



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Michael Baldasaro (Wayne & Jan's son in law) successful surgery on 9/21 addressed cancer of the tonsils; has completed five weeks of radiation treatments; now healing; thanks for your continued prayers
- Louis Bureau - injured left shoulder at work & is gradually recovering from surgery
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Diane Cote - left leg amputated up to the knee as a result of diabetes; soon to be fitted with a prosthesis and undergo prosthetic rehab
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Linda Gloman - colon cancer was detected in a colonoscopy; laparoscopic surgery successful; now undergoing chemotherapy
- Lewiston Shootings - Please pray for victim's families, friends & associates as they grieve the deaths of their loved ones, along with all Mainers & our nation as, together, we mourn this tragedy
- Jan Sampson - recently fell on her right side, injuring/ bruising her ribs; experiencing a lot of pain & discomfort which affects her sleep
- Molly Urghart (mother of Wayne & Jan's granddaughter, River)- her stage 4 esophageal cancer has spread to other areas; undergoing aggressive chemotherapy; prayers needed
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

"The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers."

On Placing Membership



When faithful Christians move to a new area, or decide to worship with another congregation in the area where they live, they are often asked to "identify" or "place membership" with the chosen congregation. While we do not find these phrases in the New Testament, this does not mean that the practice is suspect or unscriptural. In fact, the principle involved is quite biblical.

In Colossians 4:10, the inspired Apostle Paul writes: "Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him)." In saying, "if he comes to you, welcome him," Paul was giving his approval and affirmation of Mark's faithfulness in the Lord. This would be helpful to "the saints and faithful brethren in Christ" (Col 1:2) in Colossae.

When Betty & I moved from Groton, CT to Florence, AL in 1987, we had in our possession a letter from the Groton church stating that we were faithful members of the Lord's church in good standing. This recommendation was extremely helpful to the elders of the Woodlawn church of Christ where we would later place our membership.

Writing to the church in Rome, Paul commends Phoebe, a sister in Christ and servant of the church in Chenchrea, and asks that the brethren "receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints" and that they "assist her in whatever business she has need of" (Rom 16:1-2). In doing this, Paul affirms that Phoebe is a faithful member of the Lord's body and a member in good standing in the local congregation of Chenchrea, her previous congregation. This is valuable and needful information for the saints in Rome.

In order to be completely honest and open, and to be rightfully accepted into fellowship, it is always good for a faithful Christian to place membership with the congregation they are worshipping and working with. Again, there is no hard and fast rule concerning this, but there are some solid and beneficial reasons for doing so.

When faithful Christians place membership and identify with a local congregation of the Lord's church:

1. It reveals their intentions to both the congregation and the leadership that they desire to be regarded as members.
2. It reveals that they are accepting responsibility as a member of that congregation.
3. It reveals commitment to support the work financially through their contribution.
4. It reveals a willingness to be faithfully involved in the work of the church.
5. It usually gives permission to have their names printed in the church's directory as members.

Placing membership is in complete harmony with the New Testament which teaches that we are to be members of a local congregation, subject to the leadership, involved in the work and supportive of the Lord's cause in that place. — **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

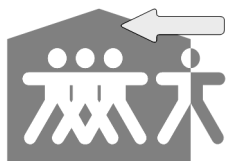
☺ Welcome Visitors ☺

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! ☺



Catherine Cuvellier — December 28th



It is our pleasure
to announce that

Heidi Soper

has expressed her

desire to place membership here at
Southern Maine church of Christ, along
with her children **Roslyn & Grant**.

We are pleased and blessed to have them
worship with us and warmly welcome
them into our spiritual family! ☺

“With God nothing shall be impossible.”

Visits to Our
Web Page

Last Week: 4,147

This Month: 18,659



SNACKS!

Dec 17: Jan

Dec 24: Betty

Attendance & Contribution

for December 10, 2023

Attendance — 22

Contribution — \$470

Order of Worship

December 17, 2023

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing
one another in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing with grace in
your hearts to the Lord.”*

📖 - Colossians 3:16 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—22

Opening Prayer: *Wayne Sampson*

Song—231

Scripture Reading: *Jason Kennedy*
~ Joshua 8:1-2 ~

Song—119

The Lord’s Supper
George Cuvellier (lead) & Jim Miller

Song—165

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
“The God of Second Chances”

Song—644

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Louis Bureau

Lord’s Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

December 17, 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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