

Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another" - James 5:16 -

- Louis Bureau facing yet another surgery on
- his left shoulder in order to repair a damaged tendon, obviously missed in previous surgery; also requests prayers for his family
- Josiah Carelse & Family working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- <u>Diane Cote</u> left leg amputated up to the knee as a result of diabetes; now using a temporary prosthesis and undergoing prosthetic rehab
- <u>Filomena Derecho</u> (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) numerous health issues
- <u>Reyderick Derecho</u> permanently disabled
- <u>Donna Doucette</u> requests prayers for various health concerns
- 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 <u>those not with us today</u> the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

Prayer

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire, That trembles in the breast.
Prayer is the burden of a sigh, The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye, When none but God is near.
Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death; He enters heaven with prayer.

–Author unknown

Common Decency *is* Rapidly Eroding



We currently live in a society that has, for all intents and purposes, excluded God from the public square. Even the mention of God in the workplace or affirming one's belief in God is frowned upon, as this may "offend" someone. God has been expelled from our public schools and institutions of learning for more than 60 years. And, for this, we are paying a terrible price. As the Scripture says, "Where there is no revelation [a divine oracle or inspired guidance from God], the people cast off restraint" (Prov 29:18). In short, with no ethical standard to adhere to and no moral compass to guide them [enter *situation ethics* and *values clarification*], everyone does that which is right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25).

Having no divine direction or perceived ultimate accountability, man is left to himself to go his own way and do his own thing. A major problem with this is, "there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov 14:12; 16:25). As the prophet Jeremiah instructs: "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer 10:23). "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boaster, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Tim 3:2-5). Not a pretty picture!

Since prayer was removed from public school classrooms in 1962, we have had a 600% increase in violent crime, the divorce rate has tripled, births to single mothers have increased 500%, the teenage suicide rate has tripled, and SAT scores declined each year for 18 straight years since 1962 (*bartleby.com; creationtoday.org*). Once a leader in public education and setting the standard for others to follow, the United States currently ranks at #13 (*datapandas.org*). In addition, we are rapidly losing many of the social courtesies in our society that make life more pleasant ... and that make us human.

The people around us are often emotionally unavailable-insulated by the constant use of headphones, cell phones and laptops. The once regular use of the words "please & thank you" is quickly falling by the wayside. Common courtesy is becoming more and more uncommon. Things we used to take for granted in our culture like kindness, consideration and respect for others are becoming increasingly rare by the day. Noble traits like a genuine concern for others and a willingness to help those in need are slowly becoming relics of the past. However, in a world where "evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse" (2 Tim 3:13)—in the midst of a "crooked and perverse generation" - Christians will continue to "shine as lights in the world" (Phil 2:15).

This is because we appeal to God's ethical standard for our authority in all things and allow the moral compass of His inspired word to guide us through life (Ps 119:105; Prov 3:5-6). Even so, we are humbly and painfully aware that we are not "sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God" (2 Cor 3:5). Amen! — Terry Schmidt \varkappa

"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



We are pleased to have you as our honored guests!



Tammy Wells - March 18th



"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

— Micah 6:8 —



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

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 3,890 This Month: 4,676



7 March 10: Paula Mar 17: Kathleen

Attendance & Contribution

for March 3, 2024

Attendance — 22 Contribution — \$940

Order of Worship

March 10, 2024

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

🚇 - 1 Corinthians 14:15 - 🚇

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song-5

Opening Prayer: George Cuvellier

Song-24

Scripture Reading: Jim Miller \sim Micah 1:1-6 \sim

Song-322

The Lord's Supper Louis Bureau (lead) & Wayne Sampson

Song-361

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt* "Micah—Zealous Prophet of God"

Song-574

Announcements & Closing Prayer Jason Kennedy

Lord's Supper Prep: Jan Sampson

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

March 10, 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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