



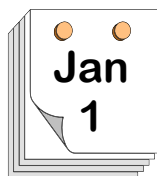
## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Diane Cote - diagnosed with kidney disease
- Randy Cote - (Paul & Diane's son) prayers requested for his salvation through Jesus—inner strength and spiritual direction, as he is struggling with the demands and burdens of life
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - Paul: now residing at Greenwood Center in Sanford & making the necessary adjustments; dealing with an e-coli infection; Sandy: now home on a new treatment regimen; prayers for strength & healing
- Erik & Janice Grabowski - grieving the death of Erik's grandmother and the loss of their dog
- Nate & Rebecca Hios - pray for the Kittery work
- David Murphy (Sandy's brother) - inoperable prostate cancer
- George & Caren Nick - ongoing family struggles
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Jerry Prestridge - serving in Afghanistan
- Kathy Rader - prayers for her and her mom
- Robert (Shirley's Dad) - serious heart condition
- Wayne Sampson - issues with lower back pain; has begun receiving epidermal injections; suffering from ongoing debilitating anxiety attacks
- 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



## A New Beginning

With the simple switch of a calendar, the New Year promises to be a time of hope, change and renewal. With all its blank dates waiting to be filled with appointments, events, and other activities, 2017 serves to usher in a new beginning, complete with fresh opportunities and uncharted possibilities. This reminds us of the gracious God we serve—a God of second chances and new beginnings.

In the pages of the inspired word, we read the Parable of the Prodigal Son who basically demanded his inheritance and then quickly and foolishly squandered it on reckless and riotous living (Luke 15:11-32). Welcomed back home by his waiting, watching, loving, forgiving Father, the repentant son experienced a new beginning and, although he didn't deserve it, was restored and given a second chance. Brothers, sisters, friends, this is also *our* story.

We too have sinned, acted foolishly and squandered that which our Father has entrusted to us (Romans 3:10; 23; Titus 3:3-7). And although we don't deserve it, when we bring to God a humble, penitent spirit as did the prodigal son, our loving, forgiving heavenly Father gives us another chance and offers us a new beginning (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 1:9).

So this year, make a firm resolution to always turn to God and trust the One who can truly offer you fresh opportunities and uncharted possibilities (Proverbs 3:5-6). Turn to "Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). Place your full faith and trust in the "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:16) who will one day proclaim: "Behold, I make all things new!" (Revelation 21:5).

— Terry Schmidt ✍



*While New Year's Day is really no different than any other day, it does provide us with a "mile marker" as we travel down the highway of life. It gives us an excellent opportunity to look back over the previous year to thoughtfully reflect on what we've accomplished, and to carefully consider some things we may have left undone. Used wisely, this can be a profitable and productive time of deep introspection and self-examination.*

**"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; 10:22; Heb 5:9;  
 Rev 2:10

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* — Acts 4:12


☺ **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!






*Ladies' Corner*  
Ladies' Ministry Meeting: Today,  
 after services.



**January Birthdays**

4th – George Nick  
 26th - Susana Kazel



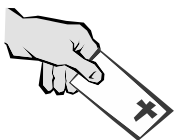
## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Men's Ministry Meeting:** Today, after services
- **Next Pot Luck Fellowship:** January 8th, after services

**What are some helpful, biblical ways we can respond to difficulties in 2017?**

*First*, we can realize that, no matter how bad things seem God is still in control. He is sovereign (Eph 1:11; Col 1:15-17; 1 Tim 6:15-16). *Second*, we can remind ourselves that our Lord is constant and changeless. He "does not change like shifting shadows" (Jas 1:17), but "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8). *Third*, we can take courage in the fact that God is faithful, dependable and trustworthy (1 Cor 1:9; 10:13; 2 Thess 3:3), for He has said, "I will *never* leave you nor forsake you" (Heb 13:5). *Finally*, we can rejoice that our Lord Jesus Christ is victorious! (1 Cor 15:50-57). Jesus knows in this world we will have problems, persecutions, trials and tribulations. Then He lovingly adds: "But be of good cheer (take heart!), I have overcome the world!" (John 16:33).

**SNACKS!** January 1: Paula  
 January 8: Terry K



Numbers for 12/25/16  
 Attendance - 23  
 Contribution - \$606.

## Order of Worship

### January 1, 2017

*"I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High."*

— Psalm 9:1-2 —

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Jim Miller*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Erik Grabowski*

~ Luke 14:25-35 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:

*Wayne Sampson & Ernie Perry*

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*

"Becoming Better Disciples in 2017"

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*George Nick*

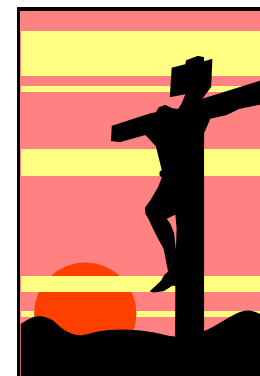
Alternate/fill-in: *Jason Kennedy*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Pat Miller*

## 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 -*

**January 1, 2017**

### 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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 Website: [www.southernmainecofc.com](http://www.southernmainecofc.com)