



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Paul Bineau (Diane's 95 year old father) - can no longer walk
- Diane Cote - kidney disease; health concerns
- Sandy Gagnon - dealing with chronic pain & various health concerns
- Erik Grabowski - dealing w/ chronic neck pain
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer; pray for pain relief; please pray for Glenda as well during this difficult and stressful time
- Jim Miller - suffering with severe chronic back pain; pray for an effective treatment & relief
- Pat Miller - suffering with diverticulitis; pray for an effective treatment & relief
- Steve Monts (Paul Bullock's 71 year old brother-in-law) - injured in a bad fall (broke his cheek bone) and was in a coma, from which he has awakened; prayers still needed and are greatly appreciated
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy (Paula's sister's 54 year old husband) - recently diagnosed with advanced ALS and now in hospice care at home; please pray for the family during this difficult time
- Henry Terrill - now undergoing PT after back surgery; healing & recovering nicely
- Tringa (new sister in Christ in Roanoke, AL) - pray for spiritual growth & maturity in Christ
- Jan Sampson - recovering from injuries sustained in a bad fall
- Wayne Sampson - experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks; pray that the cause can be found, along with an effective treatment
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place

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

The Insidious Nature of Sin and the Erosion of Faith



Lake Rose, located in Winter Park, Florida, is named for Mae Rose Owens, but she would much rather not have had the honor. You see, Lake Rose had its beginning in May 1981 as a giant crater which opened up and swallowed Mrs. Owens' house, a whole car dealership, part of two city streets and an Olympic-size pool. The 350-foot wide, 75-foot deep crater was later landscaped into a giant pond and named Lake Rose in honor of Mrs. Owens. Investigators and engineers believe the cause of the giant sink-hole was underground springs which gradually eroded the rock beneath, making it porous and weak. This happened silently and steadily over the years until the ground eventually caved in.

To "erode" is to gradually wear away. A clinical definition reads: "to eat into or away; to destroy by slow consumption or disintegration" (*Dictionary.com*). The word can also mean, "to gradually diminish, or destroy by degrees" (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*). Brother, sisters, and friends—this is how sin works in our lives! It is unrelenting and it is insidious! And, if not taken care of, it diminishes us and ultimately leads to disintegration and destruction.

The word "insidious" is quite apropos in describing the nature of sin. The word means: "proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects" (*Oxford Dictionary*). When something is insidious, it develops so gradually that it is already fixed and firmly established before becoming apparent. It is harmful, but enticing, and awaits an opportune time to entrap (*Merriam-Webster*). It is sinister, seductive, deceptive and treacherous! And so it is with sin!

This reminds us of what Paul says about leaven (yeast), "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9). Leaven is often used in the Bible as a metaphor for sin and corruption. Even a small amount of leaven can influence a large batch of dough. The leaven penetrates and permeates through and through, secretly and silently corrupting throughout! This is a picture of the insidious nature of sin!

Our adversary Satan, the deceiver and tempter, skillfully utilizes various alluring temptations to entice us to sin against our loving God (Gen 39:7-12). He seeks to gradually and methodically erode our faith. He is not our friend! And he is not playing games! His goal is our spiritual ruin and the destruction of our souls in an eternal Hell! (Rev 12:9-10; 20:10-15).

This is why we need to humble ourselves and rely totally on Almighty God and His strength. This is why we need to be sober (exercise self-control), maintain our spiritual vigilance, and be alert to temptation. "Because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:6-8). This is serious business! The answer? With God's help and by His strength, "Resist him [Satan], standing firm in the faith!" (1 Peter 5:9; James 4:6-10; Eph 6:10).

— 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

😊 **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

Biddeford Ladies Day: Saturday, March 23rd beginning at 9:00am. Speaker—Sharon Gardner, Topic—“The Greatest Commandment.” (flyer on back table)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Potluck Fellowship**: Next Sunday, February 10, after services. This will be followed by the men's business meeting and the ladies' meeting.
- **Greenwood Nursing Home Service**: Every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 PM. All are welcome! ☺

VISITS TO OUR WEB PAGE

This Week: 828

This Month: 267



We will enjoy our potluck fellowship next Sunday after services. Please make plans to stay for this special time of food, fun and fellowship! ☺

Snacks!

February 3: Connie
February 10: Pat

Contribution & Attendance
for January 27, 2018

Attendance — 20
Contribution — \$1087

Order of Worship

February 3, 2019

“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: *Wayne Sampson*

Song

Scripture Reading: *Jim Miller*
- Judges 2:16-19 -

Song

The Lord's Supper:
George Cuvellier & Ernie Perry

Contribution

Song

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
“Micah—the Misguided Israelite”

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer:
Jason Kennedy

Alternate/fill-in: Paul Bullock

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Jan Sampson*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

## February 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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