



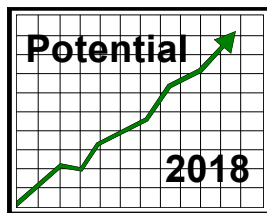
## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Diane Cote - broke her right shoulder during a bad fall; also has kidney disease & other health concerns
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - Paul: at Greenwood Center in Sanford & doing well; Sandy: dealing w/ pain brought on by polymyalgia rheumatica
- Hurricane/Flood/Fire/Shooting Victims - please pray for the injured, those who have lost loved ones and/or all their earthly possessions
- Luke (Susana's 6 mo. old great-grandson) - inoperable brain tumors; recent MRI reveals that the tumors are gone; now on chemo & prednisone maintenance for 1-2 years
- Nate & Rebecca Hios - seeking approval for child foster care leading to adoption; request prayers that God's will be done
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer; also has diabetes
- Caren Nick - chronic fatigue syndrome
- Chris Nick (George's brother) - stroke victim
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Robert (Shirley's Dad) - serious heart condition
- Wayne Sampson - had successful vascular surgery on Dec 27th to address pain in his hips and lower back; now healing; also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks
- Karlee Wells - various health issues; dealing with PTSD, TBI, severe migraines and chronic pain; now travelling to Boston 2-3 times a week for treatment; legal issues continue to be an issue with workman's comp; thanks for prayers
- Peter Wolenty - ongoing heart problems
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today

*"Pray without ceasing."* — 1 Thess 5:17



## Potential

It has been said that "knowledge is power." We may need to amend that maxim to say: "Applied knowledge is power." Knowledge in and of itself can be more accurately described by another word: *potential*.

As we define this potent and powerful word, it would be profitable to think about your own personal life and spiritual development. Here is *potential* defined:

*Possible, as opposed to actual; capable of being or becoming. A latent [dormant; hidden] excellence or ability that may or may not be developed. The inherent ability or capacity for growth, development or success.*

This excellent definition prompts some pertinent and probing questions. What (with God's help and by His grace) are YOU capable of being or becoming in 2018? What dormant or hidden God-given abilities within you could be further developed during the coming year? What measure of personal excellence for success in God's service is possible for you? In what ways can you better realize your capacity for spiritual growth and development?

Our Creator has blessed each of us with certain talents and abilities (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 4:7). We are all stewards of that which God has graciously given to us and entrusted to our care. But how we use these gifts from God is up to us. And the way we choose to use our time, talents, abilities, money, etc. will largely depend on our relationship with God. If we are serious about our Christianity, we will want to be used to the fullest extent possible in God's service and realize our full potential in the Lord.

To do this, we must put God first in our lives. We must love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our minds, and with all our strength (Mk 12:30).

(What does this look like when applied to our daily lives?) We must "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Mt 6:33). (How does this affect things like church attendance and Christian service?) Then, and only then, will we begin to realize our full potential in the Lord.

In Matthew 25, the five and two talent servants were commended and rewarded for their faithfulness (vv. 14-23). They were *faithful* in their service to their Master. They chose to put His will first, wanting nothing more than to please Him and bring Him honor through their efforts. May this be our primary purpose and noble goal throughout the coming year!

— Terry Schmidt ✍



## WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS FOR JANUARY

Preaching: Terry Schmidt

Song Leader: Paul Cote

Opening Prayer: George Nick

Scripture Reading: Jason Kennedy

Lord's Supper:

Tony Grant & Ernie Perry

Announcements/Prayer: Paul Bullock

Alternate/fill-in: Wayne Sampson/Jim Miller

Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

## ☺ Welcome Visitors! ☺

We are glad you have come to worship with us today. We want you to know that you are welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Please fill out a visitor's card before you depart. Have a great week!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Congregational Meeting:** Today after services
- **Ministry Meetings:** Sunday, January 7th after services
- **Greenwood Nursing Home Service:** Every Sunday afternoon at 3:30. All are welcome!



### January Birthdays

4th – George Nick  
26th - Susana Kazel



Does your daily manner of life give others a reason to ask about our hope in Christ? (1 Peter 3:15). If we truly honor Christ as Lord in our hearts and lives, the difference it makes in us will prompt questions from those around us. Peter speaks of the kind of transformation that others will envy—in the best sense of the word. Those living under the influence of Christ will treat one another with compassion and humility (v. 8). They won't return evil for evil, or insult for insult, but rather blessings for curses (v. 9). This difference in our lives will help others open their hearts to receiving the best gift they could ever receive – salvation in Christ! (2 Corinthians 9:15).

## SNACKS!

December 31: Jan  
January 7: Betty



Numbers for 12/24/17

Attendance - 16  
Contribution - \$318

## Order of Worship

December 31, 2017

*"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."*

- Hebrews 12:28 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Jim Miller*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Tony Grant*  
~ Matthew 25:14-18 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:  
*George Nick & Ernie Perry*

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
"Using Your God-given Potential:  
An Attitude of Faithful Service for 2018"

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*Wayne Sampson*

Alternates: *Paul Bullock/Jason Kennedy*

~~~~~

Lord's Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

## 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 -*

**December 31, 2017**

### Sunday Assembly Times:

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

### Wednesday Assembly:

7:00 — Bible Study

Phone: 207-229-4174  
Email: [tls654b@twc.com](mailto:tls654b@twc.com)  
Website: [www.southernmainecofc.com](http://www.southernmainecofc.com)