



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Robbie Andrews (gospel preacher, Lineville, AL) - spine/nerve compression/left arm issues
- 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
- Bob Kenneth (friend of Terry & Betty) - having difficulty recovering from walking pneumonia
- Jim & Pat Miller - now recovering from Covid
- Alan Nichols - in Virginia for a few more weeks to complete job training for PNSY in Kittery (we miss you Alan! God be with you! ☩)
- Norman Roy - ongoing health concerns
- Jan Sampson - has tested positive for Covid
- 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 weak & struggling



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

~ 1 Peter 3:12 ~

## Pain & Suffering



Proverbs 20:30 says, *"Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes (blows, strokes, beatings) the inner depths of the heart."* One modern version reads this way: "Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." To verify the truth of this passage, one needs look no further than Israel of old—especially in the Book of Judges. Time after time, God's chosen people observed the oft repeated cycle of rest, rebellion, retribution, repentance and restoration.

After a period of living in obedience to God, Israel would again become complacent, do evil in the sight of the Lord, forsake Him and serve false gods. This sinful condition could last many years. To get their attention, God would have no choice but to allow them to be conquered by their enemies and exist in a sorrowful state of brutal bondage and severe oppression. God used this pain and suffering to cause the children of Israel to turn back to Him. Having exhausted all of their options, with nowhere else to turn, they finally turned to God.

Yes, sometimes God uses pain and suffering to reprimand, reprove and rebuke his erring children. God disciplines us because, like Israel, we often go astray and need to be brought back to our senses and return to Him. Therefore, *"do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him"* (Heb 12:5).

However, pain and suffering in one's life does not always imply sin, disobedience or wrong-doing. This is true in some cases, but not all. The three friends of Job made the mistake of attributing his misery and misfortune to some unconfessed sin. Sometimes, God allows adversity, pain and suffering into our lives in order to refine, purify, and perfect our faith.

*"Though now, for a little while, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (1 Pet 1:6-7). Adversity, pain and suffering are often used by God to help us grow

spiritually and prove that our faith is real.

After all, the Author of our salvation was made perfect through sufferings (Heb 2:10), and *"though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered"* (Heb 5:8). Jesus taught, *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master"* (Mt 10:24). If it was necessary for our Lord to suffer in order for Him to fulfill God's purpose, then it is necessary for us to suffer also. *"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake"* (Phil 1:29).

Adversity, pain and suffering cause us to mature in Christ and serve to strengthen our faith (Rom 5:3-5; Jas 1:2-4). So, *"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!"* (1 Pet 4:13). — **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

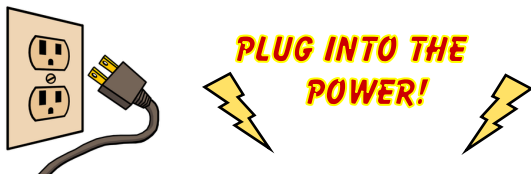
**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;  
1 Pet 3:21

**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

☺ **Welcome Visitors!** ☺

*We are glad you have come to worship with us 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.*

*Thank you and have a great week!*



*"Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that works in us!"*  
- Ephesians 3:20

*"Be strong in the Lord and in the **power** of His might!"* - Ephesians 6:10

*"Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious **power**."* - Colossians 1:11

*"[We] are kept by the **power** of God through faith unto salvation."* - 1 Peter 1:5

*"In the fear of the LORD is **strong confidence**."* - Proverbs 14:26

### Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 10,315

This Month: 41,385



## SNACKS!

Jan 29: Betty

Feb 5: Cathy

### Attendance & Contribution

for January 22, 2023

Attendance — 15

Contribution — \$488

## Order of Worship

January 29, 2023

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

📖 - Psalm 29:2 - 📖

Song—216

Opening Prayer

Song—192

Scripture Reading

- 1 Samuel 30:6 -

Song—289

The Lord's Supper

Song—73

Sermon:

*"The Source of Our Strength  
In Times of Trouble"*

Song—62

Announcements & Closing Prayer

## 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 -*

### January 29, 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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