

*****PREPARE COMMUNION*****

April - Mike and Judy Duley

May - Sonny and Pat Ingle

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

TODAY - Bonnie Jones * April 21 - LaRhonda Billingsley

CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS

Country Gravy Mix * Corn Chips * Pre-Wash Spray *
Evaporated Milk * Sandwich Bags * Summer Sausage
(Pick up June 10)

OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK

Attendance - 142
Contribution - 4111

FOOD PANTRY

APRIL ITEMS: CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE

Canned tomatoes, pork n beans. Cash donations also gratefully accepted

Happy Birthday:

- April 15 - Lois McQuin
Traci McQuin
- April 17 - Bailey Mays
Jon Neely
- April 20 - Nicole Garner



Happy Anniversary:

- April 21 - James and Janet Wood

Bible Trivia:

Who is quoted as saying, "Is there any taste in the white of an egg?"

Last Week's Answer:

Ezekiel ate a book and thought it tasted like honey (Ezekiel 2:9; 3:3)



SERVING TODAY

April 14, 2019

Song Leader.....Morris Karnes
Opening Prayer.....David Burleson

LORD'S TABLE

Justin Allen.....David Carson
Sam Garner.....Alex Garner
Ben Martin.....Mike Duley
Scripture.....Jonathan Simmons
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Announcements.....Jon Neely
Dismissal.....Bud McQuin

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams
Prayer.....Jacob Clayton
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Matthew 24: 32-35

Dismissal.....Ronnie Mays

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Prayer.....Ronnie Mays
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

April 21, 2019

Song Leader.....Wes Howard
Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons

LORD'S TABLE

David Burleson.....Jeff Rodgers
Marty Howard.....David Howard
Jerry Burleson.....Rick Beaird
Scripture.....Zachary Tanner
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Announcements.....Wayne Reams
Dismissal.....Darrin Shipman

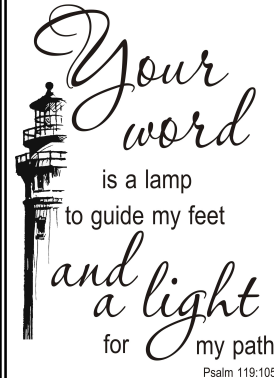
Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....Tim Woods
Prayer.....Morris Karnes
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Matthew 24: 36-37

Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

COUNT APRIL CONTRIBUTION

Wayne Reams.....Justin Allen
Joe Watson.....Johnny McGowan



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study...9:30AM
Worship.....10:15AM
Worship.....6:00PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Joe Watson
Rodney Williams
Tim Woods

OFFICE: 573-293-5620

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TRUE LIGHT

April 14, 2019

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

[Jesus said] *This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, you will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* (Matthew 6: 9-13 with traditional ending from the TNIV).

The familiar words of the Lord's Prayer have been inspiring and instructive for Jesus' followers for centuries. Yet what is gently implied in one line of the Lord's Prayer - "...forgive us ... as we also have forgiven..." strikes us like a thunderbolt in the verses that follow: *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins* (Matthew 6:14-15).

This is a shattering truth! We will be forgiven only to the extent we are willing to forgive! We can dry up the grace flowing to our hearts by being graceless towards others! But, how can this be? How can our forgiveness be conditional on anything? Doesn't the Father realize how badly these people have hurt us? Why does Jesus place such a high value on us forgiving those who have wounded and wronged us? Doesn't he know what they've done to us - betrayed, abandoned, cheated, ridiculed, mocked, and rejected us? Maybe we misunderstood the message from Jesus? Maybe with some high-sounding theological gyrations we can work ourselves around the sharp realities of Jesus' words.

However, when we listen to Jesus' teaching, he makes clear he is serious about our being a people of radical forgiveness. Jesus told a story about an unmerciful servant who had been forgiven a huge debt he could never repay, yet this servant was unwilling to forgive a large - but repayable - debt owed him by a co-servant (Matthew 18: 21-35). Jesus' words are chilling as he makes clear the meaning of his story:

Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart (Matthew 18: 32-35).

Jesus wants us to know that God is serious about forgiveness! When we examine other passages in the New Testament, we hear this same recurring theme. The apostle Paul challenged Christians to use the example of God and the sacrifice of Jesus as their models of forgiveness:

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with who you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 4:30-5:2).



