



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Don Blackwell - accident severed spinal cord; now a paraplegic, but is preaching again!
- Cote Family - personal & financial struggles
- Diane Cote - recently suffered a minor stroke; also has kidney disease & health concerns
- Sandy Gagnon - physical issues and health concerns
- Tyler Kennedy - root is dying in his front tooth causing an infection and swelling up through the left side of his face up to his eye; now on antibiotics; scheduled to have a root canal done on 11/18, after the infection clears
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Debbie McGarey (mother-in-law of Terry & Betty's daughter, Becky) - recently diagnosed with stage 4 throat cancer which has spread to her liver and gall bladder; has begun an aggressive treatment regimen
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy (Paula's sister's husband) - suffering with Lyme disease; still in hospice care, but he is doing better, which is an answer to our prayers; keep praying!
- Wayne Sampson - injured his right shoulder recently; also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks; pray that the cause can be found, along with an effective treatment
- Victims - please pray for all those who have suffered damage & loss from the recent Nor' Easter, hurricanes, flooding and wildfires; especially our brothers and sisters in Christ
- 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

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

## Excuses

**A**n excuse *can* be a legitimate explanation as to why something did or did not occur and provide a credible reason for one's actions. An example of this would be an excused absence, as in school or a meeting. But for the purposes of this article, we will define "excuse" as an effort to excuse oneself from commitment, blame or responsibility. Used in this way, an excuse attempts to explain away a mistake, poor judgement or bad behavior, often in an effort to make this action more acceptable, and free the guilty party of any responsibility or blame. This type of excuse has been with us since the beginning of time!

Adam's excuse, in eating the forbidden fruit, was that Eve made him do it. Eve's excuse was that the serpent had deceived her (Gen 3:1-13). When Moses sent out the 12 men to spy out the land of Canaan, Caleb said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it" (Num 13:30). But the other spies (excluding Joshua) began to make excuses. The cities are large and fortified, the people are of great stature and stronger than we – they were giants and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and theirs! (Num 13). But perhaps the most famous lame excuse was the one offered by Aaron when he yielded to the complaining Israelites and fashioned a golden calf for them to worship after Moses delayed returning from Mount Sinai. When confronted by Moses, Aaron blamed the people ("they are set on evil") and then stated, "And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let him break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out! (Ex 32:1-24). It's almost as if he was an innocent bystander and had absolutely nothing to do with the whole mess!

We may marvel and even chuckle at the ridiculous absurdity of this excuse, but we need to understand that excuse-making is serious business and can get us into trouble. The one talent man tried to excuse his lack of ambition and productivity with an excuse, but the Lord didn't buy it (Mt 25:24-30).

In Jesus' Parable of the Great Supper (Lk 14:15-24), we are told that those invited "began to make excuses" (v. 18). Like many excuses, these reasons were feeble and revealed a lack of interest and sincerity. Those invited were preoccupied, caught up in the business and busy-ness of life, and did not want to be bothered or inconvenienced. This greatly displeased the Master, who said, "None of those who were invited shall taste my supper!" (v. 24).

The application is clear: Their excuses had caused these ones to miss out on the banquet – eternity with God – and they would *never* taste the joys of heaven. — **Terry Schmidt** ✍

**"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

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

Jesus — John 14:6

😊 **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 ~

- **Pot Luck Fellowship:** Sunday, Nov 10th, after services
- **Greenwood Nursing Home Service:** Every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 PM. All are welcome! ☺

### November Birthdays

9th - Christopher Boucher  
21st - Sandy Gagnon  
24th - Glenda Castleberry

## Happy Anniversary!

George & Caren - November 9th

### VISITS TO OUR WEB PAGE

This Week: 1,959

This Month: 8,612



## SNACKS!

November 3: Cathy  
November 10: Pat

### Contribution & Attendance for October 27, 2019

Attendance — 20  
Contribution — \$1341

## Order of Worship

November 3, 2019

*"I will praise Thee, O LORD,  
with my whole heart!"*

- Psalm 9:1 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song—273

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song—256

Scripture Reading: *George Cuvellier*  
~ 1 Samuel 15:13-21 ~

Song—299

The Lord's Supper:  
*Wayne Sampson & Ernie Perry*

Contribution

Song—656

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
"Excuses"

Song—192

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*Paul Bullock*

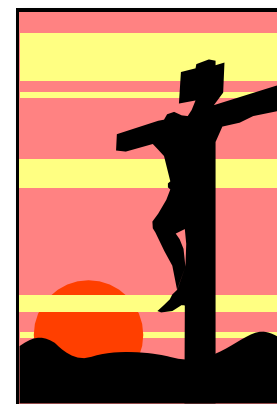
Alternate: *Jim Miller*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Betty Schmidt*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

November 3, 2019

### 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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