

# 3timbers CHURCH

ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2020

*Connecting  
people to the  
transforming and  
redeeming love of  
Jesus Christ  
through*

**PASSION,  
POWER, and  
PRESENCE**

**WORSHIP WITH  
US!**

**Sunday 10 a.m.**

**PINE CREEK  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL GYM**

**7801 North HWS  
Cleveland  
Boulevard in  
Bennington, NE**



*Welcome 2020!*



**GET** in  
the **GAME**



**New Sermon Series!**

Each Sunday through Easter we will be looking at the Gospel of Luke and how Jesus calls us to get in the game and live out our faith as Christ followers.

Download our Vision Sunday overview of the year at:

<https://threetimbers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Vision-Sunday-Online.pdf>



## Getting in the Game...

*"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever."*

*1 Corinthians 9:25*



Pastor Jeff is leading the way in Getting in the Game...

He will be offering the opening prayer for the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature on Monday, March 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

To review Pastor Jeff's Vision Sunday sermon, please visit:

<https://threetimbers.org/sermons/stand-alone-sermons/>

The companion slide show is:

<https://threetimbers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Vision-Sunday-Online.pdf>

After listening the to sermon and watching the slide show, think about how you will choose to Get in the Game at three timbers church...

I heard the following on a radio program two hours after Pastor Jeff's Vision Sunday sermon on 2/9/20... "You have too much of the Lord to be happy in the world, but too much of the world to be happy in the Lord." This was an affirmation to me of Pastor Jeff's message to "get in the game."

And then this gem from the book study at the Soul Sisters book club when I wonder how to get in the game:

"Don't hesitate. Rise up. Serve. Make a difference. Right where I stand, just as I am."

- Lincee Ray, author of *It's a Love Story*

I'm a big believer that God will lead us all to where we can do our best work for Him. However, I believe we need to step out and try different things for God to reveal to us where He wants us to be. If we try something and it doesn't work out, then there's a better place for us to serve - keep trying! May God bless three timbers church to His glory and each of us to His service.

Ginger Blunk

Thank you, Pam, for getting in the game and sharing your powerful poem for us to reflect on during this Lenten season.

### **The Power of Gethsemane** by Pam Mitchell



In the Garden of Gethsemane, away from all the crowds,  
Jesus needed time alone where he could pray aloud.  
Peter, James and John would watch while Jesus shared his heart  
With his heavenly Father; the end was about to start.

Sadly the disciples slept while Jesus was away.  
He wanted them to keep watch; he wanted them to pray.  
They didn't recognize the timing, though Jesus surely knew;  
*Could you stay awake an hour, any one of you?*

With feelings of uncertainty, feelings of despair,  
Jesus looked to heaven crying *Father are you there?*  
All our Savior wanted was to hear his Father's voice;  
Anguish built up in his heart; did he have a choice?

Distressed, he cried *if you can please take this cup from me!*  
But even as he spoke the words, he knew it could not be.  
Finally, reconciled, he prayed as his Father's Son;  
Accepting what was coming, not *his* will but God's be done.

To give him strength and comfort came an angel from above,  
And Jesus knew, without a doubt, this was his Father's love.  
The time was near, betrayal with a kiss is what it cost,  
Before the day was over, they hung Jesus on the cross.

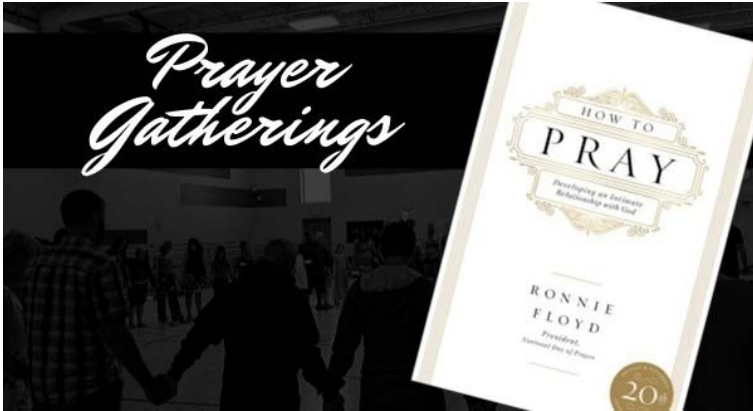
Of course, we know the ending, Jesus died, but rose again.  
He was the slaughtered Lamb, and we were rescued from our sin.  
We can pray like Jesus did in Gethsemane,  
Trusting the greatest gift of all, God's love for you and me!





## Upcoming Events

Get in the Game! Join in the fellowship and outreach opportunities at three timbers church...  
Check out these offerings; meet new people, and have some fun!



