



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Rodelio Baagin & 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
- 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; had a heart attack on 6/11 during PT & now on heart meds; also diagnosed as having A-Fib (abnormal heart rhythm)
- Kathleen Judkins - healing & recovering well after right knee replacement surgery in May; doing PT to increase strength & range of motion
- Richard Miles (Kathleen's nephew) - undergoing chemo & radiation to combat a rare sarcoma
- Jim Miller - pulled ligaments & tendons in right shoulder causing pain & discomfort; muscle relaxers, arm in sling & time will assist healing
- Terry Schmidt - recent MRI revealed nerve root compression in 2nd lumbar vertebra as primary cause for lower back pain; seeing an orthopedic specialist on August 20th
- Texas Flood Victims - prayers for those affected by the devastation brought on by these floods, with more than 130 dead & many still missing; many have lost everything, including loved ones
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Pray for a permanent meeting place
- 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 Spiritual Seed



The *natural* seed has within it the power of life, as well as the potential of growth and propagation. The *spiritual* seed—the word of God (Mt 13:19; Mk 4:14; Lk 8:11), is much the same. Jesus said, "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (Jn 6:63). Indeed, the word of God is "alive and powerful" (Heb 4:12), and will accomplish God's intended purpose in bringing forth fruit (Mt 13: 23; Mk 4:20; Lk 8:15; Jn 15:5). "For as the rain comes down...[to] water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Is 55:10-11).

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus tells the story of a sower (farmer) sowing seed (Mt 13:1-23; Mk 4:1-20; Lk 8:4-15). The seed falls on four different types of soil which represent the hearts of men and women. The first soil "by the wayside" is unreceptive to the word. The next two, those "on stony ground" and "among thorns," receive the word but, due to various reasons, bring no lasting fruit to maturity. The fourth soil, "good ground," hears the word, obeys it, and yields an enduring and bountiful crop through much patience and perseverance. It is this soil with which you and I want to identify. And it is this soil that we are most interested in when it comes to sowing the seed of the kingdom (Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-16; Acts 8:4; 2 Tim 2:25; 3:16-17; 4:2).

In Luke's account, Jesus explains that the good ground represents those having "an honest (noble) and good heart" (Lk 8:15). When those who are good soil "receive with meekness the implanted word" it is able to save their souls (Jas 1:21). "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17). The spiritual, incorruptible seed—the word of God which lives and abides forever—planted in honest and good hearts, purifies the soul (Jn 15:3), and brings about a new birth

(1 Pet 1:22-25). Of course, the seed will not be able to take root unless it is first sown (planted) in human hearts. This is where you and I come in.

First century Christians, especially during times of persecution and hardship, "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). They planted lots of seeds, preaching/teaching Christ wherever they went, and reaped a great harvest of souls (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 12:24; 13:44, 48-49; 15:35-36; 17:11; 18:11; 19:10, 20).

We cannot hope to improve on this simple God-approved method today. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Mt 9:37-38; Lk 10:2). Will you be one of the few laborers willing to be sent into God's harvest? — **Terry Schmidt** ✍



WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS for AUGUST

Preaching: Terry Schmidt

Song Leader: Terry Schmidt

Opening Prayer: Louis Bureau

Scripture Reading: David Larrabee

Lord's Supper:

Jason Kennedy (lead) & George Cuvellier

Announcements & Closing Prayer:
Jim Miller

Alternates: Wayne Sampson/
Mike Doucette

Lord's Supper Prep: Betty Schmidt

😊 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.

Have a great week!



Wayne Sampson — August 14th

Parable of the Sower Explained

In Mark 4:14-20, Jesus explains the meaning of this parable—how different hearts respond to the Word of God:

Verse 14 *“The sower sows the word.”* The seed is the Word of God; the sower, anyone who shares it.

Verse 15 *Wayside soil:* Hear the Word, but Satan quickly snatches it away before it can take root.

Verses 16-17 *Stony ground:* Receive the Word with joy, but their faith is shallow. When trouble or persecution comes, they fall away.

Verses 18-19 *Among thorns:* Hear the Word, but worldly worries, riches, and desires choke the Word, making it unfruitful.

Verse 20 *Good ground:* Hear, accept, and act on the Word, producing spiritual fruit in varying proportions: some thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 9,594

This Month: 25,724



SNACKS!

July 27: Betty

August 3: Cathy

Attendance & Contribution

for July 20, 2025

Attendance — 20

Contribution — \$817

Order of Worship

July 27, 2025

*“O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You,
I will praise Your name, for You have
done wonderful things; Your counsels
of old are faithfulness and truth .”*

📖 - Isaiah 25:1 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—17

Opening Prayer: *Jim Miller*

Song—561

Scripture Reading: *Jason Kennedy*
~ Mark 4:1-9 ~

Song—322

The Lord's Supper
George Cuvellier (lead) & Mike Doucette

Song—89

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
“The Parable of the Soils”

Song—605

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Wayne Sampson

Alternates: *Louis Bureau/
David Larrabee*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Paula Kennedy*

# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

## July 27, 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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