

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
acbehel@gmail.com
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XXIV. No. 15

April 11, 2021

When My Love To Christ Grows Weak

Sometimes we sing:

*"When my love to Christ grows weak, when for faith I seek,
Then in tho't I go to thee, Garden of Gethsemane."*

Ever had those moments when your spiritual life just felt empty? Nothing seemed to help. You tried to pray and that didn't work. You tried going to worship with other Christians and just felt worse. "How could they be so excited and I'm just sitting here?" You tried to read the Bible, but nothing "spoke" to you. God seemed so far away.

In those moments it helps to look inside our hearts. Maybe the excitement is gone because I quit loving as much. Maybe the world seems more appealing because I've been spending more time away from home, away from God's family. My affection is weakening because it isn't being reinforced and renewed on a regular basis.

A weak love is the result of misdirected energies. Without frequent expression it diminishes in strength. Over a period of time it disappears altogether. Does any couple expect to build their love for each other without spending time together and expressing it frequently?

The hymn suggests that we need to revisit Gethsemane. We need to reflect again on the love Jesus has for us. In that Garden the heart of God and the heart of man meet in deep communion. There, a decision is made. A heart pours out its most intimate love.

The cross reflects that decision. Gethsemane is continued on Calvary. The angels stood by, their voices silent. The Son of God speaks, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt." "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." "It is finished!"

The cross brings heaven and earth together. "Father, forgive them...." That's what it's about. That's why he died, No greater love can be found. He forgives our sins! There, in Gethsemane...there, on Calvary, my love is strengthened. My heart is lifted!

—Al

Church Services

Collective Worship on April 11 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.

-Online Worship each Sunday morning on Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ website, YouTube, and Facebook.

-Susan Forman recovering from knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus. She reports that she is doing well so far.

-Priscilla Dick is to have her second round of chemo on April 19 and 20, She reports that the radiation took most of the bone pain away. She appreciates the many cards and the love you have shown. Keep praying for Gary and Pris.

-Karen Ferguson, friend of Phil and Carolyn Collier and frequent visitors with us, is suffering from an evolving hemorrhage in the brain.

-Dale Pendley recovering from 2nd degree burns on his head and face and 3rd degree burns on his hands and arms. He had skin graft surgery in Memphis. Dale and Martha spend much of their time worshipping with us at GSM.

Our Known Sick

-Doug Hill is doing well. And is able to be back in worship.

-Don Mayhall—still needs our prayers. His condition is fairly stable.

-Hubert Compton—recovering from hip replacement.

-Carolyn Yates is improving steadily from her recent shoulder 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.

-Linda Valentine— battling cancer.

-Anna Ruth Franklin— Prayers for several health issues.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-Carolyn Yates' daughter, Linda Wolf, - battling cancer

-Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt, is recovering from colon cancer. She is weak but improving with some weight gain. Once she gains another 15 lbs corrective surgery can be performed. Please keep Judy, Ron, Tracey, and their family in prayer. Her address is: Judy Pitt, 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-Treavor Hayes, 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue—preliminary report shows that his tumors are stable. His ophthalmologist is not recommending chemo for tumor on optic nerve at this time.

-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 sufferin 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 COPD and recently recovered from Covid. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-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.

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 2 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 will be leading the study. Subject: "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

\$707,990.91

Additional Contributions Appreciated

CHURCH MAILING LIST

We have had problems with our email server and some have not been receiving mail. To ensure that everyone is receiving mail we have created a new group. You may receive 2 copies for a while.

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

Elder Contact for Month: Mark Haynes (865-805-2293)

Online Sermon Topic: A.M.—"Spiritual Warfare" (Al)

In -Person Worship: A.M.—"Spiritual Warfare" (Al)

Archived sermons and Al's Blogs available at albehel.com