



## 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 - dealing w/ various health issues
- 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
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Becky McGarey (Terry & Betty's daughter) - being treated for a painful stomach ulcer
- Jim Miller - cardiac catheterization revealed that open-heart surgery is necessary, with the date still to be determined; troublesome wound is almost completely healed now
- 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

## Navigating the Storms of Life



Even though it may be unwelcomed and a bit annoying, most of us appreciate receiving advanced warning of an impending storm. Having prior notice of any kind of threat or danger allows us to take necessary precautions and make adequate preparation for our safety and survival. However, many of the "storms of life" that beset us often descend without warning. As quickly as a pop-up summer thunderstorm or a winter snow-squall, we are taken by surprise by difficult situations and troublesome circumstances. The magnitude and severity of these unanticipated storms can often overwhelm us, leaving us dismayed and disheartened.

At times like this, we could echo the heartfelt sentiments uttered by the Psalmist, David: "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! For then I would fly away and be at rest [*can we relate?*]. Indeed, I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest" (Psalm 55:6-8). Wishful thinking? Perhaps. But there is a solution to these despairing times when you and I find ourselves nearly disabled by distress. Again, we turn to David, "A man after God's own heart" (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22).

"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears" (Psalm 18:6). David attests that God came through for him, delivering him out of his troublesome situation. "I sought the LORD [*note: this is key!*] and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed [*they were not disappointed when they turned to God for help*]. This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles" (Psalm 34:4-6).

What was it that qualified the Psalmist to receive this kind of help from God? "The LORD is near to those who have a broken [hurt, shattered, crushed]

heart, and saves such as have a contrite [*lit. "crushed to powder"; humble*] spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous [*Amen?*], but the LORD delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:18-19). Did you spot the qualifications? A "broken heart" and a "contrite spirit." It is these dear ones with whom the Lord is near.

This word "near" is interesting in the Hebrew. It suggests a personal kinship, a close relationship, an intimate fellowship. Although we may not always feel like it, intellectually we know that the Lord is near, close to us, with us (Mt 28:20; Phil 4:5; Heb 13:5). But are we, through our inmost thoughts, daily habits and actions, near to Him? Are we, as His disciples, looking *to* and following hard *after* Him? (Ps 63:8).

It is this close communion and sustained fellowship with God which exercises our faith, enabling us to depend and trust in Him no matter how bad or hard things get. And it is our spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, worship, service) which nurture, strengthen and fortify our faith (Jn 4:24; Rom 10:17; 12:1-2; 1 Thess 5:17). And it is this type of strong, enduring, unshakable faith which will help you and me successfully navigate the storms of life. — **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

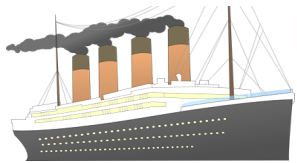
**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**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

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* — Acts 4:12



## WARNING!

While crossing the Atlantic bound for New York City during her maiden voyage on April 14, 1912, the *RMS Titanic* received six warnings concerning icebergs. She received the last warning only 40 minutes before her collision. Six warnings! All of which were ignored! As a result, 1500 passengers and crew lost their lives in the cold waters of the North Atlantic. The Bible says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). We've heard the warning, now what will we do? (Acts 24:25; 26:27-28; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Acts 22:16). — *Mike Benson*

### Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 4,169  
This Month: 14,096



## SNACKS!

Feb 21: Jan  
Feb 28: Betty

### Attendance & Contribution for February 14, 2021

Attendance — 12  
Contribution — \$227.

# Order of Worship

February 21, 2021

*"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*

- Hebrews 10:24-25 -

Song Leader: *Paul Cote*

Song—2

Opening Prayer: *Erik Grabowski*

Song—13

Scripture Reading: *Jason Kennedy*  
~ Mark 4:35-41 ~

Song—22

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

Song—17

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
"Navigating the Storms of Life"

Song—49

Announcements & Closing Prayer:  
*Paul Bullock*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Paula Kennedy*

# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

## February 21, 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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