



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Louis Bureau - left shoulder tendon healing slowly; also requests prayers for his family
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Diane Cote - left leg amputated to the knee as a result of diabetes; now dealing with an abscess on her right foot
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Kate Ivory (niece of Robbie Andrews) - studying the Bible with our brother Robbie in AL
- Kathleen Judkins - scheduled for knee replacement surgery for her left knee on Sept 23rd
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma
- Brent Newton - suffered a minor stroke on 8/18; now home recovering and doing well
- Wayne Sampson - experiencing *claudication* (a narrowing of the arteries reducing blood flow to the legs, resulting in pain and difficulty standing & walking; a procedure is scheduled for 9/25 to bypass an 8-inch blockage in his right leg
- 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



"I have called upon Thee, for Thou wilt hear me, O God: incline Thine ear unto me and hear my speech."

(Psalm 17:6)

Spiritual Blindness



Is it possible for one to appear religious, even righteous, and yet actually be quite distant from God and remain spiritually destitute? Perhaps we should ask the Pharisees and religious leaders of Jesus' day that question. Jesus called these ones who had full access to the Word of God "*Hypocrites!*" He said, "*These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me*" (Matthew 15:8). In another place Jesus referred to these religious leaders as blind guides (Matthew 23:24), and said, "*Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch*" (Matthew 15:14).

The problem here is that these men did not regard themselves as being far from God or spiritually blind. In fact, they prided themselves on their deep spirituality and faithful service to God (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 18:9-14). Self-deception is insidious and extremely dangerous—especially in matters of faith. James says if we are merely *hearers* of the word and not *doers*, we deceive ourselves (James 1:22). To prevent spiritual self-deception, we are commanded to examine ourselves, whether we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). This involves serious soul-searching and some personal introspection in light of the truth of scripture (John 17:17; Hebrews 4:12).

In addition to conducting a routine spiritual self-examination, we are to be diligent in nourishing and strengthening our faith. This involves time spent in the word of God and in prayer. We are to add the "Christian Graces" to our lives—faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love—so we will be servants who are effective and productive for the Lord (2 Peter 1:5-7). "*For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (v. 8). As the Lord Himself taught, "*Every branch that bears fruit He [God, the vinedresser] prunes, that it may bear more fruit* (John 15:2).

"Giving all diligence" requires intentional, determined effort on our part. Being custodians of our faith is an ongoing responsibility which is of greatest importance. Failure in this area can result in debilitating spiritual blindness having definite eternal consequences. "*For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins*" (2 Peter 1:9). The Lord adds: "*Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away*" (John 15:2) ... "*If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned*" (v. 6).

Because this is so important, and concerns our eternal destiny, Peter adds a final admonition: "*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; for so an inheritance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 1:10-11).

— 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 pleased to have you as our honored guests!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Genesis Cuvellier — Sept 26th

Reflections on the Autumn of Life

The autumn of life is a mixture of memories, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come. How can we take advantage of the "autumn of life"? The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. "LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Ps 90:1-2). There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. But amid all the changes, there is One who never changes—our eternal God. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). So, during the shifting seasons of life, "draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James4:8). 

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 16,517

This Month: 59,547



SNACKS!

Sept 15: Jan

Sept 22: Betty

Attendance & Contribution

for September 8, 2024



Attendance — 21

Contribution — \$516

Order of Worship

September 15, 2024

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing."

 - Psalm 100:1-2 - 

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—5

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song—13

Scripture Reading: *George Cuvellier*
~ John 9:1-11 ~

Song—22

The Lord's Supper
Louis Bureau (lead) & Mike Doucette

Song—43

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Spiritual Blindness"

Song—39

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Wayne Sampson

Alternate: *Jim Miller*

Lord's Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

September 15, 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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