Ministry

Our Christmas cantata was lovely. Thank you to everyone who participated. The new year is beginning, and we are beginning new worship music. If you like to sing, come on out to choir practice on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm or for senior choir practice on Mondays at 1:00 pm. Learn some new hymns, celebrate the old favorites, participate in thanking the Lord through music. Please remember to pray for our music ministry as we desire to glorify our Lord in all that we do and encourage all the musicians to continue to give their best each Sunday as they seek to enhance our worship experience.

Lynn Cooke



Faith In Action Through Prayer Walking



We know that prayer is powerful, and it is a weapon of warfare, which the Lord has given us. We want to take prayer into the community through prayer walking and watch what God will do as we seek His heart for the people around us. Paul exhorts the believers in Thessalonica to, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV).

When we set our hearts to prayer, we refocus our gaze on the Father's will. If you don't know what prayer walking is, it is just that: walking and praying. What a way to begin the new year! We're sure you have busy schedules, but as the saying goes, "You do what you want to do." How about making a new resolution to prayer walk as much as possible – pray for your neighborhood, family, our church, our pastor. We are wanting to ready the ground through prayer and inviting the Holy Spirit to move in our neighborhoods, our church family, and beyond. Join us in praying with expectant hearts to see that the Lord is good!

Fellowship Book Update

It's been almost a year since the last Fellowship Book was published. It's way too soon to publish a whole new book, but it is a good time to update the one we have; correcting errors, adding new people, etc.

Forms are available on the table in the foyer that you can use to add or update your information. If your information is not included in the current book, your information has changed, or if an error was made in your entry in the last book, please fill out a new form and place it in the basket on the counter in the copy room. If you're not sure, there are Fellowship books on the counter as well.

Forms will be gathered in late February and the update pages will be ready in March. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Wendy Haynes



God thunders wondrously with his voice; he does great things that we cannot comprehend. For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth.'
Job 37: 5, 6a

Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

January 7 & 21, 2023

The Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study will meet in January on the 7th and the 21st with the study continuing in the **Book of 1 Samuel**. As usual, the study will feature a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word, comprehensive Bible study.

Since we did not meet on December 17th, the New Year will begin with continuation of the account of the Philistine capture of the Ark of the Covenant and the curses that God placed upon the Philistines for their theft and possession of it.

They hastened to return it to the people of Israel (**Chapter 6**), which they did in Beth-shemesh, but there the curse of God continued as He struck down 70 men *"because they looked upon (into) the ark of the LORD" (6:19), ("... but they shall not go in to look on the holy things even for a moment, lest they die" [Numbers 4:20])*.

Chapter 7 will deal with the God-led defeat of the Philistines and Israel's return to the LORD. Then Samuel built a stone memorial to the LORD. . . *"called its name Ebenezer. . . and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines . . . (and Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life" (7:12,14 and15)*.

Chapter 8 will introduce a new paradigm in the lives of the Israelites, a move from a scattered tribal society to a central monarchy. The people demanded a king – forgetting they already had a king, GOD ALMIGHTY – despite the warnings of Samuel that concluded with: *"In that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you . . ."*

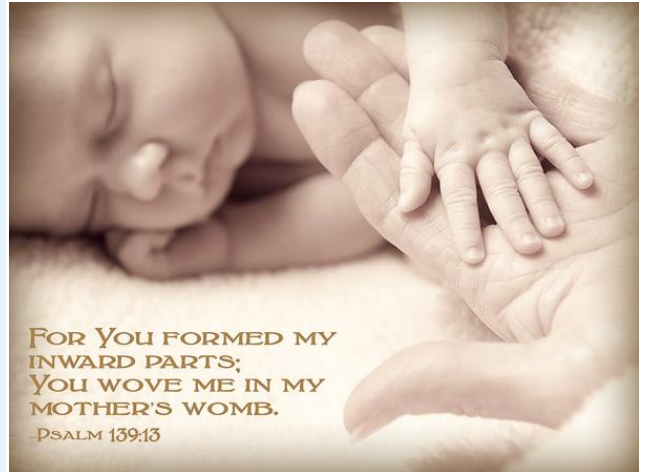
Chapter 9 introduces Saul, a Benjamite of Gilbeah, who in **Chapter 10**, will be anointed and proclaimed Israel's king.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for the study of God's Word, prayer, and fellowship for men of all ages; church members and non-church members. All are invited to enjoy a good, homemade breakfast (prepared by the men) of eggs (scramble and fried), sausage, corned beef hash, pancakes, waffles, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word. It all begins at 8:00 AM and concludes around 9:30, or so. **PLEASE JOIN US!**



January is Sanctity of Human Life Month

Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater is a Christ-centered organization to reach out to women and families involved in crisis-related pregnancies by offering real help for the present, hope for the future, and healing from the past. We are proud to support them on a monthly basis and realize that "children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3 Yearly, a Walk for Life is held in March to help raise financial support for this ministry. They also need volunteers (orientation required) to work in their facilities. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and have questions, please see Gloria Livingston. We are also participating in the "Baby Bottle Campaign" to raise money for the center. Pick up your bottle in the foyer and sign up if you would like to participate. wh



My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139: 15-16

Seniors Ministry

Due to a surge in illness among church members, the December seniors meeting was one of several large group gatherings that were cancelled.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 19, at 11:00. Pastor Todd is scheduled to be our speaker, when he will share his thoughts and plans for the year 2023. Then we will be treated to Maria's Italian Lunch! Watch the church Sunday Bulletin for details.

