



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Rodelio Baaqin - working with congregations of the Lord's church in the Philippines
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Diane Cote - severe infection necessitated the amputation of her right leg above the knee; previously, her left leg was amputated to the knee; at SMMC with various health concerns
- Leslie Denbow - left knee needs replacement surgery; experiencing nerve pain in right foot
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Retha Flack (Terry & Betty's Christian friend) - 2 blockages in heart; currently undergoing tests
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma
- Wayne Sampson - femoral bypass surgery on 11/18 to bypass an 8-inch blockage in his right leg was successful, but the incision did not heal properly; he is currently at MMC undergoing an aggressive wound care & antibiotic regimen to eradicate infection and promote healing
- Henry Terrill - radiation treatments for prostate cancer complete; a follow-up visit revealed no more treatments are needed; prayers answered
- Karolyn Terrill - strength for daily routines and keeping her cooperative spirit with staff
- Hurricane Victims - prayers for those affected by the devastation brought on by these storms; many have lost everything, including loved ones
- 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

The Virgin Birth

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son."

The Christmas season is that time of year when those of our nation (along with many the world over), look to the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate His coming into the world. One of the foundational teachings of Scripture is that Jesus was born of a virgin. "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Is 7:14). This has been a source of controversy over the years and has been repeatedly attacked by Bible skeptics and those who seek to discredit the Gospel accounts.

When the Revised Standard Version was released in 1952, it translated Isaiah 7:14 using the phrase "young woman" instead of "virgin." While the wording was defended by the translators and their supporters, this action was regarded by many to be a covert attack on the Virgin Birth. While the Hebrew word "almah" *can* also mean "damsel," "maid" or "young woman," we can know beyond any doubt that this is *not* the case in this particular text. How? Because, referring to this prophecy, the inspired writer Matthew in the New Testament renders it "virgin" (Mt 1:22-23). Luke further confirms this in His gospel in Luke 1:26-27).

The virgin birth is a critical and essential doctrine of the Christian faith which must be staunchly defended whenever it is attacked or compromised. It is important because it demonstrates that Jesus was truly human and fully divine. He was God in the flesh. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14). In the virgin birth, the *supernatural* (the Holy Spirit) and the *physical* (Mary's womb) were both involved. If Jesus had been born in a purely supernatural way, with no human agent involved, some would have had cause to question his *humanity*. And if He had been born by the purely physical act of intercourse between a man and a woman, some would have had cause to question his *divinity*. The virgin birth guarantees that Jesus was indeed 100% man and 100% God.

The virgin birth also affirms the inspiration and

authority of Scripture. Those who question or deny the virgin birth, which was prophesied in the Old Testament hundreds of years before it actually happened, in essence deny the inerrancy of Scripture. And when one rejects the authority of God's inspired word, they are compromising the very foundation of the Christian faith (Jn 20:30-31; Rom 10:17; 1 Thess 4:8; 1 Jn 5:10-11).

In short, the virgin birth is important and essential because it confirms Jesus' heavenly origin, it secured both His genuine *human* nature and His completely *divine* nature, and it allowed Him to be the perfect *sinless* sacrifice — "as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet 1:19). This criteria was indispensable and non-negotiable, so that "He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Heb 2:9). — **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.

Have a great week!





Catherine Cuvellier — December 28th



Mike & Donna — December 28th

“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them [the shepherds], and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
— Gospel of Luke, 2:9-14

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 4,850

This Month: 13,919



SNACKS!

Dec 22: Cathy

Dec 29: Pat

Attendance & Contribution

for December 15, 2024

Attendance — 24

Contribution — \$855

Order of Worship

December 22, 2024

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

📖 - Colossians 3:16 - 📖

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—204

Opening Prayer: George Cuvellier

Song—27

Scripture Reading: Louis Bureau
~ Matthew 1:18-25 ~

Song—56

The Lord's Supper
Jim Miller (lead) & David Larrabee

Song—165

Sermon: Terry Schmidt
“At Just the Right Time”

Song—197

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Jason Kennedy

Alternates: Mike Doucette/
Wayne Sampson

Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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*We love Him, because
He first loved us.
- 1 John 4:19 -*

December 22, 2024

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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