

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Where There Is No Love

Someone has said *"The most lonely place in the world is the human heart where love is absent."* Hell can also be defined as a place where there is no love. There are many religions in the world, but Christianity is the only religion that defines God as "Love" Love is the very character of God and everyone who serves and pleases God has a heart filled with love. Jesus said to his disciples, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

There are many lonely people in the world because they are filled with bitterness or anger or jealousy. They don't enjoy life. Love is our greatest motivator. What man will do for love he will not do for money or power or fear. Love was the motivation for God to send His sinless son into a world full of sin to die for sinful man. And love is our greatest motivation for serving Him. The apostle John said, *"We love because He first loved us."* And the apostle Paul echoed the same truth when he said, *"The love of Christ controls us."*

A popular song a few years ago carried these words, *"What the world needs now is love, sweet love."* Can you imagine how different things would be if we all loved each other? No hate, no crime, no greed, no political fighting, and no wars. That's the world I'd like live in. Well, we probably won't achieve that in this life, but we can begin to prepare ourselves to enjoy that kind of world one day, and we can help others see that a world like that does exist...but only for a prepared people.

Are you preparing to live in that kind of world?

___Al Behel

Sermon in Scripture:

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, an they that dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods" (Psalm 24:1)

Church Services

Collective Worship on January 03 at 10:30 am only. No evening services or Bible classes at this time except the teens will meet at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. For your own safety and that of other worshippers, please follow recommended guidelines.

Special Needs: As you are aware, one of our mission efforts is in LaEsperanza, Honduras. People in the region are struggling with poverty and loss to a greater degree than usual due to Covid and to recent hurricanes which devastated much of the area. Jim Anderson and his family, along with some members of our congregation, have been trying to help relieve the suffering. If you would like to help the Christians and their neighbors, please earmark your gift accordingly. Others in our congregation are having a hard time right now. This is a good time to share what God has given to us. Just let us know of your desire to help.

Online Worship is conducted each Sunday morning and is available by 10 a.m. Bible class and worship can be accessed at the bottom of the church web page using either the FB or YouTube icon. An opportunity to contribute is available online as well.

Our Known Sick

- Don Mayhall—still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.
- Patsy Bevis—in Florida for winter.
- Hubert Compton—recovering from hip replacement.
- Rachel Bailey is now out of quarantine.
- Chanda and Joey Bailey both tested positive for Covid.
- Doug, Marijane, Bryson, and Marcie are battling Covid
- Carolyn Yates will be having rotator cuff surgery on Tuesday, Jan. 5
- June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.
- Linda Valentine—receiving treatment for cancer.
- Anna Ruth Franklin—Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

- Carolyn Yates' daughter, Linda Wolf, - recovering from cancer
- Tracey's mom is hospitalized at Williamson County Hospital in Franklin with an infection in her colon which has abscessed. Please keep Judy and Ron Potts in prayer
- Melanie's brother and sister-in-law and 2 of their 4 children have Covid
- Jan Luft, sister of some of George and Melanie's best friends in Michigan (Jim and Kim), is not doing well. Chemo has been stopped. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Chris Heathcox, brother-in-law of Bryan and Beth, is suffering from pancreatic cancer and is having to increase his chemotherapy. This is a hard time for him and his wife, Bena. Please keep Chris and Bena in your prayers along with their children.
- George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson, is battling Covid and several other health issues. She is being moved to a nursing type facility that can care for Covid patients
- Steve Higgenbotham, minister of the Karns-battling cancer. Reports are encouraging.
- Tom and Sierra Miller—minister at Seymour—battling Covid 19 and is doing some better.
- Reggie Webber and his wife Judy. Is responding well to chemotherapy. They are friends of George and Melanie Tolliver and have visited our services in the past. Their address is 1503 Landmark, Sevierville, TN 37862.
- Bob Martin, Al's brother-in-law, is suffering from congestive heart failure with A-fib. Prayers would be appreciated.

Sunday AM Online Worship & Bible Class

Al is teaching an online Bible class on Sunday mornings that can be accessed beginning at 9:30 am. Current study is in 1 Peter. Worship

Online Worship and Bible class available at
www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com

Wednesday Night Bible Class

Danny Cline is leading our study in the gospel of Mark each Wednesday night by Zoom. Just respond to the email invitation to join the study at 6:45 each Wednesday night.

Ladies Bible Class

The weekly ladies class meets on Mondays from 6:45-7:45 pm EST by Zoom. Polly Cline will be leading the study of *"God's Unshakable Faithfulness."* Please join in.

Teen Bible Class

Tomorrow at 9:30 in the fellowship hall.
Jacob Forman will be leading the class

Current Building Loan Balance

\$726,032.24

Additional Contributions Appreciated

in turned to his younger brother and said,
Food Contact For Month: Tracey Kilberg

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson (974-1067)

Online Sermon Topic: A.M—"What's So Bad About Eating Fruit" (Al)

In -Person Worship: Marc Hayes—"Repentance"

"Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing"
Psalm 100:2