The Seniors Ministry sponsors all of our programs, but they are open to adults of all ages.

January 5 – Steering Committee Meeting @ 10:00 am



Christmas Day Guest Speaker – Dr. Danny Dwyer



With the expectant arrival of Pastor Todd and Wendy's first grandbaby, Wendy's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Danny Dwyer, made the trip from Tennessee with the hopes of being in Virginia Beach for the birth. Pastor Todd asked Dr. Dwyer to preach on Christmas morning and we were blessed with a message titled, "The 'Fear Nots' of the Christmas Story." Below is a summary of Dr. Dwyer's message.

Introduction

The Biblical story of the birth of Jesus contains the words "Fear Not" given on four different occasions from the angels to the main characters. This is "heaven" telling us that the birth of the Lord Jesus, the Christmas story, is given to a chaotic world to alleviate our deepest fears. Each of the "Fear Nots" has a special significance.

I. The "Fear Not" of Delayed Blessing (Luke 1:13)

Given to Zacharias/Elizabeth. Beyond normal childbearing years. They would have a son who would play a special role in the Messianic narrative. This "Fear Not" reassures everyone that often our hopes are not denied but delayed. Some things are matters of God's timing. So, don't give up. God has not forgotten you.

II. The "Fear Not" of Unqualified Trust (Luke 1:30)

Given to Mary. Lots of questions from her about "How". The answer was that "with God all things are possible." She may not fully understand, but God is able when she was not. This "Fear Not" means that some things require us to trust God even when we don't see how things can work out.

III. The "Fear Not" of Personified Obedience (Matthew 1:18-25)

Given to Joseph. His plans for marriage were totally demolished when Mary was "found to be with child". His name is specifically used four times. The angel calls his name specifically. This "Fear Not" means that God's truth needs to be taken personally. It is for me. He knows my name (and yours).

IV. The "Fear Not" of Ultimate Purpose (Luke 2:8-17)

Given to the shepherds. Tending sheep that would probably be used for sacrifices. To them was given the truth that the Savior of the world had been born. The Lord had something greater intended for them to know. This "Fear Not" means that there is a greater purpose for our lives and what we do. That is that there is an ultimate purpose for everyone ("the world"). That purpose is to give "Glory to God in the highest" and have His "peace."

Thank you, Dad, for sending me the summary and allowing me to share it with our church family. I love you! ~Wendy



Ambassador Youth Ministry - AYM

We had a wonderful time skating on December 11th after enjoying pizza at YNOT. Even Wendy and I put on a pair of skates, did a lot of praying, and got out on the floor. We want to thank all the kids for their encouragement... and help! :) We also want to thank Jack for entertaining us as we took breaks from making it around the rink. Jack, what can I say, you have the moves! Wendy got several videos that will be shared with EVERYONE!

