



The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr Bruce ~

Ready for 2022?

Who's that? I looked again. Had to smile. The guy looking at me was not as young as he used to be. He had a twinkle in his eyes; eyes that showed a little wisdom and sagacity with age, lessons learned from failure and challenges faced. I thought I recognized him. I chuckled. The key there is I thought I knew him. The humor is I was looking at myself! The inverted image was my reflection in the mirror.

How well do we know ourselves? We are all works in progress. And the work of knowing ourselves—let alone others—is never complete.

Maybe one of our challenges in 2022 could be to pay attention. Listen to what's going on in us—our inner being, emotions and rambling thoughts. Can we see past the surface and understand who we are, who we are becoming? Are we brave enough to face our fears, question our assumptions, examine our motives, etc.? Can we get past denial, pretending and hiding, be honest with our faults, failures and fears, and embrace our hopes and dreams?

Consider Shakespeare's quote from Hamlet, "*to thine own self be true.*" We have to be honest with who we are in order to be true to ourselves. Coupled with this is the challenge to rise up to be our best selves. Recognize God's work in and through us as new creations.

This year recognize the person God created you to be. Intentionally, deliberately, prayerfully let God's love shine in and through you. That takes honest confession and recognizing God's forgiveness in Jesus. It also includes claiming and connecting with God's powerful love expressed through you. The world is a better place because of you, because of God's love shining through you.

Colossians 3:12-14 (The Message)

¹² So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. ¹³ Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. ¹⁴ And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

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Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2022, in the sanctuary immediately after our worship service. Our agenda will include our 2022 budget, election of officers, and thoughts for our future. Following the annual meeting, assuming that COVID-19 doesn't make too strong a comeback in the meantime, we will go downstairs to our fellowship hall for a potluck luncheon. We will keep you updated. Please come. Join us!

Parking Strip on Jefferson Avenue

Ogden City and our parking lot contractor are as frustrated as we are with our parking lot's not being completed and usable for the winter months. Therefore, Ogden City has painted twenty-three temporary diagonal parking strips on Jefferson Avenue. Three-hour-limit parking signs are being installed this week. The city has promised to patrol and enforce this time limit. Thank you to Jeremy Smith who is helping us manage this process.

Congratulations to Mrs and Mr Price!



Alexas/Lexie Rude and Trevor Price were married on December 9th in our sanctuary, allowing us to celebrate the beginning of their joyful life together. They are residing in Lexie's home until Trevor returns to California for more training with the Marines. When that training is completed, they both will travel to his new duty station - wherever that may be.

February ... is a month of longing. Most of us are ready to be done with winter. We "throw another log on the fire," grab a good book or watch a good movie and lean forward towards spring. February's most famous holiday is Valentine's Day on the 14th, the feast day of St. Valentine. According to Wikipedia, although the exact origin of the holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is universally recognized as a day for love, devotion and romance. Not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, but, whoever he was, Valentine did actually exist, because archaeologists unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom. Let's celebrate God's love on February 13th (Valentine's Sunday) and give some love to our community by helping to supply some needed items to Ogden's Youth Futures shelter. Details for this giving opportunity are being developed and will be posted on our facebook page as well as in the weekly worship bulletins and the Elim Extra.



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