

"Bits from Bob" for January 28, 2021

St. John United Church of Christ
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Bob Koch, Pastor and Bit Scribe



This Day in History

- 1521 Emperor Charles V opens the Diet of Worms in Worms, Germany; Produced the "Edict of Worms" which denounced Martin Luther
- 1547 Henry VIII of England dies, succeeded by nine-year-old son Edward VI
- 1671 British pirate Henry Morgan captures Panama City
- 1754 Horace Walpole, in a letter to Horace Mann, coins the word serendipity
- 1813 Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* published
- 1851 Northwestern University (Chicago) chartered
- 1878 First telephone exchange (New Haven, Connecticut)
- 1878 George W Coy hired as first full-time telephone operator
- 1887 World's largest snowflakes reported at Fort Keogh, Montana, 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick
- 1887 Work begins on the Eiffel Tower in Paris
- 1915 U.S. Coast Guard founded
- 1917 Streetcars begin running in San Francisco
- 1932 First state unemployment insurance act passed (Wisconsin)
- 1958 Lego company patents their design of Lego bricks
- 1986 The space shuttle Challenger explodes just after liftoff
- 2011 Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians protest Hosni Mubarak's regime
- 2019 Justice Department charges Chinese firm Huawei with bank and wire fraud

We'll walk through 2021 with devotions written by Joshua Dubois. Dubois writes a regular column for The Daily Beast and teaches at New York University. He also founded Values Partnerships, which advises leaders in government, business, and the nonprofit sector on faith-based partnerships and religion in the public sphere.

"The World Within"

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being. (*Ephesians 3:16*)

So hopeless is the world without,
The world within I doubly prize;
Thy world where guile and hate and doubt
And cold suspicion never rise;
Where thou and I and Liberty
Have undisputed sovereignty.
– Emily Brontë, "To Imagination"

*Lord, today, please cultivate my world within,
the secret places where you and I commune,
My motivations and desires, fears and deepest dreams.
Out of your glorious riches, refine my inner self
so that I can approach the outer world
with confidence and calm. Amen.*

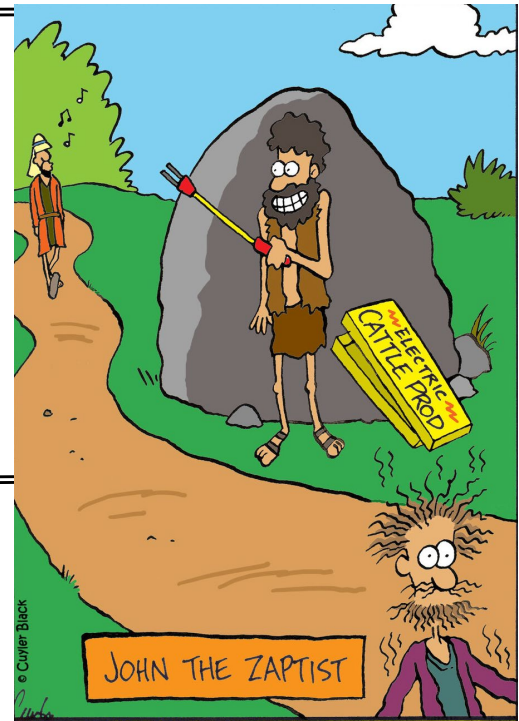
Bad Dad Jokes

- ✓ Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet? *Just wait until they get to Rrrrrr.*
 - ✓ Have you heard about the new pirate movie? It's rated AARRRRGGH!
 - ✓ What's a pirate's second-choice job? An arrrrrrchitect!
 - ✓ How did the pirate stop smoking? He used the patch!
 - ✓ What subject are pirates best at at school? Arrrrt.
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Today's Links

