



Lewiston Church of Christ

June 12, 2022

 **MESSENGER** *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*

Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM
Sun. Day/Evening Groups
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

DEACONS

Education: Rick Richardson
Finance: Tom Hill
Outreach: Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman
Custodian: Hannah Bolm
Fellowship: Bieren
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns
Secretary: Renee Hill
Technology: Eric Kjorness
Technology: Cody Dawes

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Web Site:
www.lewistonchurchofchrist.org

FB:
Class & Sermons online
Check email notification

Monthly Service Schedules:
Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.



Sweet Chariot of Fire!

“Hope is patience with the lamp lit.”
(Tertullian, c. 155 – c. 240 AD)

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” is an old American spiritual conceived in suffering. The 19th century author, Wallis Willis (reportedly a slave), was inspired by a Bible story in which the prophet Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire to heaven in a whirlwind. He and his younger protégé Elisha were walking along the Jordan River when the heavenly chariot swung low to pick up the old prophet.

When people suffer, they often long for relief or for a rescue from the pain. When your earthly life feels like a slow passing parade of pain, you long deeply for a better life on the other side. That longing was real for many in the 19th century, especially slaves.

If a chariot of fire swung low for you while walking along the Clearwater shore line, would you get in? Would you trust the driver? Could you stand the heat? If you are like me, you might hesitate. Or to borrow from another old spiritual, don't row that boat up too closely to the shore quite yet.

Perhaps my willingness to hop into that hot chariot is hampered by my pampered life. It's hard to focus on heaven when the cares of this world intrigue me as they do. It's hard to relate with long-gone slaves and others who longed for deliverance from a life that offered little more than a lot more suffering. Survival looks pretty good to me.

Elijah's option challenges me to focus my heart more on heaven, where my real citizenship is. Instead of living in a superficial temporary fog of fun and games, or in a scary cloud of fear and fatalism, our heavenly hope is the lamp we carry, guiding us forward in the real world into which God has placed us. Longing for heaven does not mean wallowing in a stagnate pool of escapism or floating on a blissful cloud. It calls us to face our challenges hear and now with a courageous love that comes only to those willing to light their lamps with a heavenly hope.

Joel Solliday