



## 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
- 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 heart blockages; doing PT to strengthen heart
- Kathleen Judkins - R knee replacement surgery on May 14th was successful; ☺ now doing PT
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma
- Terry Schmidt - experiencing intense lower back pain; cause unknown at this time; doing PT
- Hurricane Victims - prayers for those affected by the devastation brought on by these storms
- Tornado Victims - prayers for those affected by more than 100 tornadoes in 8 states; at least 43 lives lost; Cave City Church of Christ building in Arkansas was completely destroyed
- Families of those who perished - in the January plane crashes in Philadelphia /Washington DC
- 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 -

## Jesus' Apostles: Crossing Social, Economic, and Political Barriers

The selection by Jesus of His apostles reflects not only his divine mission, but also a direct challenge to the societal norms and prejudices of his time. By choosing such a diverse group of individuals from various backgrounds, Jesus transcended the barriers that often divide humanity. These were common, ordinary men, representing the working class of their day. They had not been to the rabbinical schools and were not associated with the religious elite. Acts 4:13 states: "Now when they [the religious leaders of the day] saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus." In choosing the men He did, Jesus crossed social, economic, and political barriers.

In the first century, Judea was a region marked by significant social hierarchies, economic disparity, and political tension. The Jewish people were under Roman occupation, which created a complex relationship between the oppressors and the oppressed. Socially, there were clear divisions between the wealthy elite, the religious leaders, and the common people. Economically, many were struggling under heavy taxation and poverty, while politically, the landscape was fraught with conflict and resistance against Roman rule.

Jesus' choice of apostles was strikingly unconventional. He called individuals from various walks of life, each representing different social, economic, and political perspectives. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen from Galilee. They were part of the working class, living a life of labor and struggle. By choosing them, Jesus highlighted the value of ordinary people and their potential to be leaders in his ministry. Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector, a profession often despised by the Jewish populace for its association with Roman oppression and corruption. By including Matthew, Jesus broke down the barriers of social stigma and demonstrated that redemption and purpose were available to all, regardless of their past sins. Simon the Zealot was part of a political movement that sought to overthrow Roman rule. His inclusion among the apostles illustrated Jesus'

ability to unite individuals with radically different political ideologies under a common mission of love and service.

By associating with fishermen, tax collectors, and political zealots, Jesus challenged the social orders of his time. He showed that spiritual authority and leadership were not confined to the religious elite but were accessible to all who would follow him. Jesus' teachings often focused on the poor and the oppressed, advocating for justice and compassion. His message transcended political affiliations, calling rather for an allegiance to the values set forth in Scripture.

Empowered by Jesus' teachings and example, the apostles went on to spread the message of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. Their diverse backgrounds allowed them to connect with a wide range of people and engage with individuals from all walks of life. This enabled them to break down existing barriers and create a fellowship of believers from different cultures and social standings. The early church became a model of spiritual unity, where individuals from various backgrounds came together to worship and support one another. Jesus' selection of such a diverse group of men as His apostles reflects the core message of Christianity and underscores the universal nature of the Gospel.

— 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!* ☺

# † Happy Anniversary!

George & Cathy — May 31st



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

“...food which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” — 1 Timothy 4:3

**An apostle** is “one sent forth” as a messenger on a mission as the fully authorized representative of the sender. These 12 men (and later on, Paul) were specially commissioned to represent their Lord as they preached the Gospel message to the lost and built up His church (Eph 2:19-22). Their office was not, and could not be, passed on to others. It was unique. So, regardless of man’s audacious claims, there are no modern day apostles among us. †

## Snacks!

May 18: Terry K

May 25: Paula

### Attendance & Contribution

for May 11, 2025

Attendance — 17

Contribution — \$482

## Order of Worship

May 18, 2025

*“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory.”*

📖 - Revelation 19:6-7 - 📖

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Song—120

Opening Prayer: George Cuvellier

Song—157

Scripture Reading: Wayne Sampson  
~ Mark 3:13-19 ~

Song—289

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

Song—127

Sermon: Terry Schmidt  
“Jesus Chooses His 12 Apostles”

Song—599

Announcements & Closing Prayer  
Jim Miller

Alternates: Jason Kennedy/  
David Larrabee

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Lord’s Supper Prep: Jan Sampson

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

## May 18, 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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