

Dear Chapelites,

Be Strong and Courageous

I have recently faced two impossible challenges. I shared parts of these stories Sunday.

The first was a Clue Murder Mystery jigsaw puzzle that Sherry got me for Christmas. Not only did we have to assemble the puzzle without a picture for guidance, but we also had to figure out who killed Mr. Body in what room with what weapon. It seemed totally impossible, but we were strong and courageous. Mystery solved. Challenge conquered.

As they prepared to enter the promised land, Joshua stirred the faith of the Israelites with this challenge: *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9 - ESV)

These are good words to stir your faith as you face challenges in life.

A car repair is my other impossible challenge. The Rendezvous has a bad thermostat. Changing a thermostat is an easy fix. Remove two bolts. Take out the old and pop in the new thermostat. Put the bolts back in. Viola!

The engineers decided to bury the bolts under several other components. Saturday, I had most of the car disassembled except for one thermostat bolt. I needed a stubby wrench to operate in a confined space.

Monday afternoon, armed with my freshly purchased wrench, I removed the remaining bolt and took the old thermostat, “My Precious,” into the house to show Sherry. Then reassembly began. The bolt that was difficult to remove was nearly impossible for my giant hands to get started. Sherry took over and had the bolt installed and tightened in a matter of seconds.



The rest of the assembly went well, except I was missing a part. I discovered a broken cable connector. Apparently, it happened when I moved the throttle body out of my way. Like a jigsaw puzzle with a piece missing, cars need all their pieces. Maybe this task really is impossible!

Then I remembered Sunday’s scripture: *“Be strong and courageous!”* Not finding one locally, I ordered a new part. FedEx is supposed to drop it off today. If you see the Rendezvous outside the garage, you will know that I conquered this challenge.

Both stories are told tongue in cheek.

As we begin the new year, some of us are staring at much bigger challenges. A major test at school. A family situation. Grief. An illness. Response to the Covid pandemic. Challenges at work. A major decision. Economic uncertainty.

Oscar Eliason, an evangelist/songwriter wrote: Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? / Got any mountain you cannot tunnel through? / God specializes in things thought impossible / He'll do for you what no other power can do.

Are you facing anything impossible? "Be strong and courageous . . . for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Pray for one another. Pray for healing for those who are ill or hurting. Pray for those who have recently lost loved ones.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Brad

Phone Tree

We have a new phone/text tree system. Please be patient with our learning curve. This system has the option to send notifications by voice, text, and/or email. Let the office know which option(s) you prefer. Also tell us if your contact information has changed.

Chapel Online

Our internet at the church is not reliable. We will continue to live stream the 10:30 service. As soon as each service concludes, we will upload a copy to You Tube. If the live stream is choppy, wait for the copy.

Last Sunday

Message - "Be Strong and Courageous"

Joshua 1:1-9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCd7KuEtlnA>

Next Sunday

Message - "Risky Business"

Joshua 2:1-16

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LibertyChapelLC>

- January 13, 2022