



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Robbie Andrews (gospel preacher, Lineville, AL) - spine/nerve compression/left arm issues
- Louis Bureau - injured his left shoulder at work
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Tish Clarke (wife of BJ Clarke, director of the Memphis School of Preaching) - has malignant brain tumor & cancerous lymph node
- Corona Pandemic - its effect & overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - numerous health concerns
- Randy Cote (Diane's son) - alcohol addiction
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- George Nick & Family - Wife & daughter in IL suffering from long-range Covid; George (also in IL) now suffering with a sepsis infection
- Norman Roy - ongoing health concerns
- Wayne Sampson - ongoing anxiety attacks
- Betty Schmidt - fell at work and broke her left arm; healing & doing well w/ physical therapy
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling



"Spiritual labor is tiring work, and men are loath to do it. Praying, true praying, costs an outlay of serious attention and of time, which flesh and blood does not relish. Our praying needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage that never fails." – E. M. Bounds

Who Will You Serve?



WOW! It was beautiful! And it was just what he needed (or so he thought). The lure was incredibly desirable to him and wonderfully appealing. Plus, it promised to excite and please the senses and completely satisfy his needs. So, he carefully positioned himself and bit down hard. Oh my! It was delightfully delicious! He savored the flavor as he consumed the gratifying morsel. Uh-oh! Wait a minute...what's that? A HOOK! The frightened fish frantically tried to free himself from the baited barb, but it was too late...he was hooked!

Not all that different from the preceding fictional fable, the inspired New Testament writer James provides us with the mechanics of temptation and sin. "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away (lured) by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire (lust) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:14-15).

While initially promising escape, freedom, and pleasure...sin inevitably becomes a ruthless, demanding and all-consuming taskmaster. The very nature of sin (addiction) is to dictate, dominate and ultimately debilitate. But this factual information is not provided during the attractive temptation phase. The sad, sobering, bitter truth usually comes much later after one is hooked (addicted). Some may protest that they are not "hooked" or "addicted" in sin. But Scripture says otherwise.

The Bible affirms this undeniable truth: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 6:23). Jesus taught, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). The apostle Peter agrees: "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage" 2 Pet 2:19). The apostle Paul confirms: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto

righteousness" (Rom 6:16).

There are only two choices of service —slaves to sin, or slaves to obedience. One leads to death, and the other to life. The decision is yours. So, "choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve!" (Joshua 24:15). As the songwriting sage of the sixties, Bob Dylan, once wrote: "You're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed, you're gonna have to serve somebody—it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody!"

The Christians in Rome made the right choice. "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Rom 6:17-18). May the same be said of you and me! — **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

😊 Welcome Visitors 😊

We are glad you have come to worship with us today. We want you to know that you are welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Also, please fill out one of our visitor's cards before you depart.

Have a great week! 😊





A Moment of Decision

"Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14). And every temptation presents us with a moment of decision. There are always two choices. To choose sin is to fly in the face of the One who died for us. It is a decision to love self more than Jesus. It means that I am telling the Lord that I would rather sin than yield to His divine will. Sin is a deliberate choice to crucify him again..."seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:6). Being human, temptation comes to all of us and must be resisted (1 John 1:8, 10). Sin is damaging and destructive. The crossroad is a spiritual battle between the carnal mind that is set on the flesh and the spiritual mind that is set on the will of God (Romans 8:5-8). So, decisions should be made long in advance of the enticing crossroad (Psalm 119:11). - Al Behel

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 12,553
This Month: 39,084



SNACKS!

March 19: Jan
March 26: Betty

Attendance & Contribution

for March 12, 2023

Attendance — 19
Contribution — \$677

Order of Worship

March 19, 2023

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

📖 - 1 Corinthians 14:15 - 📖

Song—6

Opening Prayer

Song—52

Scripture Reading

- James 1:12-16-

Song—316

The Lord's Supper

Song—473

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*

"Biblical Ways to Deal with Temptation"

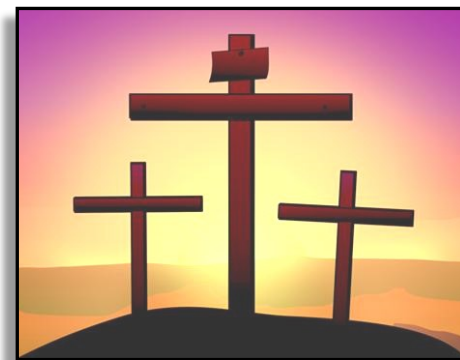
Song—111

Announcements & Closing Prayer

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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 -*

## March 19, 2023

### Meeting on the Lord's Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class  
10:30 am — Worship

*"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 -

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