



Prayer Requests:

“Pray for one another”

- James 5:16 -

- Louis Bureau - underwent surgery on 4/9 to repair a damaged tendon on his left shoulder; also requests prayers for his family
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord’s church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Glenda Castleberry - recently diagnosed with liver cancer; stage & treatment not known
- Diane Cote - left leg amputated up to the knee as a result of diabetes; now using a temporary prosthesis and undergoing prosthetic rehab
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy’s mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Kate Ivory (niece of Robbie Andrews) - Please pray for her spiritual welfare as she studies God’s word with our brother Robbie
- Terry Kennedy - hip replacement surgery on 5/16 was successful; now home recuperating
- Bob Kenneth (friend of Terry & Betty) - slowly recovering from a severe back injury
- Richard Miles (Kathleen’s nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma which affects only 1% of the population
- Alivia Schmidt (Terry & Betty’s granddaughter) - suffering with Crohn’s Disease at 15 years old
- Betty Schmidt - visiting family in Illinois; please pray for safe travel
- Henry Terrill - undergoing radiation treatments for prostate cancer (localized in the prostate)
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

“Pray without ceasing.” — 1 Thess 5:17

Counterfeit Religion



Imagine yourself in the familiar scene of standing in line in a crowded store waiting to pay for your items. Finally, your items are tallied, you give the cashier your money and patiently wait for your change. But the cashier calls for the store manager who arrives quickly with a look of grave concern on his face. Then, with everyone watching, the manager looks at you and says, "The money you just gave us is counterfeit!" Imagine your shock, embarrassment, and utter bewilderment as you hear these words... "COUNTERFEIT!" The money you thought was legal tender—was not!

Sadly, a similar scene will occur on the Day of Judgment, “in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to [the] gospel” (Rom 2:16; Jn 12:48). “For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor 5:10). On that day, many will be told the sad news that theirs was a counterfeit religion! Imagine their shock, embarrassment, and utter bewilderment as they hear these words from the Lord: "I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness! [iniquity]" (Mt 7:23).

Why will this happen? Jesus says: "Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven!" (Mt 7:21). Those who choose to go their *own* way, or follow the teachings of *men* are in a counterfeit religion (Jer 10:23; Mt 15:7-9). Sadly, the salvation they may *think* they have is not real. It is but a worthless imitation.

Satan is in the counterfeit business. He is, after all, the great deceiver. This crafty serpent (2 Cor 11:3) is the father of lies (Jn 8:44), “who deceives the world” (Rev 12:9). So good is he at his craft that he “transforms himself into an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14). But, although it may sound good and be extremely appealing, we should never buy into what he is selling. He will always take advantage of and exploit those who are ignorant of his devious devices and wicked schemes (2 Cor 2:11).

Rather, we should scrupulously heed the admonition of the Apostle Peter: “Be sober [temperate; guarded; self-controlled], be vigilant [alert; watchful; cautious]; because your adversary [your enemy!] the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour [seeking your spiritual ruin; the condemnation of your soul]. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.” (1 Pet 5:8-9).

Since we are aware of Satan’s evil objectives and the tricks & traps he uses to ensnare us, we should always endeavor to “walk circumspectly” [maintain our spiritual vigilance] (Eph 5:15). Because he promises *much*, but delivers *little*. And that which he does deliver is always disappointing and does not satisfy (*see* Genesis 3). Let us, therefore, be attentive and alert to his fake imitations and phony counterfeits.

The best way to detect that which is *false* is to know the *truth*. God’s word is truth (Jn 17:17). Let us then be *noble* in our approach to the word of God and *honestly* motivated to receive His word with all *readiness* of mind, and *search* the scriptures *daily*, whether these things are so (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 2:15). And let us *diligently* seek to *understand* “what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17), and then . . . *do* it! (James 1:22-25). —Terry Schmidt ✍

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Acts 16:30 -



- Hear the Gospel** - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17
- Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31
Heb 11:6
- Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30
- Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;
Rom 10:8-10
- Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;
1 Pet 3:21
- Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

😊 **Welcome Visitors!** 😊

We are glad to have you as our honored guests!

Happy Anniversary!

George & Cathy — May 31st



We will enjoy our potluck meal today after services. We hope you will stay for this special time of food, fun & fellowship! ☺

“...food which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” — 1 Timothy 4:3

“As it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love him.” — 1 Cor 2:9

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 5,484
This Month: 8,957



SNACKS!

May 19: Paula
May 26: Jan

Attendance & Contribution

for May 12, 2024

Attendance — 25
Contribution — \$782

Order of Worship

May 19, 2024

“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory!”

📖 - Revelation 19:6-7 - 📖

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—2

Opening Prayer: Jim Miller

Song—216

Scripture Reading: Jason Kennedy
~ John 8:44 ~

Song—299

The Lord’s Supper
George Cuvellier (lead) & Mike Doucette

Song—111

Sermon: Terry Schmidt
“The Lies of Satan”

Song—227

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Louis Bureau

Alternate: Wayne Sampson

Lord’s Supper Prep: Pat Miller

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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We love Him, because
He first loved us.
- 1 John 4:19 -

May 19, 2024

Meeting on the Lord’s Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class
10:30 am — Worship

“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- Hebrews 10:24-25 -

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