Join us March 2, 16, and 30 from 6:30-7:30 at the church office as we gather to pray during the Lenten season. We will walk through texts that will help us go deeper with God and the power of the cross.

We will be using the book *How to Pray: Developing an Intimate Relationship with God* by Ronnie Floyd as a guide for our time.

## Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers will be attending the Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference at March 7th. Learn more at: <https://ironsharpensiron.net/>



## Soul Sisters

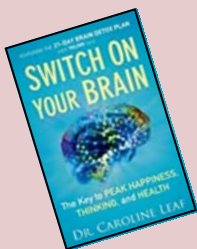
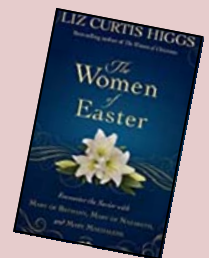
Please join us & bring a friend!

### MARCH BOOK CLUB

Date: March 31, 6:30 p.m.

**"Women of Easter" by Liz Curtis Hig**

Location: TBD



### APRIL BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

**"Switch on Your Brain" by Caroline Leaf**

Location: TBD

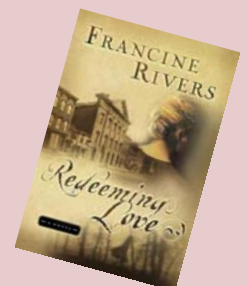


### MAY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m.

**"Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers**

Location: Ginger Blunk's House, 19601 Hopper Street, Elkhorn







## Staff

*Getting to know one another...*

### **Sarah Snow, Worship Leader**

*I don't remember a time when I didn't believe in Jesus.*

*I'm sure a big part of that is because I'm a PK. (Preacher's Kid) And proud to be one!*

*I grew up knowing and believing that God loved me, and that Jesus was and is my Savior. We went to church every Sunday. It wasn't an option. You go to church, you worship Jesus with each other, my parents hosted Bible studies, I did Youth Group and we prayed every night. My parents taught me to pray throughout the day and to always talk to Jesus.*

*I remember two times specifically when I was in the tenth grade that are vivid reminders for me of Jesus' presence and the trueness of God, Heaven, and its Heavenly hosts.*

*For whatever reason, I decided that I really wanted to see an angel. I prayed every night, for I don't know how long for God to let me see an angel. And one night, I woke up. And catty-corner to my bed on the right side, was a blurry figure (my eyesight was terrible!) that was taller than my parents, wearing a purple robe and pointing up and towards the stairs. I quickly put my head under the covers and asked, "Who is it? What do you want?" I was scared. But it wasn't a normal scared. It was a holy scared, if that is what you call it. I looked to my dog who was sleeping on my bed beside me and she was peacefully sleeping, so I that calmed me to know that it wasn't an evil entity. God had granted me my wish. I put my head back under the covers (I was still scared), let my heart rate calm down a bit and when I peeked my head out again, the angel was gone. I've not seen one again and I've not prayed for it. If I'm being honest, I'm too scared.*

*Some time after that, also in the tenth grade, I had a dream. I remember being awfully confused and sort of down hearted about what God wanted for me. I prayed hard for Him to show me what I was supposed to do with my life because I felt a pull to something. This particular night, I dreamt that I was woken up from sleep at an event I was at (in my dream) because of a bright white light under a door. I went to go see what it was. (Dream me wasn't scared) When I went into the room, there was Jesus, wearing the brightest, cleanest white robe. He asked me, "What do you want?" I remember specifically saying that I wanted a house, a family, and a successful career. And He said, "You shall have it." And then I woke up. What an encouragement for someone who didn't feel like she had a direction. I didn't necessarily have a direction, but I had confidence that Jesus cared for me and loved me.*

*Fast forward six years and I was praying hard again for direction. I got it and ignored it. Then I got married and divorced. My dad made sure to tell me that God still loved me no matter what. My faith didn't waver. In fact, it was God who got me through. It was the nights of talking to God, praying to Jesus for comfort and that helped me.*

*Fast forward another few years and God fulfilled His promise of a home and family. I am blessed and I am loved. And so are you.*

*God still speaks to me in dreams. They are powerful for me and I've learned to listen.*

*When asked to give my faith journey, I always think of it as boring and uneventful. I don't have the big moment where I remember giving my life to Christ, it's always been His. But perhaps a part of my story has touched you. If I could impart one thing, it would be this, Jesus loves you no matter what. Jesus loves you no matter what. He loves you and you are His. Jesus loves you no matter what. No matter what.*





