

Being A Good Neighbor In Difficult Times

In recent days I have seen some concerning trends. With the increase in mask wearing and the need for social distancing, people are becoming more isolated than ever before in our society. People are not talking to each other in public places like they once did. We have real challenges when it comes to showing the love of Christ during this time. We also face the very real danger of illness when it comes to reaching out to others and helping those in need. Let's remember Jesus' teaching about loving our neighbor.

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:30-37).

The Samaritan faced very real barriers to being a good neighbor. Social, racial, physical danger, and financial barriers had to be overcome in order for him to help the man he found left for dead on the side of the road. It may take more effort than we are used to, to stay safe, but are we willing to overcome the barriers and be the good neighbor we are called to be? ~Brad Tolbert

MINISTERS

Pulpit Minister
Paul Mowrer

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Youth Minister
Jason Meier

Secretary
Cathy Mowrer

ELDERS

Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons

Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Josh Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 PM



MONTICELLO

CHURCH OF CHRIST

"...speaking the truth in love..." Eph. 4:15

August 2, 2020

THE "NEW NORMAL" REVISITED

In April of this year, I wrote an article dealing with the pandemic that hit in March. The phrase heard over and over were the few words, "the new normal." At that time I wrote about the unchanging nature of God and while the world struggled with the concept of the "new normal," we were reminded that our God never changes. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (**Hebrews 13:8**).

For whatever reason this week, the phrase "new normal" has played on my mind. No, I won't be repeating the article from April, but I would like to consider again those few words that now seem to define our lives. Yes, the "new normal" requires masks and safe distancing. It has limited our activities at home and abroad (vacationing in other places has been severely limited). And we have all pined for the good old days of meeting all together for worship and Bible classes. Many of us have struggled with expectations due to the "new normal," because they have restricted what we are accustomed to doing on a daily basis.

But consider for a moment a "new normal" that Christians committed to when baptized into Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, **new things** have come" (**2 Cor. 5:17**). He outlines the same consideration in his letter to the Romans, "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (**Romans 6:11**). In the Ephesian letter, Paul explains the change from old to new when he identified our "former" walk (**Eph. 2:1-2**), alluding to the idea that we live a "new" life, or a "new normal!"

Over a period of only a few months, we have adapted to the "new normal" of dealing with a virus. But for some of us as God's children, we may continue to battle the change from an old way of life to a "new normal" found in Christ Jesus; sometimes choosing rather to live the "former" life. The "new normal" is a life that shines brightly for the world to see. A life that is joyful and filled with hope because we know God is in control and has prepared a place for us eternally. And just like in our physical lives being careful to follow the "new normal," we need to examine more closely our lives in Christ Jesus to be sure we are living the "new normal" (**2 Cor. 13:5**). Have you truly committed your life to the "new normal" in Christ Jesus?

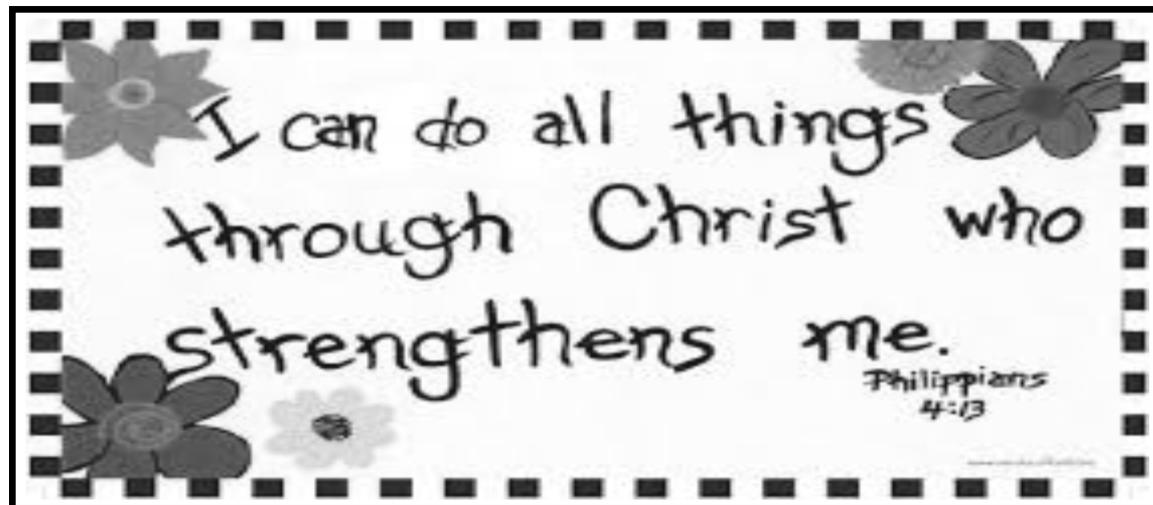
~P. Mowrer

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HEART-TO-HEART

Donnie Wright is recovering at home following knee surgery this past Thursday in Little Rock.

