



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

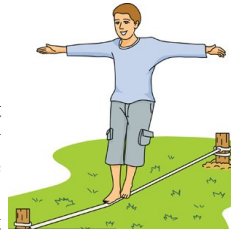
- James 5:16 -

- 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 - ongoing health concerns
- Paul Cote - now a resident at Seal Rock Health Care in Saco; thank you for your prayers
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Erik & Janice Grabowski - the court decision regarding their foster child Uriah was that he be returned to his parents; not the outcome we were hoping for; thanks for all the prayers
- Janice Grabowski - suffering from chronic pancreatitis & fibromyalgia
- Jim Miller - making sure & steady progress as he recovers from surgery and regains his strength; many thanks & much praise to God for this good progress; please keep praying for continued healing and a complete recovery
- Pat Miller - suffering with diverticulitis; your prayers are appreciated
- Ernie Perry - arthritic back pain and COPD
- Gary Roeder (preacher/missionary) - recently had spinal fusion surgery, and then had to have 3 stents placed to repair artery blockage in his heart; in recovery and doing well so far
- Norman Roy - ongoing health concerns
- Wayne Sampson - experiencing bursitis and arthritis pain, with ongoing anxiety attacks
- Paul Small (Paul's cousin) - stomach cancer
- Erik Wuelper - has pancreatic cancer
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today

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

The Beam

I do not believe it can be stated any clearer than the very words of our Lord, that there will be few that find the straight way. *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"* (Mt 7:13-14). Finding the straight way is easy enough . . . staying on it is another.



I have watched children trying to walk on a narrow beam of wood and noticed it is easier for the smaller ones to walk the beam without losing their balance than the taller ones. This is because the smaller child has a lower center of gravity thus making it easier for them to walk the length of the beam. Taller children can learn to balance their bodies by holding out their arms, leaning first one way and then the other, and with much practice learn to walk the beam with confidence. At the same time, I have watched some children try many times without success and they become discouraged and simply walk away defeated. Needless to say, there are many other factors that play a part in their ability to walk the beam, but I believe there are two that stand out. One is balance and the other is a willingness not to give up or accept defeat.

The Christian life is much the same. Just as the beam is straight and narrow, the path Christ wants us to walk is the same. Like the smaller children, some Christians have a lower center of gravity because they were brought up properly in the truth of God's word. The taller or less balanced Christian has practiced or studied much to find the path and walk it and has not given up. Then, there are those who try several times to get on the path, but instead of continuing to try and stay on it, they simply give up and go back into the world, or seek a doctrine with which they can more easily agree.

Now consider this: if the beam were wider, and

you could stand on it with both feet with room to spare, the likely hood of falling off that beam is much less is it not? However, the narrow beam is the one that teaches balance, and for most teaches perseverance and builds character. Whereas the larger or wider beam even if crooked is easier to walk, yet teaches nothing and leads to no good end at all.

Being a Christian is not to be looking for a wider beam, but learning to master the smaller beam. So, let's say we see someone walking on the wider beam, and know there is no good end to it and because we love that person, we go to them and say, "Hey, I can help you walk on the smaller beam." Then you take them by the hand and walk beside them on that narrow beam until they themselves can walk it alone. Is this not what Christ expects us to do? We know that not everyone wants to walk the narrow beam, regardless if we help them or not. Those are the folks who really do not care where they end up and, as sad as it is, you (in order to help others who are trying), must put them away from you.

One other thing you must learn is that no matter how well balanced you are--no matter how hard you try--there will be times when you fall off the beam. The important thing is that you get back on and keep going. The second you give up and choose to walk on the wider beam you change your destination. Isn't it amazing what we can learn from a simple child's game? - **Jim Miller** ✍

"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 9th - Terry Schmidt
 December 16th - Brandon Kennedy
 December 28th - Catherine Cuvellier



Terry & Betty — December 6th

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 8,012
 This Month: 8,540



SNACKS!

Dec 5: Terry K
 Dec 12: Paula

Attendance & Contribution for November 28, 2021

Attendance — 16
 Contribution — \$774.

Order of Worship

December 5, 2021

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

- John 4:23-24 -

Song Leader: Jim Miller

Song—43

Opening Prayer: Erik Grabowski

Song—51

Scripture Reading: Jason Kennedy
 ~ Jeremiah 6:16~

Song—179

The Lord's Supper:
 Wayne Sampson & Ernie Perry

Song—55

Sermon: Jim Miller
 "Where Are We Going?"

Song—185

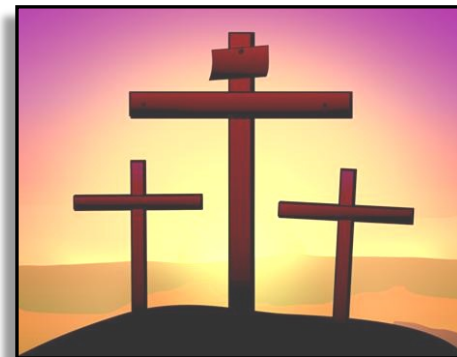
Announcements & Closing Prayer:
 George Cuvellier

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Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

159 Alfred Road, P.O. Box 344  
 West Kennebunk, ME 04094



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

## December 5, 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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