



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

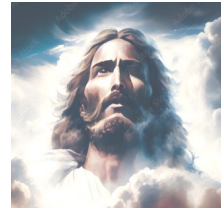
- Rodelio Baaqin & Family - working with congregations of the Lord's church in the Philippines
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Leslie Denbow - recent left knee replacement surgery was successful, now in PT & recovering well; also, a recent procedure has reduced pain in several discs in her lower back; requests our 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
- Terry Schmidt - recently diagnosed w/ unstable angina caused by a 20% blockage; now on medications, a modified diet, & an exercise regimen to help remedy future episodes
- Doreen Taylor (Kathleen's sister) - recovering from a recent stroke; outlook hopeful
- Escalating politically motivated violence and shootings - across our country
- Military Personnel in Harms Way - those who are engaged in Operation Epic Fury & the war with Iran; also pray for their families while these service men & women are deployed
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling



We are exercising great wisdom when we choose to make prayer a first priority, instead of a last resort.

*"Continuing instant in prayer."* (Romans 12:12)

## The Nature & Character of God



In the middle of the second century AD, a Gnostic teacher by the name of Marcion saw a conflict between the God of the Old Testament and Jesus. He believed that God, as revealed in the Old Testament, was harsh, cruel and even vindictive. He saw these "evil" tendencies as a stark contradiction to the life and teachings of Jesus as revealed in the New Testament.

As a result, Marcion chose to exclude whole books of the New Testament of which he disapproved and even rejected certain verses he disagreed with in the books he included in his canon of Scripture. His canon consisted of only eleven books—a heavily edited version of the Gospel of Luke and ten epistles of Paul (excluding 1&2 Timothy & Titus), which were also edited to match his theological views. As you may have guessed, Marcion's teachings caused problems in the church and he was eventually denounced as a heretic.

God said through His prophet Malachi, "I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). While we do live under a different covenant, the God of the Old Testament *is* the God of the New Testament as well. He is immutable, constant and consistent. He does not change. As the Book of Hebrews affirms, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (13:8).

One of the names of Jesus is Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (Matt 1:23). Jesus said, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). "The Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God. He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1-2). As the Lord said in His prayer to the Father, "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5). "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...." (John 1:14). Jesus is God in the flesh. He came to this earth to show us God.

During His earthly ministry, Christ clearly demonstrated the nature and character of God. He was

"the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person" (Heb 1:3). Jesus Himself declared, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). He revealed God's steadfast love (Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10), tender mercy (Matt 14:14; John 8:10-11), heartfelt compassion and depth of feeling toward His creation (Mark 6:34; John 11:35).

Marcion was dead wrong. God is not harsh, cruel or vindictive. But He *is* just (Dt 32:4; Romans 2:11-13). He will hold every individual personally accountable for what they do (Romans 14:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10) and He *must* punish sin (Romans 2:5-6; 2 Thess 1:6-9). But He takes no pleasure in doing this (Ezekiel 18:23). "The Lord is...not willing that *any* should perish but that *all* should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God loves us and gave His only begotten Son to die for us, "to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be *just* and the *justifier* of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:26).

— 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!* 😊

# Happy Anniversary!

Jim & Pat - April 28th

## The Character & Nature of God

God is infinite, eternal, & beyond full human comprehension. Is 55:8-9 emphasizes that His thoughts and ways surpass human understanding, highlighting the need for humility in approaching Him (1 Pet 5:6). While humans cannot fully grasp God, He has revealed Himself through creation, Scripture, and ultimately through Jesus Christ, allowing us a partial understanding of His attributes and character. A central aspect of God's nature is His Divine holiness, signifying absolute purity and separation from sin. As the Scriptures affirm: "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of Hosts!" (Is 6:3). God's righteousness ensures moral perfection, justice, and fairness in all His actions, rewarding good and punishing evil (Rom 3:25-26; Deuteronomy 32:4). †

## Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 13,507  
This Month: 27,172



# SNACKS!

April 19: Pat  
April 26: Terry K

## Attendance & Contribution

for April 12, 2026

Attendance — 21

Contribution — \$562

## Order of Worship

April 19, 2026

*"But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the LORD God, that I may declare all Your works."*

📖 - Psalm 73:28 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—59

Opening Prayer: *Wayne Sampson*

Song—407

Scripture Reading: *David Larrabee*  
~ Joshua 23:1-8 ~

Song—299

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

Song—545

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
"God is Specific, Thorough,  
Consistent and Fair"

Song—643

Announcements & Closing Prayer  
*Jim Miller*

Alternates: *Jason Kennedy;*  
*Jeremy Raymond; George Cuvellier*

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Lord's Supper Prep: *Erica Raymond*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

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

## April 19, 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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