

**NURSING**

**HOME**

**RESIDENTS:**

Jean Smith

Vonnie Ashway

Joy Wessel

**RETIREMENT**

**HOME RESIDENTS:**

Dorothy Kuhn

George West

Louise Rotz

Ben Newcomer

**SHUT-INS:**

Donna Wagaman

Mary Florence

Mae Duffey

Dean Blubaugh

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Our Nation

Becky Bricker

Dennis Newsome  
(Pastor's brother)

Catherine Pentz

Bob Bowders

Paul & Lana Duda  
(Caribbean)

Philip Drummond  
recovering from  
surgery)

Alyce Ann Pentz

All Covid-19  
patients

Pastor & April  
Newsome

Dave Kipp

Elva & Gary Pentz

Louise Rotz  
(Covid)

Vivian Biser (the  
passing of niece  
Doris Yeakle)

Shirley Moser  
(Covid—sister of  
Donna Wagaman)

**January 10, 2021**

## **W E L C O M E**

**We count it a privilege to have each of you in attendance today. May you experience God's presence as you worship with us! We ask our first-time guests to fill out the *CONNECT* card attached to your bulletin and drop it in the offering box at the back of the church.**

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### **A Word from the Pastor:**

To thrive in life you need 3 bones: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone. Oh, how I wish I had been the one to come up with that quote. Instead, the credit for this wise — and clever — thinking needs to go to the famous country music singer Reba McEntire.

I wonder if Ms. McEntire realizes how paying attention to your wishbone, backbone and funny bone can also help build and strengthen the 206 other bones that are in your body?

As we begin the new year, may I remind you of what you'll need to carry with you into next year. Because 2020 was a year of intrusions by a pandemic, politicians, protests, pay cuts and panic attacks, as we spent much of our time in the isolation of our homes, I believe we'll need three items as we launch 2021. These are not real "bones" but rather attitudes that will either help or hurt us in everyday life.

To Thrive in 2021, You Need to Have:

#### **1. A Backbone.**

Everyone I know who was able to remain steady and strong in 2020 demonstrated courage at school, at home and in their community.

There was so much uncertainty, people had to decide where they stood on issues like wearing a mask, helping others — not just ourselves — and carrying on with our jobs. This year, it wasn't easy. We need to model hope and grit for the next generation as we enter a new year. So, relax for the holidays, but cultivate a strong backbone on what you stand for and what kind of example you'll set for your children and others.

#### **2. A Wishbone.**

You'll need to clarify some new aspirations in the upcoming year. What do you wish for in 2021? What did you fail to accomplish this year that you'll want to be determined to achieve in the next 12 months? Certainly, wishing is not enough, but it's a start. Some people completely lost hope this year of finding a job they'd like or of seeing a loved one recover from an infection. Wishing can turn into dreaming, which can turn into planning, which can turn into reaching a goal. Purpose gives us both energy and meaning. Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present!

#### **3. A Funny Bone.**

I think conflict and challenges can be faced easier when we are able to laugh at ourselves. Friction is lubricated by possessing a sense of humor; call it a "funny bone." There is a proverb that says, "*Laughter doeth good like medicine.*" (Proverbs 17:22) When I'm scared, I make decisions from emotion rather than facts or hope. When I'm able to laugh at a tough situation, it enables my brain to retain its reasoning skills and make better decisions. Don't stop laughing at yourself and at humorous moments that occur. After all, a smiling face is always more attractive than a frowning one.

Make no bones about it, we need to have courage, we need to hope and we need to laugh. Why not start now and begin a new habit in 2021?