



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Diane Cote - diagnosed with kidney disease
- Family of Paula's Uncle Joey - who recently passed away from liver cancer
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - Paul: at River Ridge; Sandy: now home from York Hospital & on the mend; new treatment prescribed
- Jean Gortot - suffering with advanced cancer
- Nate & Rebecca Hios - request prayers for the work in Kittery
- Laurie (Caren's friend) - suffering with cancer
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer
- George & Caren Nick - ongoing family struggles
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Jerry Prestridge (Bob & Phyllis' son) - serving in Afghanistan
- Kathy Rader - has a lot to deal with right now and requests our prayers for her & her mom
- Robert (Shirley's Dad) - serious heart condition; pocketed fluid retention is still a problem, not much more can be done to remedy this
- Wayne Sampson - issues with lower back pain; has begun receiving epidermal injections
- Karlee Wells - may need to initiate legal action against her employer for her health issues; dealing with severe migraines and chronic pain; other health concerns
- Blake Williams - personal & family struggles
- Peter Wolenty - ongoing heart problems; thankful for your prayers
- 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 prayer of the upright is His delight...He hears the prayer of the righteous"* - Proverbs 15:8 & 29

## Count Your Blessings

A gospel song that we often sing encourages us to count our blessings. But, just what is it that I am counting? The Greek word blessing is defined as: "a benefit bestowed" (*Vine's*). A secular dictionary expands this definition to "a favor or gift bestowed by God" (*Random House*). Another dictionary defines the word as "something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being, or prosperity" (*American Heritage Dictionary*). So, these blessings are gifts from God intended for our benefit to promote our happiness and well-being.

When should I count my blessings? "When upon life's billows (great surging waves) you are tempest tossed (by the storms of life), When you are discouraged thinking all is lost...When you are burdened with loads and cares, When the cross seems heavy you are called to bear" (*Oatman*). The difficult and challenging times of life are when I most need to count my blessings. Doing this is therapeutic for us.

Counting our blessings helps us to see past our present problems and troubles. The Apostle Paul affirmed, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18). And again, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor 4:16-18). This is why we are counseled to set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth (Col 3:2).

Counting our blessings enables us to see past ourselves and focus on God, the Blessed Giver (James 1:17), "who gives us richly all things to enjoy" (2 Tim 6:17). Counting our blessings helps us to take stock of how truly blessed we are in Christ (Eph 1:13). Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20). We have been adopted as children into God's family.

We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ! (Rom 8:17). This means that, whatever Christ has in heaven will be ours as well! As Paul assured the Corinthian church (and us too), "All things are yours!" And most importantly, you belong to Christ! (1 Cor 3:21-22).

Maintaining an attitude of gratitude for all that God has done for us through Christ will cause us to want to count our blessings often. Genuine gratitude fuels expressions of sincerest thanks. And so, we count our blessings!

— Terry Schmidt ✍



## WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER

Song Leader: Paul Cote

Opening Prayer: Wayne Sampson

Scripture Reading: George Nick

Lord's Supper:

Jim Miller & Ernie Perry

Announcements/Prayer: Jason Kennedy

Fill-in Alternate: Erik Grabowski

Lord's Supper Prep: Terry Kennedy

## Operation Shoebox



As many of you know, we are getting together items to send to our military overseas. We recently received word that shoeboxes are not used anymore because they are heavy and take up too much space. Our items should be placed in gallon zip-loc bags which will be put in a larger box and shipped to Florida. *Operation Shoebox* will then ship them overseas to military personnel. Please bring your filled zip-loc bags by Sunday, December 4. The box will be shipped the following week. Thank you for your help in this. ☺



## Ladies' Corner

Ladies' Ministry Meeting: December 4th, after services.

River Ridge: will be having their Annual Outpatient Holiday Craft Fair on Friday, December 2 and Friday, December 16. They are accepting donations of crafts, baked goods, etc. If interested, please bring in your items during the month of November. Please do not put a price on your donation. Thank you.

Kennebunk Nursing Home: asked if we could donate cookies for their holiday party on December 23. If you would like to donate cookies, please bring them in on December 18. Thank you.



## December Birthdays



2nd – Erik Grabowski

4th – Christine Williams

9th – Terry Schmidt

16th - Brandon Kennedy

23rd – Blake Williams

## Happy Anniversary:

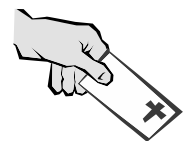
Terry & Betty — December 6th

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Congregational Meeting: Today, after services
- Men's Ministry Meeting: December 4th, after services

## SNACKS!

November 27: Shirley  
December 4: Diane



Numbers for 11/20/16

Attendance - 19

Contribution - \$495.

## Order of Worship

November 27, 2016

*"I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding."*

— 1 Corinthians 14:15 —

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Erik Grabowski*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Jason Kennedy*  
~ Luke 17:11-19 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:  
*George Nick & Terry Schmidt*

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
"Gratitude"

Song

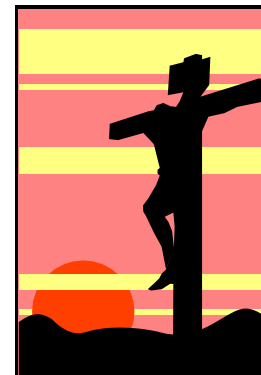
Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*Wayne Sampson*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Jan Sampson*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

159 Alfred Road, P.O. Box 344  
West Kennebunk, ME 04094



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

**November 27, 2016**

## Sunday Assembly Times:

9:30 am — Bible Class  
10:30 am — Worship  
6:00 — Bible Study

## Wednesday Assembly:

7:00 — Bible Study

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