Continued on inside

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

TONIGHT: Congregational shower for Chris and Kim Barnes following evening services. Gift cards for shopping and dining out, as well as monetary gifts appreciated. Please bring finger foods - cake and drinks will be provided

April 15: Mary and Martha meeting at 6:30 in the fellowship room. We will be working on our service project. Ladies are asked to bring a bar or two of wrapped soap with them, and a sewing machine or serger if you have one

April 16: Ladies Lunch out at China Buffet/Mongolian Grill at 11:30 in Sikeston

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Hot dogs with chili and soups. Desserts will be needed

April 21: Easter dinner in the fellowship room, following morning worship. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend

Looking Ahead

Senior Night at Bernie April 28 following evening worship. Our seniors this year are Maddie Jacques and Sadie Hosfelt, both graduating from Dexter

Nursing Home Crafts at Malden Nursing & Rehab May 3 at 2 p.m. Volunteer help always appreciated

Work Day at BYC May 18 at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided

Ultimate Youth Rally at Germantown church of Christ May 24-26th

Summit Youth Rally at North Heights Church of Christ in Batesville, AR May 31-June 2. The theme is "Ancient Words for a Modern Now." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery

95th Birthday Party for Elwood Rush June 1 from 12-2 in the fellowship room. Lunch will be served

Battle of the Youth Groups at Crowley's Ridge College June 12-14

BYC session 3 July 7-12.

Continued from front: Paul uses similar teaching with a community of new believers in Colossae (Colossians 3:12-14). A great example of this kind of radical forgiveness is Stephen, who was stoned to death by his religious enemies. His words, uttered shortly before his death as vicious attackers pounded the life out of him with large stones, are both powerful and convicting: *While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:59).*

These words are a powerful reminder of the high calling Jesus' followers have: we are to forgive as generously as Jesus forgave ... not just us, but even those who were responsible for his torturous death. Stephen's words echo the Lord's words at the crucifixion. Jesus was arrested and beaten. He was unfairly tried and scourged. He was mocked by the religious authorities, the crowd, soldiers, and one of the criminals crucified next to him (Luke 23:32-39). Yet in the middle of humanity's worst moments, we see one of heaven's greatest gifts. Jesus simply, yet amazingly, said: *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing (Luke 23:34).*

While many truths have been derived from this saying, two seem most clear:

*God is willing to forgive you and me! If he so freely forgave his tormentors at the cross - those who mocked him, beat him, scourged him, gambled for his clothing, ridiculed him, and watched as those in power sought to humiliate and degrade him through the public spectacle of crucifixion - he can forgive us if we will come to him and receive this grace (Romans 5:6-11).

*God is calling us to be a radical community ... a Kingdom of God community ... a community of radical forgiveness and grace ... just like our hero and Savior was Lord of forgiveness and grace. We don't remember the cross of Jesus as casual spectators or a bunch of rubbernecks who have paused to watch another gory reenactment of human blood lust. No, we remember the cross as the place of grace and we hear the call to be gracious. To be unforgiving to others is to forfeit Jesus' words for us and stop up the redeeming conduit of grace that is supposed to flow from God, through us, to others.

Father, forgive them...

Jesus said it. Stephen repeated it. How can we not ask God to do the same thing with those who have wronged us?

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Lifting up in Prayer...

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Curtis McClard is recovering following hip replacement surgery and is to remain at home for two weeks * Kay Wright (Jerry Burleson's sister) is in her last stages of life. It was recommended for hospice care to be called in * Jerry Corlew (Woody Wood's brother) is has a brain bleed and pneumonia and is not doing well *

CONTINUING PRAYERS

(congregational)

Louella Akers * John David Barnett * Mary Burke * David Burleson * Jerry Burleson * Pam Claeys * Billie Cooper * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Sonja Mays * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Max Snyder * David Terril * Max Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Woody Wood * Darrell Zimmerman * Pansy Zimmerman *

In Sympathy: Our sympathy is extended to the family of Gary (Beaver) Blocker who passed away April 9. His funeral was held April 11 in Bloomfield. Sympathy is also extended to Angie Dobbins in the recent loss of her cousin, Mary Ann Antony. Her funeral was held April 10 in Kennett.

...Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..... James 5:16. Prayer is a special blessing. Help us keep our prayer list up to date by letting Amy know of any prayer requests or updates you would like to have in the bulletin



CONTINUING PRAYERS (non congregational)

Cancer

Roxanne Carson
Sherry Chambers
Jackie Cooper
Debbie Chrisman
Bill Fitzpatrick
LeAnn Jacques
Tommy Jacques
Connie Lemmons
Annette Lumsden
Phil McKuin
Betty Nicholson
Jessica Payne
Donnie Rawlings
Deanna Rogers
Norman Swafford

Other Health Issues

Renee Goodman (serious health issues)
Clyde Jacques
Beckie King (MS)
Nikki Lawrence (migraines)
Alvin Miller (poor health)
Tom Provance
Gene Rowland
Traci Suiter (poor health)
Paige Tanner (congestive heart failure)
Geraldine Tomah (poor health)
Kay Wright (declining health)

OUR SHUT INS

Central Garden: Fern Botsch #309
Mary Burke #303
Lois McKuin #117

Ridgeview Living/Malden:

Shirley Johnson
Bertha Skidgell #201
Max Terrill #207

Cypress Point: Joy Watson # 8

Winchester Place:

Isaac Wheeler
Travis Cooper, #7
Elwood Rush, #6

Winchester Nursing Home:

Sue Flowers, #208

AT HOME: Pam Claeys, Scott & Judy Flannery, Gayle Rodgers