



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Diane Cote - severe infection necessitated the amputation of her right leg above the knee; previously, her left leg was amputated to the knee; now at SMMC getting over pneumonia
- Leslie Denbow - left knee needs replacement surgery; experiencing nerve pain in right foot
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Retha Flack (Terry & Betty's Christian friend) - 2 blockages in heart; currently undergoing tests
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma
- Wayne Sampson - femoral bypass surgery on 11/18 to bypass an 8-inch blockage in his right leg was successful, but the incision did not heal properly; he is currently at MMC undergoing an aggressive wound care & antibiotic regimen to eradicate infection and promote healing
- Henry Terrill - radiation treatments for prostate cancer complete; a follow-up visit revealed no more treatments are needed; prayers answered
- Karolyn Terrill - strength for daily routines and keeping her cooperative spirit with staff
- Hurricane Victims - prayers for those affected by the devastation brought on by these storms; many have lost everything, including loved ones
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- 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

## Why Are You Doing This to Me?

Our gracious God is often unfairly criticized and unjustly vilified. How well I remember the time when a co-worker's wife drove to the shop in a car that sounded like it was ready for the junkyard. After her husband looked the car over, it was found that there were major problems with the automatic transmission. The car was undrivable and this would be an expensive repair. Having received the bad news, and her day basically ruined, the lady raised her fist to heaven and shook it angrily yelling, "Why are you doing this to me?" Like many people, she was blaming God for her problems.

God gets blamed for many things. Hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and floods are usually referred to as "acts of God" — especially by insurance companies. Blaming God for our problems seems to be a part of human nature. As the inspired Scripture says: *"A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the Lord"* (Proverbs 19:3). This goes all the way back to the beginning — to the very first sin in the garden of Eden. When questioned by God about his part in this, Adam replied: "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate" (Genesis 3:12). The gist of this seems to be: "Yes, I did wrong ... but God, it's really Your fault!" Our heavenly Father is not some "cosmic killjoy" looking to make our lives miserable. The truth is, God is good. He is even kind to the unthankful and evil (Luke 6:35). "He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

This is why David praises Him and exalts His name. *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ... The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy*

*toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities [has compassion on] his children, so the Lord pities [shows compassion on] those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust"* (Psalm 103:1-5; 8-14).

At this point, we should join the Apostle Paul in exclaiming: *"What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"* (Romans 8:31-32). Rather than blame God, we would do well to follow the good example of Job who, having just lost all his children and earthly possessions, fell to the ground and worshiped, blessed the name of the Lord, and refused to charge God with wrongdoing (Job 1). Here, the wisdom of the wise old sage Sirach is fitting: "Do not blame the Lord for your sin; the Lord does not cause that which he hates."

*"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness"* (Psalm 107:8-9). — **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 Birthday!

Brandon Kennedy — December 16th  
Catherine Cuvellier — December 28th



Happy Anniversary!

Mike & Donna — December 28th

*“In Him you also trusted after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”*

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 4,940  
This Month: 9,069



**SNACKS!**

Dec 15: Betty  
Dec 22: Cathy

**Attendance & Contribution**

for December 8, 2024

Attendance — 15  
Contribution — \$362

# Order of Worship

December 15, 2024

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

📖 - Colossians 3:16 - 📖

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—120

Opening Prayer: George Cuvellier

Song—157

Scripture Reading: Louis Bureau  
~ Galatians 1:3-5 ~

Song—48

The Lord’s Supper  
Jim Miller (lead) & David Larrabee

Song—127

Sermon: Terry Schmidt  
“The Best Deal Around”

Song—642

Announcements & Closing Prayer  
Jason Kennedy

Alternates: Mike Doucette/  
Wayne Sampson

Lord’s Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

**December 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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