



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Shirley Boucher & Family - mourning the passing of Shirley's father who died on 12/1
- Corrina (Connie's daughter) - white blood cells and platelets are too high causing concern; under physician's care; prayers needed
- Cote Family - personal & financial struggles
- Diane Cote - recently suffered a minor stroke; also has kidney disease & health concern
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - has pneumonia and many other health issues; has requested our prayers
- Reyderick Derecho (Cathy's nephew) - permanently disabled and in need of prayer
- Sandy Gagnon - dealing with physical issues and health concerns
- 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
- Jim & Pat Miller - request our prayers for health concerns and financial struggles
- Joanne Neithercut - undergoing therapy at The Cedars rehabilitation center in Portland due to a recent stroke and brain surgery
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy (Paula's sister's husband) - suffering with Lyme disease
- Wayne Sampson - injured his right shoulder recently and is scheduled for surgery this Tuesday (12/17); also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks
- 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

Instant...or Delayed Gratification?

After noting the transient nature of earthly treasures, Jesus taught His followers to lay up treasures in heaven. Because these spiritual treasures are reserved in heaven, they are permanent, safe, and secure. They do not deteriorate and decay as do temporary earthly treasures. Jesus then applies His teaching this way: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt 6:19-21). Your treasure, that which you prize and value, will determine how you spend your time and energy. Where your treasure is says a lot about your personal interests and priorities.

Through the centuries, man has demonstrated the innate propensity to seek instant gratification. This gets us into trouble. We often choose to fill-up on readily available junk food, rather than wait for a healthy well-balanced meal. In like manner, we seem willing to trade our valuable heavenly treasures for worthless trinkets.

To meet a perceived pressing need, Esau sold his valuable birthright (including the blessing of the firstborn) for an immediate, but temporary, bowl of stew (Gen 25:29-34). Instant gratification! While instant gratification is often pleasurable and may meet the needs of the moment, it does not bring lasting satisfaction or permanent fulfillment. And, too often, it brings considerable remorse and deep regret—as Esau later realized. "For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears" (Heb 12:17).

It is here that the inspired prophet of old asks a profound and pertinent question: "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?" (Is 55:2). Human nature dictates that "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase" (Ecc 5:10). The transient, temporary pleasures and treasures of this world do not (and cannot) satisfy the deep needs

of our soul. "It shall even be as when a hungry man dreams, and look—he eats; but he awakes, and his soul is still empty" (Is 29:8). Only Christ can satisfy and fulfill our deep God-given needs!

Instead of seeking and indulging in "instant gratification," we would all be better off to practice "delayed gratification" by waiting on the Lord. "Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD! (Ps 27:14). Waiting and depending on the Lord to meet our needs is wise, and brings many rich and wonderful blessings! "Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For **He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.** (Ps 107:9). These rich spiritual blessings from our gracious God are the lasting treasures we should be laying up for ourselves in heaven! — **Terry Schmidt** ✍



Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sincerest condolences are extended to **Shirley Boucher and family** as they mourn the death of Shirley's father, Robert Hctor, who passed away on December 1st. May God's steadfast presence and tender compassion provide strength and comfort to these dear ones during this difficult time of grief and loss. †

😊 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. Have a great week!

~ Announcements ~

- **Singing at Greenwood Nursing Home:**
TODAY at 2:00 PM
- **Greenwood Nursing Home Service:**
Every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 PM.
All are welcome! ☺

December Birthdays

16th - Brandon Kennedy
28th - Catherine Cuvellier



Points to Ponder

*If you pray only
when you're in trouble . . .
You're in trouble!*

VISITS TO OUR WEB PAGE

This Week: 4,884

This Month: 9,971



SNACKS!

December 15: Paula
December 22: Terry K

Contribution & Attendance

for December 8, 2019

Attendance — 24

Contribution — \$485

Order of Worship

December 15, 2019

*"Seek ye the LORD while He may
be found, call ye upon Him
while He is near"*

- Isaiah 55:6 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song—227

Opening Prayer: *Jim Miller*

Song—346

Scripture Reading: *Wayne Sampson*
~ Matthew 6:19-21 ~

Song—278

The Lord's Supper:
Paul Bullock & Ernie Perry

Contribution

Song—100

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Where's Your Treasure?"

Song—644

Announcements & Closing Prayer:
Jason Kennedy

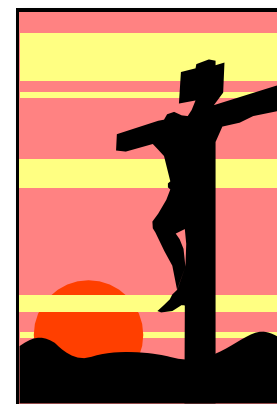
Alternate: *George Cuvellier*

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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 -

## December 15, 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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