



## 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 Family - grieving the loss of their loved one who passed away last Sunday, 12/29
- 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 now 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

*"Call upon Me in the day of trouble."*

- Psalm 50:15 -

## Consider Your Ways!



The exiled Jews who returned to Jerusalem, after 70 years of Babylonian captivity, had engaged in the noble task of rebuilding the temple, which was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. In two years, they completed the foundation, but then faced strong opposition from their enemies which disrupted this important work and brought it to a halt. The people then devoted their time and energies to their homes and personal comfort, leaving the work of the temple undone for 14 years. In 520 BC, through the preaching of Haggai the prophet, God exposes their indifference and negligence.

"Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built."'" Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, "Is it time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses [in comfort and luxury], and this temple to lie in ruins?" Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:2-5).

Consider your ways! Very good and wise counsel to be sure. We need to be attentive and aware of the fact that, as sinful human beings, we can become easily distracted and begin to stray & wander from the truth (Jas 5:19-20). The ever-present possibility exists that our hearts can be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin, we can lose our faith, and be in dreadful danger of actually departing from the living God! (Heb 3:12-14). At these critical times, our heavenly Father will lovingly, but determinedly, intervene in order to get our attention and bring us back to where we need to be.

This is exactly what had happened to the Psalmist in Psalm 119 when he gratefully proclaimed: "Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word" (v. 67) ... "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes" (v. 71) ... "I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness you have

afflicted me" (v. 75). Our gracious God will always confront and challenge us when we stray from His way and are endangering our souls. Therefore, "do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him," because He administers this discipline "for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness" (Heb 12:5-10).

But our heavenly Father will not even need to get to the point where He must discipline us **if** we consistently and conscientiously consider our ways. In fact, we are commanded to do this each "first day of the week" when we partake of the Lord's Supper. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor 11:28). As you live the Christian life, you are to "examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Cor 13:5). Examine ... test ... consider your ways! On a regular basis, may we faithfully endeavor to do some deep personal introspection – some serious soul-searching – to ensure that our lives are in harmony with God's word. — **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 to have you as our honored guests! Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Please fill out a visitor's card before you leave. Thank you.*



## Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sincerest condolences are extended to the Lord's church and the family of **Diane Cote** as they mourn the death of their loved one, who passed away on Sunday, December 29th.

May God's steadfast presence and tender compassion provide strength & comfort to these dear ones during this difficult time of grief and loss. ✝

We will enjoy our potluck meal next Sunday after services. We hope you will stay for this special time of food, fun & fellowship! 😊



## Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 6,526

This Month: 1,665

## SNACKS!

Jan 5: Terry K

Jan 12: Paula

## Attendance & Contribution

for December 29, 2024

Attendance — 18

Contribution — \$428

# Order of Worship

January 5, 2025

*"Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good:  
sing praises unto His name;  
for it is pleasant."*

📖 - Psalm 135:3 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—256

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song—255

Scripture Reading: *George Cuvellier*  
~ Haggai 1:2-7 ~

Song—119

The Lord's Supper  
*Louis Bureau (lead) & Mike Doucette*

Song—230

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
"Consider Your Ways!"

Song—607

Announcements & Closing Prayer  
*Jim Miller*

Alternates: *David Larrabee/  
Wayne Sampson*

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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 -*

## January 5, 2025

## 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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