Janet Staudinger is home following a brief stay in Drew Memorial this past week.

Congratulations to **Noah Draper** on his graduation from boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri this past Thursday.

Elder selection forms are due back *Sunday, August 9*. We ask your prayers as we go through this important process.

Beginning next Sunday (August 9), we will return to the **ladies preparing communion**. The ladies to serve are listed in the regular spot in the bulletin. The cups, baggies, and the white trays will be in the kitchen. Since refrigeration is not needed, communion may be prepared **anytime** during the week.

The **Paragould Children's Home Change Cans for Children** will be due back in late **August**.

Sara Newton is in need of **half gallon** plastic milk or juice containers for her school classroom.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2 - Worship live streamed at 9:30

August 5 - Bible Time streamed on Facebook
Evening devotional streamed @ 6:30

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Lyndell Baker...Linda Bates...Tony & Judy Beard...
Barbara Dyson...Jean Enlow...Roger Harris...Emma Miller...Janet Staudinger...Rita Stiles...Bob & Pat Turner... Tom Weaver...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Clara Cooper...Betty Henry...Betty McGuire...
Linda Rabb...Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Adam Aylor...Corey Bryant... Donnie Collins...
Braydn Curtis...Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce...
Matthew May... Neil Rampy...Keith Robinson...
Christian Stepanovich... Mathew Tannehill...
Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Butch Baker...Ann Bolden...Valerie Bryant (due in Dec.)...Dona Buie...Jerry Carter...Lydia Cowgill...
Margaret Davis...Meagan Dyson (due in Nov.)...
Jeremy Ewell...Mike Frost...Terry Gibson...Eloise Harris...Kara Johnson (due in Aug.)...Lavon & Betty Light...Ronnie Light...Dallas May...Stephen McKinney...Jessie Naron (due in Oct.)...George Nickolson...Janetta Pugh...John & Christine Riddle...
Don & Suzette Russell...Homer Shirey...Hollie Smith...Samantha Tannehill (due in Aug.)...Joel Thompson...Pearl Tipton... Cheiree Webb... Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- Aug 6** Linda Forrest
Mignon Griffin
Joe & Peggy Moore
- 8** James Perry
- 12** Sheila Collins
- 15** Molly Perry
- 16** Roger Harris
Jill Curtis
- 17** David & Paula Wilson
- 20** Jimmy & Sandra Higgins
- 22** Josie Pettigrew
- 23** Kelly & Anna Koonce
Mandy Tolbert
- 26** Brad Tolbert

August Daily Bible Reading Schedule

- 3** Isaiah 7-9
- 4** Isaiah 10-12
- 5** Isaiah 13-15
- 6** Isaiah 16-18
- 7** Isaiah 19-21
- 8** Isaiah 22-24
- 9** Isaiah 25-27



Virtual Baby Girl Shower

Honoring:

Kara Johnson

Kara is registered at **Amazon**

Gifts may be sent to the following address:

Brandon & Kara Johnson

555 Rose Cottage Circle

Gallatin, TN 37066

When To Take A Bow

Verdi, renowned musician from the last century, always received great applause for his performances. Those who watched him closely said his eyes always traveled upward to the box where his teacher sat. Verdi did not respond to the applause until he saw his teacher applauding. It was then, and only then, that Verdi would smile and bow in acceptance of the applause.

What a lesson for Christians!

What good is the world's acclaim and acceptance if our Master is not pleased. We need to labor for **His** applause, **His** acceptance, **His** acclaim before smiling and bowing to the acceptance of the world around us. For only when God has smiled and applauded may we celebrate our work well done.

~ Dan Pitts

*The Lytle Light; Lytle, TX
via Bulletin Digest*

Attendance

Bible Class
Sunday AM Worship **90**
Sunday PM Worship
Wed. Evening
Contribution

Schedule of Volunteers for Communion to Shut-in

MISSIONARIES

Truth for Today
In Search of the
Lords' Way
Ghana Radio

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

Aug 9 Stacy Usry
Aug 16 Stacy Usry
Aug 23 Rachel Wilson
Aug 30 Rachel Wilson

Ladies August Duties

Cards: Barbara Newton
Food: Angela Naron
Pens & Cards: