



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 - suffering with a prolonged and severe virus; other health concerns also
- Randy Cote (Diane's son) - alcohol addiction
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Chuck Gloman - recovering from A-fib surgery
- Brandon Kennedy - recovering from mononucleosis; feeling better and now back in school
- Bob Kenneth (friend of Terry & Betty) - having difficulty recovering from walking pneumonia
- Alan Nichols - grieving the death of his father
- 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

*"The prayer of the upright is His delight . . .
He hears the prayer of the righteous."*

~ Proverbs 15:8, 29 ~

The Marriage Covenant



While modern man continues to rebel against the Almighty—refusing to acknowledge Him as God (Psalms 14:1; 53:1), or give Him the glory He deserves for all creation (Rom 1:18-25)—God *is* God and *is* our Creator! He designed human beings "*in His image*," creating them "*male and female*," each to fulfill a definite role and specific purpose (Gen 1:27). In the very beginning, God established the permanent institution and societal foundation of the family when He blessed Adam and Eve and said, "*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it*" (Gen 1:28). When God said, "*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh*" (Gen 2:24), God forever sanctified the marriage bond as sacred. As the Scripture says: "*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge*" (Heb 13:4).

And marriage, especially the Christian marriage, is a lifelong covenant. Just as the church—the Bride of Christ—glorifies God and the Lord Jesus (1 Cor 10:31; Eph 3:21), permanent healthy Christian marriages are to bring glory to God as well. So, "*let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband*" (Eph 5:33). Yes, the marriage covenant was intended by the Creator to be a bond for life (Rom 7:1-3). "*Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate*" (Mt 19:6).

The term "covenant" is of Latin origin meaning, "a coming together." The Hebrew word presupposes two or more parties who voluntarily come together to make a solemn agreement containing stipulations, responsibilities, privileges, and promises. The covenant is a bond, referring to two or more parties (God, husband & wife) being bound together, signifying a mutual obligation. In the Greek, the word basically refers to an obligation or arrangement between two parties. It represents a mutual promise or undertaking by those involved. The covenant relationship is typically signified and sealed with an oath (e.g. "marriage vows"). God Himself confirmed the New Testament covenant in

this way. "*Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us*" (Heb 6:17-18).

While contracts and agreements between human parties are established bilaterally, the new covenant God made with mankind is not. Through Jesus Christ, the High Priest and Mediator of the new covenant, our Creator initiated this covenant, determined its parameters and stipulations, and confirmed it with an oath. The new covenant was established unilaterally and is superior to the old. "*But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises*" (Heb 8:6). As blessed recipients of this covenant, we are called "to accept it as offered, to keep it as demanded [this includes marriage], and to receive the results that God, by oath, assures will not be withheld" (Bakers Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology).

"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen!" (Heb 13:20-21).

— 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



Last week's bulletin should have included a birthday, which was inadvertently missed.

So, let's be sure to wish **David Judkins**

A "Belated" Happy Birthday! 😊



Points to Ponder

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed." - Maya Angelou

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, Endures all things.
Love never fails"

- 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 -

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 8,420

This Month: 23,723



SNACKS!

Feb 19: Pat

Feb 26: Kathleen

Attendance & Contribution

for February 12, 2023

Attendance — 20

Contribution — \$462

Order of Worship

February 19, 2023

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

📖 - Psalm 29:2 - 📖

Song—17

Opening Prayer

Song—47

Scripture Reading

- Matthew 19:4-6 -

Song—28

The Lord's Supper

Song—63

Sermon:

"7 Characteristics of a Healthy Marriage"

Song—352

Announcements & Closing Prayer

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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 -*

## February 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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