



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 - scheduled for surgery on March 31 to correct a collapsed artery in her neck; also dealing with an infection on her left foot
- Cathy Cuvellier - prayers requested for her job situation which is uncertain at this point
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Erik Grabowski - dealing with a painful heel spur on his right foot
- Janice Grabowski - large growth on her neck; also dealing with pancreatitis & fibromyalgia
- Connie Henderson - undergoing an aggressive regimen of chemotherapy which hopefully will eradicate the remaining cancer; a recent CTSCAN revealed that the chemo is working
- Mayvella Knight (Connie's foster sister) - lost her husband to cancer recently; struggling
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Jim Miller - now scheduled for triple-bypass surgery on March 15; prayers appreciated
- 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 - pancreatic cancer

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

Struggles, Discouragement and Prayer



When reading through the Bible, one quickly discovers that even the "heroes of faith" often had struggles with their faith. After seeing the prosperity of the wicked, Asaph confessed that he had almost lost his faith (Psalm 73:1-2). And Elijah, the great prophet of God, became so discouraged that he prayed he might die, asking God to take his life (1 Kings 19:4). Many more instances could be cited, which speak to the fact that, when you and I become discouraged in our Christian walk, we are in very good company.

Discouragement means "to deprive of confidence, hope, or spirit; to take away the will to persist or prevail" (*American Heritage Dictionary*). Because we are human, even those striving to please God and live a godly life will encounter difficulties, problems, and trials in their lives. Our tendency is to appeal to God for an explanation as to why we are struggling and suffering. But the fact is, God owes us no explanation. He may give one, but then again He may not. God is not bound by our demands or expectations. Job really did not receive an explanation as to why he experienced such great loss and subsequently endured such intense suffering.

The hard truth is, when it comes to struggle and suffering, there is often no rhyme or reason as to the cause or whether or not these things are justified. There are also no concrete formulas to follow in their prevention or elimination. Because we are hurting without really knowing the reason why, and because we do not get the answers we seek in prayer, we can become discouraged and disheartened in our walk of faith. God's silence is unsettling and confusing, causing doubts, seemingly making matters worse. During these troublesome times, perhaps the best thing we could do is cease striving, be still, and let God be God (Psalm 46:10).

Rather than simply being a means to obtain the answers we seek, prayer is designed to create and maintain intimacy between us and God. In prayer we connect with the mind of God which serves to bring our thoughts and attitudes into harmony with His will. Through prayer, we draw near to God. Time spent in prayer and fellowship with God allows us to experience His strength, help, comfort, and peace (Phil 4:6-7). While we may not always receive answers as to why we are suffering, through time spent in prayer, God works to restore our soul and deepen our faith (Psalm 23; James 1:2-4).

As we learn from many of God's faithful servants, periods of discouragement are a normal part of the disciple's life. However, when left unattended, it can lead to despair, despondency and depression, which can be debilitating. Maintaining fellowship with God through times of intimate prayer helps to align our thinking and check discouragement. This helps take the focus off of ourselves and our circumstances and, instead, place our trust and dependence in God. May we grow to be able to say, like Jesus, "Not *my* will, but *Yours* be done" (Luke 22:42). When that happens, things will really begin to change! (Psalm 46:1; 121:1-2; Rom 8:28-39; 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

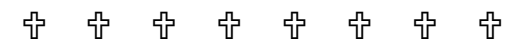
Believe [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31
Heb 11:6

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





Next Saturday night, March 13th,
before going to bed! ☺



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

Visits to Our
Web Page

Last Week: 6,617
This Month: 6,617



SNACKS!

Mar 7: Cathy
Mar 14: Paula

*Attendance & Contribution
for February 28, 2021*

Attendance — 20
Contribution — \$748.

Order of Worship

March 7, 2021

*"O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let
us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation. Let us come before His presence
with thanksgiving, and make a joyful
noise unto Him with psalms."*

- Psalm 95:1-2 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song—277

Opening Prayer: *Paul Bullock*

Song—338

Scripture Reading: *Erik Grabowski*
~ Psalm 13 ~

Song—313

The Lord's Supper:
Jason Kennedy & Ernie Perry

Song—63

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Where is God in All of This?"

Song—485

Announcements & Closing Prayer:
George Cuvellier

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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 -*

## March 7, 2021

### 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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