



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Rodelio Baaqin & Family - 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
- CA Fires - Please pray for those who have lost loved ones, homes & possessions and the fire fighters & rescue personnel; also the Pasadena church of Christ whose building was destroyed
- Diane Cote Family - grieving the loss of their loved one who passed away 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; treatment being evaluated
- 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
- 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 Scribes and Pharisees

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, He had continuous confrontations with the scribes and Pharisees. The Jewish scribes, or "lawyers" as they were sometimes called, were highly educated men whose professional occupation was the detailed, systematic study of the Law of Moses, along with its analysis and interpretation. The majority of the scribes belonged to the religious sect of the Pharisees, who recognized and agreed with their interpretations of the Mosaic law.

The prominent Jewish sects at the time of Christ were the Pharisees, Sadducees and the Essenes. But the Pharisees were the strictest and most orthodox religious sect, and the most influential. The name Pharisee means "the separated ones." They were legalistic elitists who considered themselves to be near flawless in keeping the Law of Moses, and therefore, more righteous and religious than others. The scribes and the Pharisees were the religious leaders of their day, who loved the "chief seats in the synagogues" (Mt 23:6), as well as the praise and recognition of men (Mt 23:5, 7).

The Lord Jesus Christ reserved some of His harshest criticism for these meticulous law keepers, calling them "hypocrites" (Mt 15:7). This word has roots in the Greek plays, where the same person could play the good guy *and* the bad guy, simply by wearing a different mask. A hypocrite is one who puts on a false appearance for others, acting in a way he never intends to become. Their false outward show openly contradicts their true inner self. While the Pharisees would masquerade as spiritual super-men, deeply devout, and reverently religious — in reality they were corrupt to the core. Early on, Jesus had warned His disciples about them saying, *"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy"* (Lk 12:1).

In Matthew 23, the Lord publicly denounced them saying, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence"* (v. 25). *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear*

righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (vv. 27-28). *"Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"* (v. 33). Indeed! Jesus had previously said, *"Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you!"* (Mt 21:31).

Because Jesus refused to be controlled or bound by their interpretations of the law, or their man-made traditions, the scribes and Pharisees fiercely opposed Him. They saw Jesus as a real threat to their power, prominence and prestige. Throughout His earthly ministry, these religious leaders were His most critical and determined opponents. This would ultimately lead to their playing an important role in bringing about His crucifixion. As Matthew 12:14 records, *"Then the Pharisees went out and took counsel against Him, how they might destroy Him."* And ultimately, Jesus would respond, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Lk 23:34). You see, *"in due time, Christ died for the ungodly"* (Rom 5:6).

— 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 pot luck meal today after services. We hope you will stay for this special time of food, fun & fellowship! 😊



Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 4,187
This Month: 5,852

SNACKS!

Jan 12: Paula
Jan 19: Jan

Attendance & Contribution

for January 5, 2025

Attendance — 23
Contribution — \$693

Order of Worship

January 12, 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—11

Opening Prayer: *Jason Kennedy*

Song—24

Scripture Reading: *George Cuvellier*
~ Mark 12:13-17 ~

Song—179

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

Song—188

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"We Never Saw Anything Like This!"

Song—98

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 12, 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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