



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Robbie Andrews (preacher in Lineville, AL) - recovering from Rocky Mountain Fever and 2 broken ribs sustained in a bad fall
- 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
- Michael Hatcher (preacher for the Bellview church in Pensacola, FL) - recovering from recent abdominal surgery
- 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
- 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



[Thus saith the Lord]: "Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. . . . And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."

Interpretation of Scripture



When theologians, scholars, preachers and Bible students refer to the interpretation of scripture, they often use the word *hermeneutics*. This is quite fitting because the word, derived from the Greek, actually refers to the science, system, or method of interpretation. In fact, the root word *hermeneu*, itself a derivative of *Hermes* (the ancient Greek herald and messenger of the gods), literally means "to make clear, interpret" (*Dictionary.com*). An excellent example of this is found in Nehemiah 8:8 where Ezra had the Law of God read in the sight and hearing of all the people. "*So, they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense [interpretation, explanation] and helped them to understand the reading.*" This is what good teaching and preaching does!

Since becoming a Christian more than 40 years ago, I have appreciated the conservative, common-sense approach to the interpretation of scripture employed by churches of Christ. We endeavor to "speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent." We regard the New Testament as our only rule of faith and practice. We seek a "thus saith the Lord" when it comes to our worship and the practice of our faith. In other words, we respect the authority of God's word and seek scriptural authorization in all that we do.

Traditionally, our hermeneutic (which has been under intense attack in recent years), has been governed by these distinct elements: (1) Direct command [*"This do in remembrance of Me"* – Lk 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24-25], (2) Approved example [*"Now on the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread"* – Acts 20:7], and (3) Necessary inference [the disciples met on every first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper]. This is a very sound, reasonable and effective method of interpreting scripture, which tends to err on the side of caution rather than un-governed excess or license without limits.

Contrast this hermeneutic with one maintaining: if scripture does not specifically forbid something, it

is therefore authorized. This is a very dangerous and irresponsible approach to scripture! Furthermore, it is presumptuous and disrespectful to the inherent authority of God's word. For example, when scripture specifies using unleavened bread for the Lord's Supper, there is no need to give a list of all forbidden items. This is merely an attempt to circumvent the authority of scripture and negate the impact of clear teaching. Those questioning and challenging the efficacy and validity of our hermeneutic have asked, "Where is your scriptural authority for having a building, song books, a pitch pipe, etc.?" The answer is: Any command given by God, authorizes what is needed to fulfill that command. God's word *is* the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

It is incumbent upon each disciple to apply sound hermeneutic principles in order to responsibly and accurately interpret the Holy scriptures. This is why we are admonished: "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing [handling aright, accurately, correctly] the word of truth*" (2 Tim 2:15). As time goes on, this responsibility is becoming increasingly more important. Because sadly, many are not doing so. — **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 pleased to have you as our honored guest!

Happy Birthday!



Jim Miller — May 9th
Louis Bureau — May 14th
Betty Schmidt — May 16th



George & Cathy — May 31st

👉 **NOTICE:** Due to **Mother's Day** being observed on the second Sunday of May (the 14th), our **Potluck Meal** and our **Men's Business Meeting**, as well as the **Ladies' Meeting**, will be scheduled for the third Sunday, May 21st. Thank you! 😊

Visits to Our
Web Page

Last Week: 2,394

This Month: 2,158



SNACKS!

May 7: Jan

May 14: Betty

Attendance & Contribution

for April 30, 2023

Attendance — 16

Contribution — \$203

Order of Worship

May 7, 2023

"O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

📖 - Isaiah 25:1 - 📖

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—2

Opening Prayer: George Cuvellier

Song—444

Scripture Reading: Jim Miller
- Ephesians 5:19-20 -

Song—22

The Lord's Supper
Louis Bureau & Wayne Sampson

Song—12

Sermon: Terry Schmidt

"The Question of Instrumental
Music in Worship"

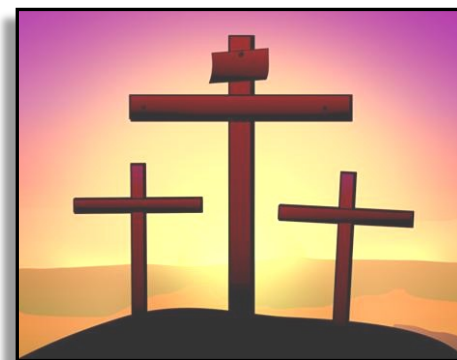
Song—157

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Jason Kennedy

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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 -*

## May 7, 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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