



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Rodelio Baaqin & Family - working with congregations of the Lord's church in the Philippines
- Roy Baaqin - recovering from serious injuries sustained in a recent motorcycle accident
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Leslie Denbow - left knee replacement surgery on 12/2 was successful, now home recovering; a recent procedure has reduced pain in several discs in her lower back; requests prayers to meet life's challenges and bring glory to God
- Retha Flack (Terry & Betty's Christian friend) - 2 heart blockages; meds are working well
- Hardship - victims of severe storms in Jamaica, Philippines, India & floods in Pacific Northwest
- Jim Miller - recent surgery successfully removed skin cancer on lower lip & right sideburn area; healing well; thanks for all the prayers
- Escalating politically motivated violence and shootings - across our country
- 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

Prayer

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast.
Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.
Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death;
He enters heaven with prayer.

—Author unknown

A Vessel Fit for the Master's Use



In 2 Timothy 2:20, the Apostle Paul uses a familiar metaphor to describe God's servants—*vessels*. The Zondervan Bible Dictionary defines the word "vessel" employed in this verse as "a person used as an instrument of God's will." That's a great definition! God desires to use us as vessels for His glory, as instruments in His hands to accomplish His good purpose.

Specifically in this verse, Paul contrasts two distinct categories of household vessels: those of gold and silver—for *honor* ... and those of wood and clay—for *dishonor*. There are not many of us who would desire to be included in the category of *dishonor*. Most, would definitely want to be included in the *honor* category. But in order for this to happen, we must cooperate with God and cleanse ourselves from something, as indicated in verse 21.

"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (v. 19). "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (v. 22).

When we render obedience to God in this all-important area of our lives, the Scripture says we will be "a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work" (v. 21). Now that's the category you and I want to be in! Vessels used as instruments of God's will to accomplish His good purpose, bringing Him glory and honor by the lives we live (Ephesians 3:20-21).

The Random House College Dictionary defines vessel as: "a container; a person regarded as a holder or receiver of a particular trait or

quality." This too is a great definition! We are "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20), and we in Him (John 15:1-8). Also, we are to be "filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

In addition, according to 2 Corinthians 4:7, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." And what is this treasure? The preceding verses indicate that it is the saving gospel of Christ. The gospel, which is "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

Because we are privileged and entrusted with this precious treasure, it is imperative that we "depart from iniquity," "cleanse ourselves" and become "a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work." God's work! (Ephesians 2:10).

— 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 today. 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 a visitor's card before you depart. Have a great week! ☺

A New Year invites some serious reflection and spiritual renewal. Scripture speaks often about new beginnings and God's ongoing work in our lives.

1. God Makes All Things New

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

2. Let Go of the Former Things

A new year is a time to let go of what no longer serves your spiritual growth. "Do not remember the former things... Behold, I will do a new thing..." (Isaiah 43:18-19; see also Phil 3:1-14).

3. Allow God to Renew Your Heart

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you..." (Ezekiel 36:26).

4. Seek God's Direction for the Year Ahead

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

5. Commit Your Plans to the Lord

To align our plans with God's purposes, we would be wise to follow this biblical counsel: "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5).

Lord, as we enter this new year, renew our hearts, guide our steps, and help us to walk in accordance with Your will. Amen. 📖

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 8,932

This Month: 2,877



SNACKS!

Jan 4: Erica

Jan 11: Paula

Attendance & Contribution

for December 28, 2025

Attendance — 27

Contribution — \$659

Order of Worship

January 4, 2026

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

📖 - 1 Corinthians 14:15 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—17

Opening Prayer: *Louis Bureau*

Song—227

Scripture Reading: *Jim Miller*

~ Ephesians 3:17-21 ~

Song—321

The Lord's Supper

Jason Kennedy (lead) & Jeremy Raymond

Song—14

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*

"Attitudes for a Healthy Congregation in 2026"

Song—642

Announcements & Closing Prayer

Wayne Sampson

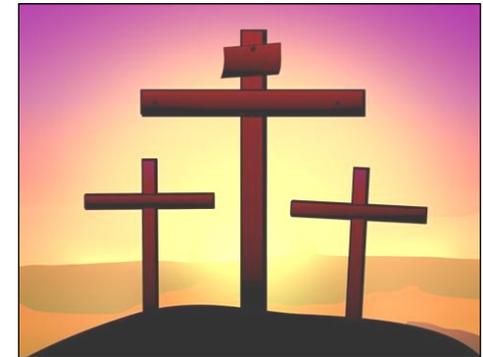
Alternates: *George Cuvellier;*

Mike Doucette; David Larrabee

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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 -

## January 4, 2026

**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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