



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Robbie Andrews (preacher in Lineville, AL) - recovering from Rocky Mountain Fever and two broken ribs sustained in a bad fall; also experiencing loss of vision due to bilateral cataracts and a possible detached retina
- Louis Bureau - injured left shoulder at work; underwent a successful surgery on June 15th; will wear a shoulder brace for a few weeks
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Cleary's (Sampson's neighbors) - John is at SMHC suffering with Cephalitis virus; his wife Ceciela fell in parking lot with many injuries
- Diane Cote - left leg was amputated up to the knee on 6/2 due to a progression of gangrene as a result of diabetes; now undergoing rehab at Southridge Rehabilitation & Living Center
- 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) suffering with a serious sepsis infection
- Norman Roy - doing much better now; thank you for all your prayers: greatly appreciated!
- Wayne Sampson - ongoing anxiety attacks
- Betty Schmidt - sustained a serious head injury (requiring stitches) in a recent fall
- Molly Urghart (mother of Wayne & Jan's granddaughter, River) - condition re-evaluated to stage 4 esophageal cancer; now undergoing chemotherapy; will be going to Boston soon for extensive treatment
- 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

"Pray without ceasing." — 1 Thess 5:17

Applause During Worship



Within the past 25 years or so, many denominations have introduced applause or hand clapping in their worship services. And, as one might guess, some churches of Christ have adopted the practice as well.

Adherents claim that the clapping of hands is no more than expressing agreement with a statement or action, as "Amen" might be. But one might ask: when an audience claps during a famous entertainer's performance, would it evidence the same thing if the audience said, "Amen?"

The meaning of "Amen" is "may it be so" or "let it be so." The basic idea is approval of what another has said. The purpose of applauding or clapping hands in our society is to show approval of a person's *performance*, involving *his* skill or ability.

If a professional singer performs and the audience applauds, they are applauding the *performance* of the musician. Is there anything in God's word that leads one to assume that when a person leads a song, leads a prayer, or preaches in worship, his performance is to be applauded? Is he, or his performance the center of attention? Or should our attention be on the message and on the Christ whom the message should exalt?

The performance of a singer or pianist on the stage calls attention to the skill or ability of the artist who is performing. Thus, it is appropriate to applaud or withhold applause in terms of how you valued the skill or ability of the performer. That is not true with reference to the act of preaching, prayer, singing in worship, or waiting on the Lord's Table. My point here is that applause always calls attention to the *performers* of the act, whatever the act may be. At preaching, praying, etc. we should be calling attention to the *Savior* who authorized those acts. When a preacher is preaching and I say, "Amen," I am not calling attention to the *performance* of the preacher, but to the *message* which exalts Christ. When a person is praying, and I say, "Amen" I am not calling attention to the beauty or eloquence of his phraseology, but to the validity and worth of his petition. If I applauded, I would

be calling attention to his *performance*. This is inappropriate, and has no place in an assembly for the worship of God.

Those believing it is appropriate to applaud during worship, because they are merely showing approval of the act and glorifying God, need to give a sound and sensible answer to the question, "At what place in the worship would you not want to applaud by clapping the hands, since you should approve of every scriptural act?" Should it be done after the songs, after the scripture reading, after the prayer, after the Lord's supper, after the sermon, or any time and every time you feel like rejoicing? "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). — **T. Pierce Brown**

[Note: Showing approval by saying "amen" is specifically authorized by scripture (1 Cor 14:16). The New Testament contains fifty examples of "amen" being used to solemnly confirm a prayer, blessing, statement of praise or statement of truth. No authorization or example of clapping hands to show approval or for any other purpose is found.]



WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS for JULY

Preaching: Terry Schmidt
Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Opening Prayer: Wayne Sampson

Scripture Reading: Jason Kennedy

Lord's Supper:

George Cuvellier & Jim Miller

Announcements & Closing Prayer:

Louis Bureau

Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

☺ Welcome Visitors! ☺

We are glad you have come to worship with us and 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!



Georine Cuvellier — June 25th

Tyler Kennedy — July 9th

Pat Miller — July 16th

Diane Cote — July 24th



Louis & Kelly — July 9th



Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 10,267

This Month: 31,934

“Do not grow weary in doing good.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:13 -

SNACKS!

June 25: Terry K

July 2: Jan

Attendance & Contribution

for June 18, 2023

Attendance — 18

Contribution — \$429

Order of Worship

June 25, 2023

*“Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing
praises unto our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth:
sing ye praises with understanding”*

📖 - Psalm 47:6-7 - 📖

Song Leader: *Louis Bureau*

Song

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song

Scripture Reading: *George Cuvellier*
- Colossians 3:17 -

Song

The Lord's Supper
Jim Miller & Louis Bureau

Song

Sermon: *Jim Miller*

“Keep Running!”

Song

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Wayne Sampson

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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 -

## June 25, 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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