




Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Diane Cote - broke her right shoulder during a bad fall; healing, but still painful; also has kidney disease & other health concerns
- Paul & Sandy Gagnon - Paul: at Greenwood Center in Sanford & doing well; Sandy: dealing with pain brought on by polymyalgia rheumatica
- 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
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- 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 for treatment
- 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

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. — Ephesians 3:14-19 

Jotham's Fable

Parables are used throughout scripture to teach deep spiritual truths. The parable has been rightly defined as, "An earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Parables employ real people and events, or those that *could* be real, in order to make a specific point and clarify biblical truth.

Fables, however, are used only two times in the scriptures (Judges 9:8-15 & 2 Kings 14:9). The fable is a fictitious narrative that usually employs animals or inanimate objects, having human characteristics, in order to teach a lesson or enforce a useful truth.


In Judges 9, the men of Shechem agree to make Abimelech king (at his insistence). Abimelech, Gideon's son by a concubine, then proceeds to kill the 70 legitimate sons of Gideon. But Jotham, Gideon's youngest son, survived because he hid himself from Abimelech and his "hired worthless and reckless men" (v. 4). After the men of Shechem had gathered at the ceremony to make Abimelech king, Jotham shouted out a fable to them from the top of Mount Gerizim.

The trees desired to anoint a king to rule over them. They approached the olive tree, the fig tree, and the vine, asking each one to reign over them, but each refused. These trees were actively involved in important and needful work which they did not want to leave undone. However, when the bramble was approached, it agreed to reign over them, having the time and leisure to do so. The bramble promised shade, shelter and protection which it could not realistically provide with its low-lying rough leaves and sharp thorns. What it did do was catch fire in the heat of summer and endanger all life around it. Jotham's message was clear: Abimelech would not provide leadership, security and protection, but would bring about devastation, destruction and ruin.

The prophetic words of Jotham, skillfully expressed as a fable, were painfully realized by

those who followed Abimelech, along with the thousands he killed. More of a tyrant than a king, his was a ruthless three-year reign of treachery and brute force. Abimelech was not anointed by God, but seized power by cunningly manipulating others and violently orchestrating circumstances for his own benefit. His sad story and tragic end serve as a powerful example of the folly of self-will and choosing to operate outside the boundaries established by God.

Abimelech would have done well to remember the wisdom expressed in Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might, nor by power (not by one's own strength or will), but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." And again, "There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord. The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord!" (Pr 21:30-31 – NASB).

— Terry Schmidt 



WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Preaching: Terry Schmidt

Song Leader: Paul Cote

Opening Prayer: Jason Kennedy

Scripture Reading: Wayne Sampson

Lord's Supper:

Paul Bullock & Ernie Perry

Announcements/Prayer: Tony Grant

Alternate/fill-in: Jim Miller / George Nick

Lord's Supper Prep: Jan Sampson

☺ **Welcome Visitors!** ☺

We are glad to have you worship with us today. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Visits to Our Web Page

Last 7 days:

4 2 0

Last 30 days:

1 3 5 2



"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

POINTS TO PONDER

We should not place our confidence and faith in our circumstances, ability, or resources; but in the goodness, faithfulness and greatness of God. "For the LORD will be your confidence!" (Proverbs 3:26)

SNACKS!

January 28: Shirley

February 4: Diane



Numbers for 1/21/18

Attendance - 25

Contribution - \$536

Order of Worship

January 28, 2018

*"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly
of the saints, and to be held in reverence
by all those who are around Him."*

- Psalm 89:7 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song

Opening Prayer: *George Nick*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Jason Kennedy*

~ Judges 9:1-6 ~

Song

The Lord's Supper:

Tony Grant & Ernie Perry

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Abominable Abimelech"

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:

Paul Bullock

Alternates: *Wayne Sampson/Jim Miller*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Betty Schmidt*

# 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 28, 2018**

## 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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