## 3tc Milestones

**Fifth Anniversary Celebration - January 26, 2020**



### *Anniversary Celebration Recap by Cindy Wrenn*

*What an absolutely amazing God we serve! It is so hard to believe that on January 26, 2020, we celebrated the five-year anniversary of our church plant! It was a great celebration of God's faithfulness for the past five years as Three Timbers took root in Bennington!*

*We began as a contemporary service plant at Covenant Presbyterian Church (CPC) in 2006. We saw God's faithfulness throughout our entire time there. When one door shut, another was opened. Pastor Jeff was called to CPC, and after a short time, we left to plant a church in Bennington in 2015. And here we are five years later celebrating God's power, passion and presence in our community and in our lives!*

*We celebrated with a special service where we heard from several of our members of how they have seen God's faithfulness in Three Timbers. They were heart-warming testimonies with many laughs and tears! We saw some familiar faces of those who were a vital part of our church plant and once part of our family who have since moved on. We saw a video of how God has been working in and through our church for the past five years. A delicious luncheon was catered by Pleasure Your Palate and we all enjoyed our fellowship time together. Pastor Jeff summed up the day with "wow!"*

*I am so blessed to be a part of this church family and the journey we have taken to get here. I have learned so much from Pastor Jeff and his family about God using unexpected people to minister to His congregation and how imperative it is that we wait on God's timing. God has shown me His faithfulness, His goodness and His love through watching our congregation grow in number and in faith. I cannot wait to see what God does with Three Timbers Church in the next five years!*





For Christmas Cindy gave me one of those DNA kits where the slogan is "Discovery your Family Story". Well I haven't received the results back yet but it got me to thinking about what is the Three Timbers story? As I thought about it, the verse Jeff directed me to was Hebrews 10:23 and it really started to hit home.

It reads, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."

While each of us has a story, the Three Timbers story really begins all the way back in 2006 when a group of believers felt led by the Holy Spirit to come together to worship our God that has always

shown His faithfulness in a new way. Throughout the highs and lows (and there were many lows) we were always reminded that while mortals fail, His love and faithfulness never fails. We just need to keep reminding ourselves of that. Through it all, a core group of faithful believers persevered and Three Timbers was born out of that unswerving faith in a God that never gives up on those who are faithful to him. A new DNA genome was established. (If you were a charter member of Three Timbers Church would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you, please be seated.)

As I reflect on the DNA of Three Timbers:

*I see a gene of Faith, in a God who always provides.*

*I see a gene of Responsibility, to raise our children knowing a loving God.*

*I see a gene of Love, of serving the broken and lonely.*

*I see a gene of Compassion, for the hurting.*

*I see a gene of Tenacity, never giving up when others wish us to fail.*

Each of us here today brings our own DNA and story to Three Timbers. My own DNA came from a family that was rooted in living a Christ centered life. I will always remember my mother who told us that at any time you needed to be ready to Preach, Pray or Die. Which meant we needed to be prepared to preach the Gospel (and sometimes use words), Pray incessantly for forgiveness and direction, and be willing to die at any time knowing what awaits us in heaven if we trust and believe in Jesus.

What's in your DNA? Does it include that unswerving hope that Jesus provides to those that trust and believe in Him? If you are sitting here today, I believe it does!

God is continuing to write our lower story while His upper story stays constant. I can't wait to see what story He writes in the next 5 years for 3tc. Through Him all things certainly are possible!

P.S. Jeff & Kristi....I think I still have my banana bread... and I firmly believe that His story is being revealed to Three Timbers through the two of you, Selah and Levi. Gods Blessings on you!











**The Blessings Jar...** Beginning on the 5th Anniversary Sunday, the Blessings Jar is a way to share how you've seen God's faithfulness through three timbers church. Feel free to leave your observations in the jar; we'll share some each newsletter.

*I've seen God's faithfulness through 3tc in this way:*

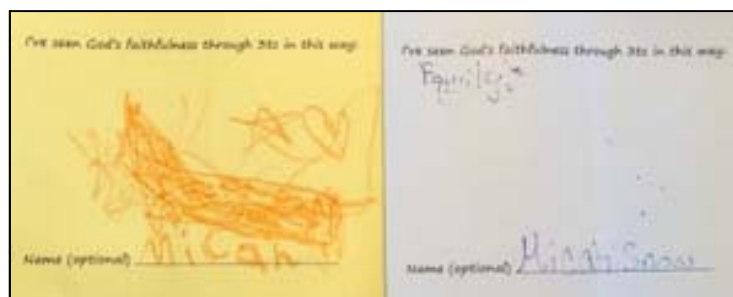
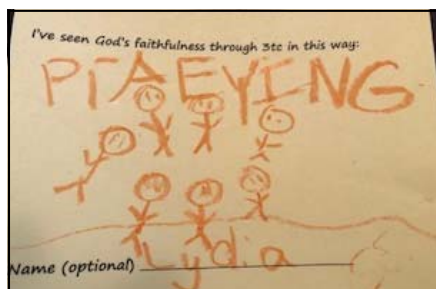
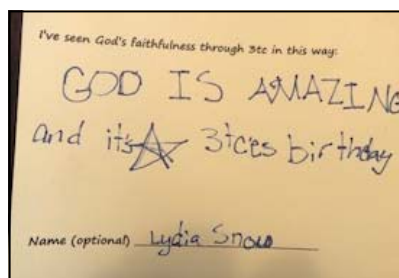
"Answered prayer! Each Sunday we lift up needs and praises. Sharing each other's burdens and sharing joys and blessings, both reinforces God's power and brings us together in our faith community." ~ Sara Mitchell

