



## 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 ~

## Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted

by Aaron Coffey

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:10). To be persecuted is to be harassed or punished in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict. Specifically: to cause one to suffer because of belief (The Merriam-Webster dictionary). No one wants or asks to be treated in such a way. But, when you put on the name of Christ, it comes with the territory, (2 Tim 3:12, Jn 15:19). And that's ok, because we live a Romans 5:3-5 lifestyle.

As a Christian, we are not like this world. We do not walk the same, we do not talk the same, and most of all, we do not think the same as the world does. We are on a personal journey to be Christ-like in all that we do, in every aspect of our life. (Some characteristics of a Christian can be read in Galatians 5:22-25 and James 1:19-20). Furthermore, we want those of the world to be saved and get to know our Heavenly Father like we do.

There are more than a few examples of persecution because of faith throughout the Bible. Daniel was thrown into a lions' den (Dan 6). Job was subjected to trial after trial at the hands of Satan (Job 1-2). The apostles were imprisoned (Acts 4 & 5). And what do these instances have in common? Despite what happened to these men, they remained faithful to God and upheld His righteous commands.

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation (remains steadfast under trial-ESV), for when he has been proved (stood the test-ESV), he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him" (Jas 1:12).

No matter what we endure, no matter the trial, no matter the struggle, we know that our Lord is always with us and He will not forsake us (Heb 13:5). We understand that whatever we may face, it is temporary (Rom 8:18), and we find comfort and peace in knowing that, when this life ends, we will be with the Lord forever.

So, "beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the

extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached [insulted or reviled] for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you" (1Pet 4:12-14).

The promise of Heaven is our reward and there is nothing anyone can say or do that will take that away (Rom 8:1, 37-39; Rev 2:10). So, strive to be faithful and do the will of God even when it leads to hardships. Love your enemies, forgive them and lift them up in prayer. Let us put our trust in God fully. Be patient and continue to profess your faith with gratitude. For the Lord has said, "Behold, I come quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown" (Rev 3:11).

**"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! ☺*



## WHY DOES GOD ALLOW TRIALS?

Trials, especially severe ones, may tempt us to doubt God. "If God exists, and if He really is good, then why does He permit such pain and suffering?" Through Moses the Lord told His people Israel, *"You shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord"* (Deuteronomy 8:2-3). The Israelites needed to suffer hunger to know the source of their blessings and to learn that satisfying one's physical hunger isn't the main purpose of life! Though we may not enjoy it, we benefit from experiencing trials. Think of Joseph in Egypt; think of Daniel and his friends in Babylon. Most of all, think our Lord Jesus, the captain of our salvation, who was made perfect (complete) through suffering" (Hebrews 2:10). — Joe Slater

### Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 10,634  
This Month: 34,357



## SNACKS!

Feb 26: Kathleen  
March 5: Terry K

### Attendance & Contribution

for February 19, 2023

Attendance — 20  
Contribution — \$683

## Order of Worship

February 26, 2023

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

📖 - Psalm 29:2 - 📖

Song—68

Opening Prayer

Song—240

Scripture Reading

- 2 Peter 3:18 -

Song—313

The Lord's Supper

Song—473

Sermon: *Jim Miller*

*"Our Faith is Tested"*

Song—580

Announcements & Closing Prayer

~~~~~  
Lord's Supper Prep: *Terry Kennedy*

## 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 -*

## February 26, 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 -

Phone: 207-229-4174

Email: [tls654b@twc.com](mailto:tls654b@twc.com)

Website: [www.southernmainecofc.com](http://www.southernmainecofc.com)