

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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"Near To The Heart Of God"

Who stirs your heart? Perhaps it is a child who captures your deepest emotions of love. Or, maybe it is that special someone who shares the intimacy of your soul. We all have special people who are close to our hearts.

God holds certain people close to His heart. They can move Him to weep, or laugh, or celebrate. He delights in them daily. He finds pleasure in them. God was so passionate about us that He sent heavens greatest gift to us...the gift of His Son. And He did that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). King David said it well, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" (Psalm 35:27).

What thrills God's heart? Scripture tells us, "For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory." (Psalms 149:4). The heart of God rejoices in His children...when we walk with Him and keep faith in Him. He delights in every victory we claim, in every holy moment we share with Him.

He surrounds us with good things. His glorious heavens whisper His praises. The mountains applaud His presence. He extends His strength to those who seek Him. He is not moved by our power or wealth. He is not impressed with our abilities...after all, He made us and gives us our unique talents. He is moved by our faith and love. He rejoices when we believe Him. His heart is near to those who trust Him.

God called David a "man after my heart" (Acts 13:22). The distinctive reason given is that David would do God's will. When we do God's will His heart is pleased. It is never enough to simply proclaim our allegiance...we must follow through. We must not waver, or lose heart. We must always walk under the shadow of His grace in full compliance with His will. Then we are near to the heart of God.

— Al Behel

In Times Like These: Many Christians have expressed anxiety about the state of our nation and our world. Yes, these are troubled times. We must remember, however, that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He has always been with His people and gives victory to those who trust in Him. If we place our trust in ourselves, we will fail. It is a time for prayer, for humbling ourselves, and trusting that He alone is Sovereign. He never fails.

Church Services

Collective Worship on January 17 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.

-Honduras Report: There are many continued needs among our brothers and sisters as the government is making many changes and basic needs are great among them and their neighbors. Any special financial assistance you can give will be deeply appreciated and go a long way.

Special Needs: 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.

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

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

Online Sermon Topic: A.M—"Paradise Lost-Paradise Regained" (Al)

In -Person Worship: Mark Haynes will speak

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1)

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 is recovering at home from rotator cuff surgery. She appreciates the thoughts, prayers, cards, and food. Keep praying.
- June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home. Her condition has deteriorated significantly over the past few months.
- Jeanette Dyer is struggling with several health issues. She appreciates the calls and assistance some have graciously provided.
- 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. She is still having a lot of pain. 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.
- 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 having serious heart issues and prayers are requested.

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