



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 - numerous health concerns
- Retha Flack (Terry & Betty's Christian friend) - 2 heart blockages; meds are working well
- ICE related shooting in Biddeford - please pray for all those involved in and/or affected by the regrettable incident where a 26-year-old Colombian man was shot and killed by ICE agents during an early-morning enforcement operation on Monday, July 13th
- 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
- Philippine Brethren - have experienced recent earthquakes and typhoons with heavy rains and flooding, resulting in extensive damage
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we may 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

As you continue to travel down the road of life, please don't neglect your GPS (**G**od's **P**ower **S**ervice) — "on call" 24/7 — offering the best direction and roadside assistance available. Your Creator knows you best. 😊 Call on Him at any time "toll free" — and refer to His operator's manual often! 📖

Spiritual Discernment



The inspired Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:14, "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The Greek word used here means to "investigate and examine" in order to accurately determine if something is right or wrong. Spiritual discernment then, is the ability to distinguish between good and evil, truth and falsehood—and to discern the will of God from worldly deception.

The relevance and importance of this action can be seen in one of the spiritual gifts given to Christians in the first century, which was "the discerning of spirits" (1 Cor 12:10). The ability to rightly discern is much needed today also, as we are to "test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 Jn 4:1). The word "test" comes from a Greek word meaning to examine, prove, or authenticate. In a world filled with competing philosophies, false teachings, and spiritual counterfeits, we must carefully examine and evaluate all things in light of biblical truth.

Not everyone who speaks in God's name is trustworthy. False teachers often speak eloquently and appear to be righteous. Jesus spoke about this in Matthew 24:24, "For false Christs and false prophets will appear," He warns, "to astound, if possible, even the elect." "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works" (2 Cor 11:14-15).

We must remain aware that Satan is the master of deception (Jn 8:44; Rev 12:9) and always be on guard against "the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph 5:11). Spiritual discernment must accurately and consistently measure the teachings of others against the absolute standard of Scripture. So, how do we obtain and maintain this essential quality?

The foundation of spiritual discernment is a mind knowledgeable of and transformed by the word of God. Romans 12:2 provides the blueprint: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." The daily, meditative study of God's Word exercises the spiritual muscles of discernment. Without a deep, working knowledge of Scripture, we will be unable to recognize or detect spiritual error.

The Bereans in Acts 17:11 illustrated this truth well: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." May you & I take this excellent, proven example to heart. And, as Paul prayed, may our love "abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment" (Phil 1:9).

— 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 and 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 one of our visitor's cards before you depart. Thank you!

Have a great week!

Harlotry in King Solomon's Time

During King Solomon's reign, approximately 970 –931 BC, harlotry is a practice recognized by Bible scholars and historians as part of ancient Israelite society. Prostitution appears in several biblical accounts and reflects the social and economic realities of the time. But harlots held a rather insecure position in Solomon's society. While prostitution did exist and was tolerated, prostitutes themselves occupied a very low social tier. And the practice was sufficiently common to warrant law enforcement and legal action. Harlots typically came from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. They often worked in urban centers like Jerusalem and other cities where merchants and travelers created demand. Some may have been slaves or women without any family protection. Others may have entered the profession by choice given limited economic opportunities for women. Religious leaders officially condemned harlotry, and it also met with firm disapproval among the religiously devoted. Yet the practice persisted. The phenomenon is employed in scripture as a metaphor for Israel's unfaithfulness to God. 📖

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 14,232

This Month: 37,847



SNACKS!

August 23: Terry

August 30: Pat

Attendance & Contribution

for August 16, 2026

Attendance — 21

Contribution — \$630

Order of Worship

August 23, 2026

*"From the rising of the sun to its
going down, the LORD's name
is to be praised!."*

📖 - Psalm 113:3 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—19

Opening Prayer: *Wayne Sampson*

Song—27

Scripture Reading: *David Larrabee*
~ 1 Kings 4:29-34 ~

Song—297

The Lord's Supper
Louis Bureau (lead) Jeremy Raymond

Song—361

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*
"Wisdom Beyond Measure"

Song—39

Announcements & Closing Prayer
Jim Miller

Alternates: *George Cuvellier;*
Jason Kennedy; Mike Doucette

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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 -*

## August 23, 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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