



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Corona Pandemic - its effect & overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - procedure to clear a blocked carotid artery was successful; now healing
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho (Cathy's nephew) - permanently disabled and in need of prayer
- Sandy Gagnon - still at York Hospital with various serious health concerns; very weak
- Janice Grabowski - large growth on her neck
- Connie Henderson - undergoing a continued regimen of chemotherapy which hopefully will eradicate the remaining cancer; currently experiencing a lot of pain; prayers needed
- Mayvella Knight (Connie's foster sister) - lost her husband to cancer recently: is hurting and angry with God; needs our prayers
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Becky McGarey (Terry & Betty's daughter) - being treated for a painful stomach ulcer
- Jim Miller—home after a week at MMC and is now healing; thanks for all the prayers
- Joanne Neithercut - struggling with frequent serious bouts of depression
- George Nick - family issues & concerns
- Ernie Perry - arthritic back pain and COPD
- Norman Roy - prayers are needed for him & his family as his health continues to decline
- Wayne Sampson - experiencing bursitis & arthritis pain and ongoing anxiety attacks
- Paul Small (Paul Cote's cousin) - battling stomach cancer; prayers needed
- Erik Wuelper - (friend of George Cuvelier) - pancreatic cancer; prayers requested

## A Cooperative Effort

**G**rowing a garden is a cooperative effort. We till and prepare the soil, plant the seed, fertilize and water it . . . and God gives the increase, bringing forth a harvest. God does His part, when we do ours. But, if we are not careful to diligently tend to the garden, something automatically happens. WEEDS! These undesirable, troublesome wild plants need not be seeded and can seemingly come from nowhere and grow anywhere! Left unattended, these valueless weeds can take over a garden and damage (or even destroy) the valued crops, as they deprive them of space and essential nutrients found in the soil.



The Christian life is also a cooperative effort, where God does His part and we do our part. But, if we are not careful to maintain our spiritual disciplines, something automatically happens. Like weeds in a garden, the OLD MAN – the WORKS OF THE FLESH – will return with a vengeance! The inspired apostle Paul gives a list of a few of these sins in Galatians 5:19-21. Another list is offered in Colossians chapter 3:5-10: fornication [sexual immorality]; uncleanness [impurity]; [vile, shameful] passion; evil desire; covetousness [greed] (which is idolatry); anger; wrath [rage]; malice [ill-will, with a desire to hurt others]; blasphemy [slander]; filthy [abusive] language; and lying. We are commanded to "put off" these deeds of the "old" man, putting them to death. "That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the *old* man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts...and put on the *new* man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph 4:22-24).

A gardener has many tools at his disposal which he can effectively use to combat the ever-encroaching weeds. And we too, have certain spiritual disciplines which serve to strengthen the "new" *spiritual* man and weaken the "old" *carnal* man. These essential tools are: **(1)** the consistent study of God's word (Ps 119:105; Mt 4:4; 2 Tim 2:15; 1 Pet 2:2)

*Continued* ➡

**(2)** diligent, earnest prayer (Mt 6:6; Rom 12:12; Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:17) and **(3)** worship-fellowship-service (Mt 4:10; Jn 4:24; Rom 12:1-2; Heb 10:23-25). All three of these are needed to ensure that the Christian will "bear fruit" (Jn 15:1-5), and bring forth the crop of a righteous life (Gal 5:22-25; 2 Pet 1:5-10), culminating in the ultimate harvest of eternal life (1 Pet 1:7-9). But, failure to maintain any *one* of these spiritual disciplines will result in a life being taken over by "weeds," which will rob the Christian of essential elements needed for spiritual growth and maturity (Heb 5:12-14).

And remember, we're not in this alone. We have help. The Christian life is a *cooperative* effort. As we do *our* part, God will do *His* part. Our part is to "work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12). Does that sound hard? Difficult? Next to impossible? Now, consider the *help* we receive: "For it is God who works (*where?*) **in you**, both to *will* and to *do* for His good pleasure!" (Phil 2:13). When we put forth the effort and strive to do God's will (Mt 7:21; Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27), He will give us all the help we need in order to accomplish His good purpose. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works (*where?*) **in us**, to Him be glory (*where?*) **in the church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen!" (Eph 3:20-21). — *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



December 16th - Brandon Kennedy  
December 28th - Catherine Cuvellier



### Yankee Swap

After our pot luck meal today, we will have our traditional Yankee Swap. All gifts should be wrapped, and those specifically for men or women or children should be marked "Male," "Female," or "Child."

Please stay and be ready to enjoy a time of great fun and a lot of laughs as we share this special time together! ☺

### Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 7,022  
This Month: 14,552



## SNACKS!

Dec 13: Potluck  
Dec 20: Jan

### Attendance & Contribution for December 6, 2020

Attendance — 17  
Contribution — \$363.

## Order of Worship

December 13, 2020

*"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,  
and Him only shalt thou serve."*

- Matthew 4:10 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song—563

Opening Prayer: *Paul Bullock*

Song—590

Scripture Reading: *Jim Miller*  
~ Colossians 3:5-11 ~

Song—179

The Lord's Supper:  
*George Cuvellier & Ernie Perry*

Song—656

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
~ 11 Vices to Put to Death ~

Song—642

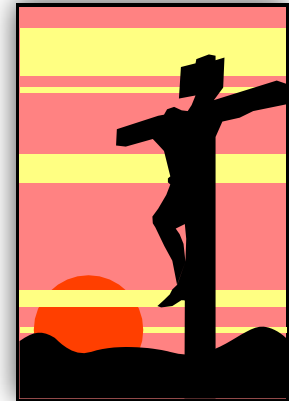
Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*Jason Kennedy*

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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 -*

## December 13, 2020

### 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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