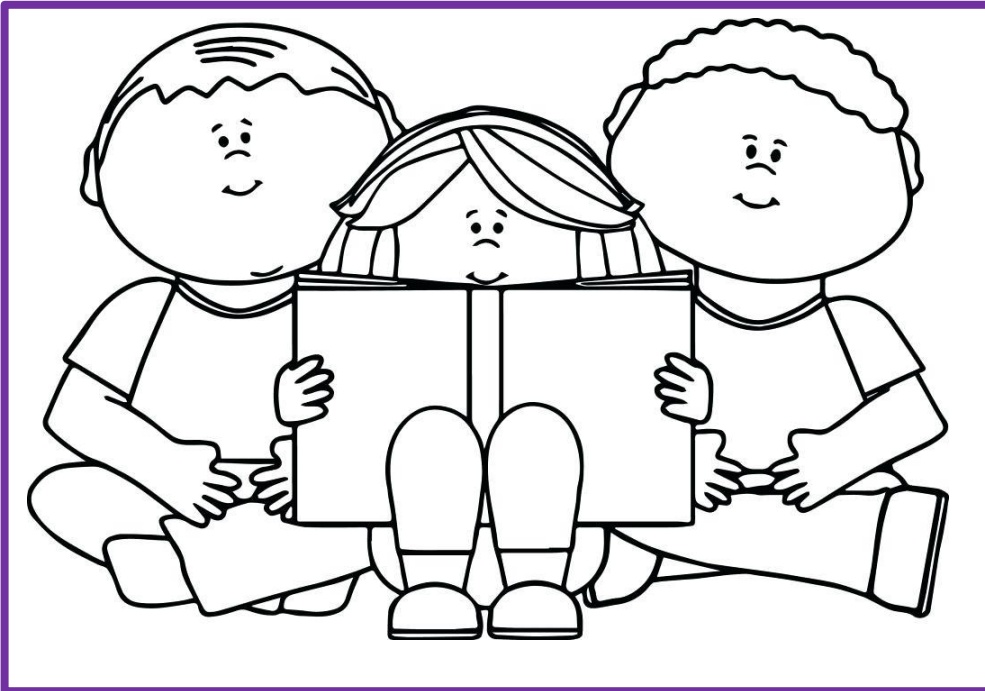


As you know our Christmas party had to be rescheduled because Mrs. Wendy and I got the flu. So, our **2023 New Year Extravaganza** will be **Sunday, January 22nd, at 5:00 pm** at the Haynes home (5612 Ranger Court, Virginia Beach 23464). Pick up time will be 8:00 pm. All food and snacks will be provided.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. We're really excited about AYM getting back together. Our prayer for each of you is that you will personally experience the goodness of God. The church year verse for 2023, Psalm 34:8 says, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." God desires for each one of us to delight in his goodness. None of us know what we will face in the new year, but we do know that in the good times and in the bad, God is good! Pastor Todd & Wendy



Color the picture of the children reading the Bible.



Directions: Draw a picture of a snowman in this box.

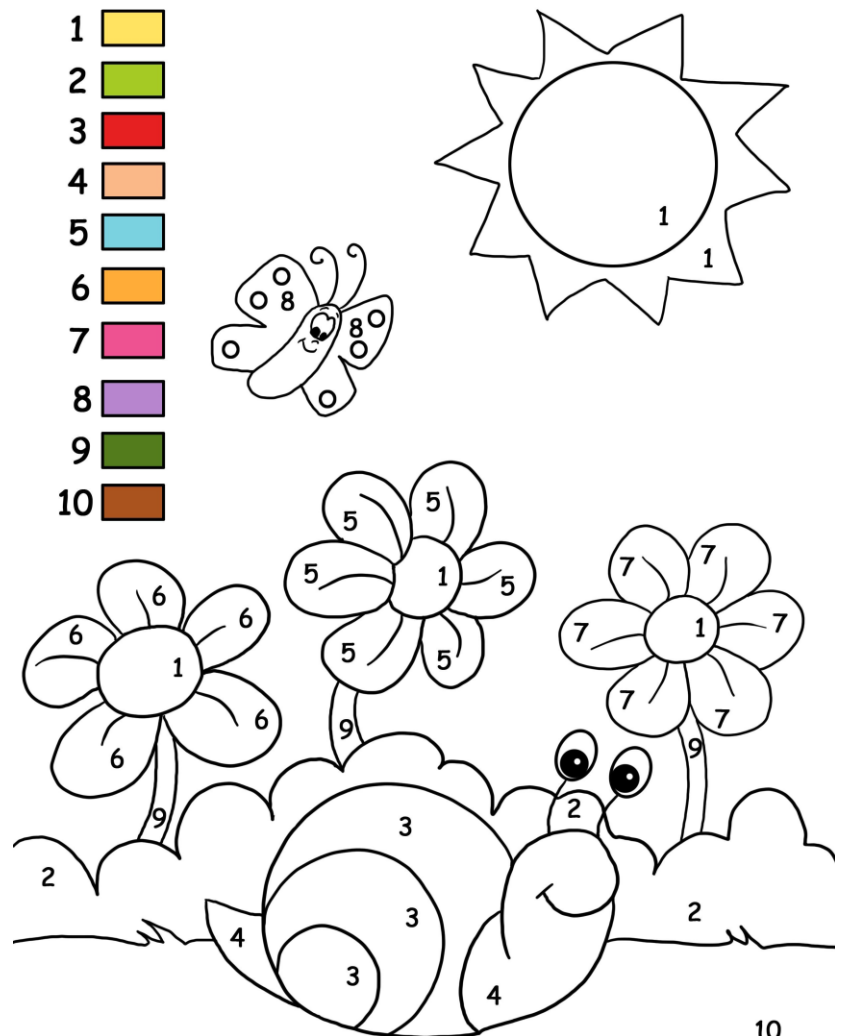
2023 YEAR VERSE

Directions: Look up the Bible verse below and fill in the blanks. Show Pastor Todd when you have completed it for a prize. 😊

"Oh, _____ and _____
that the _____ is
_____. Blessed is the
_____ who takes _____ in
_____!"

Psalm 34:8

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10



Did you know that Pastor Todd loves a good joke? If you have a joke and you would like to see him laugh, find him after the service and tell the joke to him. He may tell you one too! 😊