

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Never Mind, Lord

Joe Smith was nailing shingles on his two story house on a damp, misty Saturday afternoon. While walking the gable his feet slipped out from under him. Headed for certain death or serious injury, he called out in desperation, "God, save me!" Immediately his pants caught on a loose nail and his slide was halted. With great relief Joe lifted his eyes upward and said, "Never mind, Lord. The nail caught me."

God is often nothing more than Someone we call on when we are in trouble. When things are going well we don't think we need Him. When problems seem insurmountable, though, we want Him right there by our side. Unexpected crises are met with handy expectations that God should rush in and take care of everything.

While God is certainly the One we can call on when everyone else lets us down, He expects us to trust Him all the time. Maybe our problem is that we trust ourselves more than we trust God...until major tragedy hits and we are totally helpless. As soon as we are in control again we dismiss Him and take over ourselves.

The reality is that our entire lives are in a crisis with potential consequences that are more severe than Joe's fall. It is a crisis in "slow motion," so we can easily forget the urgency of seeking God's help. We have limited and temporary control over our circumstances. The stable elements can easily become unstable. The nails that catch us may not hold.

Our comfort is not in living trouble-free lives, but in maintaining continual fellowship with our Father whose power is limitless, whose love never ends. His protective arm never is never weakened, His watchful eye is never closed. Our God is constantly by our side.

We are told, "don't stop praying", and to "give thanks in all circumstances" (I Thessalonians 5:17,18). God wants that kind of communication with us. He wants to hear from us in the good times and in the bad times. Our need for Him is just as great when things are going well as when we face the crises of life. Let's keep in touch with Him.

Church Services

Collective Worship on January 10 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.
- Chanda and Joey Bailey and Rachel** tested positive for Covid. They have had a rough time but are improving. Thank you for your prayers.
- Doug, Marijane, Bryson, and Marcie** are now out of quarantine. They thank you for your prayers.
- Carolyn Yates** had rotator cuff surgery on Tuesday and is now at home. She has experienced a lot of pain. Thanks to everyone for your help. Her daughter is staying with her for a few days.
- 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 now at home follow hospitalization for an infection in her colon. Please keep Judy and Ron Potts in prayer.
- Tracey** is being treated for a hand issue
- 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.
- 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

\$721,541.56

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—"Consequences of Sin" (Al)
In -Person Worship: Jacob Forman- "Loving Enemies"

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