"Helped us start our marriage off right with Pastor Jeff."

"Friendship. Loyalty." ~ John K.

"When I first came to 3tc, my wife pointed out all the people she knew... I was surprised that she knew so many, and disappointed that I did not know who I was sitting next to. God showed me how to reach out and know my neighbor, provided me the method and patience to know people one at a time."

"His inspiration and strength to Pastor Jeff to preach the 'hard truths' as well as the joys of being Christ followers." ~ Ginger Blunk





## FINANCIAL CORNER

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Praise God for his people's faithfulness to the ministry of 3tc. Once again, we finished the year in the black which will be helpful in support of all that God calls us to do in the years ahead.

<b>2019:</b>	
Contributions	\$351,265
Expenses	<u>301,697</u>
Net	\$ 49,568

<b>January 2020:</b>	
Contributions	\$33,934
Expenses	<u>33,912*</u>
Net	\$ 622

\*Note that payroll is every other week. January was one of two months in the year where there are three payrolls (the other will be July). Also, we were blessed with a wonderful Fifth Year Anniversary celebration and those expenses were largely in January. Both of these items contribute to a larger expense total than the typical month.

In His Service,

Rick Blunk  
Business Manager



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

**Support three timbers church by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)**

**UPDATE!**

*The Amazon Smile deposit to three timbers church for the period of  
October 1 - December 31, 2019*

***\$183.28! (Previous Quarter was \$72.03)***

***Thank you for choosing 3tc!***

*Stay Connected...*

Have you *moved*?

Do you have a *new phone number*?

Have you opened a *new email account*?

So we can keep you up to date, please keep us up to date!



***Let us know if you've had changes to your contact information!***

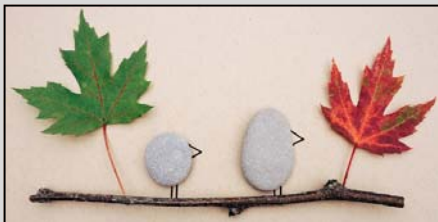
***[rick@threetimbers.org](mailto:rick@threetimbers.org) and [newsletter@threetimbers.org](mailto:newsletter@threetimbers.org)***



## Spotlight on our Young...

*"But Jesus called them to him, saying, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" - Mark 10:14*

### Sunday School with Mr. Garrett



### BRANCHES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Now Meeting at Ignition Church

(just down the street from three timbers church office)

**Treehouse Kids (grades K-5):** Meet at Ignition Church (downtown Bennington) from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

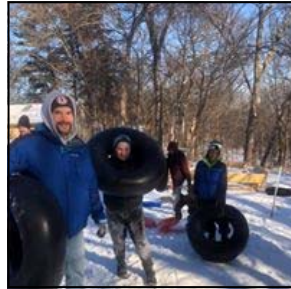
**Middle schoolers:** Meet at Ignition Church (down the street from 3tc office-downtown Bennington) from 6:30-8:00 pm

**Adults:** Join **Brews and Q's at the Stumble Inn Bar** (1 block from the church office) for a time of study and discussion from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

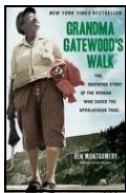
For more information on Treehouse Kids, contact [Garrett@threetimbers.org](mailto:Garrett@threetimbers.org)



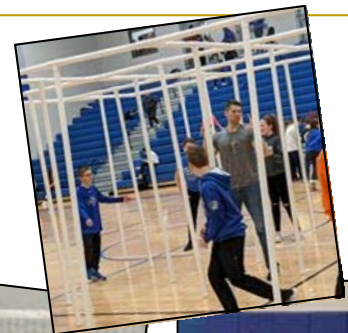
# More 3tc fun & fellowship...



## Soul Sisters at Bonnie's House



## Fifth Quarter Fun



February 7, 2020