- ✓ [This story about an Internet scammer](#) has a most unusual ending.
 - ✓ Read all about [the many times that the White House went to the dogs](#).
 - ✓ In 1979, during restoration work in an apartment near the center of Vienna, [a sensational set of ancient frescoes came to light](#).
 - ✓ Peek inside [the world's most architecturally important public bathroom](#).
 - ✓ So...one of the latest invasive species stirring up trouble is, [I kid you not, tawny crazy ants](#).
 - ✓ Here's "Fires," [a new song by Jordan St. Cyr](#).
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- ✓ **The pecan tree on the south lot is coming down TOMORROW.** Anyone interested in picking up firewood should be here with a truck and chainsaw.
- ✓ **The Council and I would like to explore ways to reach members not receiving electronic news and updates.** If you would be willing to call a handful of members on a weekly basis and share the news and notes in "Bits," please call the church office, text me at 6184028013, email me at stjohnucc@att.net, or reply to the "help wanted" ad I placed on the church's Facebook page.
- ✓ **Zoom worship is at 9:15 AM each Sunday.** Log in [using this link](#) and meeting ID 815 064 120. You can also dial in at (312) 626 6799 and log in with the meeting ID. **Don't forget that, this Sunday only, Zoom church starts at 9:30 AM!**
- ✓ **The next Bible study session will be Wednesday, February 10 at 7 PM and cover Acts 18-19.** At that time, we'll talk as a class about our schedule once Lent starts. [Follow this link](#) and log in with meeting ID 846 9061 3289.
- ✓ **Our annual meeting will be held this Sunday, January 31,** immediately after the 8 AM service, and also be carried on Zoom. [Click here to join the meeting](#), and use meeting ID # 862 7417 5369 to sign in. Zoom worship will start at 9:30 AM, rather than at 9:15 AM that week. Please note the time change. .
- ✓ **The Church Council will host a drive through only version of our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.** Serving will run from 5 to 6:30 PM. Please call the church office at 475-2947 by February 12 to place an order. Preorders are suggested, but not required. Everything served on a first come, first served basis. Adult plates are \$8, and children's plates \$4.



- ✓ *Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship at 7 PM February 17.* Attendance at Wednesday night services will be capped at 50, at least initially. There will be no soup and sandwich suppers again this year. To log in via Zoom, [follow this link](#) and use meeting ID 817 6838 2706. Looking ahead, Easter is April 4. Plans at this point are to have our 6:30 AM outdoor sunrise service at the old village cemetery, followed by an outdoor Easter celebration on the south parking lot.
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Today's Prayer Concerns

- ✓ *Please pray for all battling COVID and for the healthcare professionals fighting the virus on the frontlines.* Please also hold in prayer all mourning the deaths of loved ones, especially the families of Roy Lee Albert and Lela Torrens, both of whom passed into God's care last week, and the family of Debbie Volner, for whom a family-only funeral service will be held this Saturday.
- ✓ Congrats to Emma Main and Jenna Kearns, both celebrating their sixth birthday this week!
- ✓ Herb Hentzel had several small strokes and is at the Rehab Institute recovering.
- ✓ Please also pray for Sherry Fluck, hospitalized in St. Louis recovering from a severe stroke.
- ✓ Diane Sinn reports that her friend with pregnancy complications delivered a healthy baby this morning! Both mom and baby are doing fine.
- ✓ Gene Whaley received word that a tumor located behind his ear and wrapped around the nerves that control his balance has grown significantly. Please pray for Gene and his wife Jan.
- ✓ Joe Behnken is back home after a LONG battle with COVID.
- ✓ Sue Kosarek is home, but needs prayers for recovery and strength.
- ✓ Kim Hughes asks our prayers for her niece Sabrina, facing surgery for degenerative back disease.
- ✓ Please hold my cousin David Mehrtens in prayer as his battle with cancer continues.
- ✓ Please continue to pray for Tom Kohnen and Sandy Cummins, both on transplant waiting lists, as well as for Kim Juenger, who is still contending with a number of health issues.
- ✓ Donna Reuss asks our prayers for her cousin, Angie Van Buren, who is still hospitalized.
- ✓ Please pray for the residents, staff, and administrators at all nursing homes, especially those at the New Athens Home for the Aged, as well as at the Freeburg Care Center and Cedar Trails.
- ✓ Pray for the safety of the teachers, administrators, and students at area schools, as well as at our own New Beginnings Daycare.
- ✓ *Here are the folks on this week's congregational prayer calendar:* Kadie Long, Vickie and Gerald Luter, Trish and Charles Lynch, Chris Lynch, Debbie Main, Katie and Ed Main and Emma, Juliann Main, Sherry and Russell Main, Vic and Lee Main, Terisa and Jim Marlow, Lucas Marlow, and Abby Marlow.

