

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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August 22, 2021

"We Are Going Down The Valley"

"It is appointed for man to die once, and after that the Judgment" (Hebrews 9:27)

The old hymn correctly states, *"We are going down the valley one by one, with our faces toward the setting of the sun."* This proclamation of the inevitable experience of death includes a somber warning that each of us will ultimately face this event alone...at least without friends or loved ones to accompany us on that journey.

"Death" has always been a frightening word. It has an ominous ring to it. We withdraw from the thought that we are terminal. We dress up the concept with artificial words of encouragement and denial, but let's admit it, we want to delay it as long as we can.

The Greeks called it *"Thanatos"*, a word with an interesting military history. In ancient Greek literature it referred to an army which had just claimed the victory and was breaking camp to go home. The idea of breaking camp and going home with the victory was called *"Thanatos"*, or *"Death."*

Isn't that what death means to the faithful Christian? Haven't we been involved in a fierce war with the forces of this world? Isn't that why we put on the *"whole armor of God"*? (Ephesians 6:11). This world is not our permanent home. When the victory is won we will break camp and go home. The battle will be over...and the victory won!

While we are *"going down the valley one by one"* we really are not alone. The Shepherd walks with us through the valley and we have no need of fear (Psalm 23).

—Al

Other News

-Bre Barnett-is scheduled for a heart ablation on September 1 at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Bre had heart surgery when she was 5 months old and has continued to see a cardiologist since that time. Her latest visit revealed some palpitations and the doctor thinks an ablation is indicated. Please pray for Bre as she has this procedure. She is dear to all of us. She currently has strep throat.

-Tom, Deb, Kristi, and Steven- recovering from Covid

-Shannon Wade also has covid and has been quite ill, but is feeling much better. Please keep Shannon in your prayers.

-Skip Stewart- will have a stent placed in his right carotid artery surgery August 25. He is having episodes of dizziness. Prayers are appreciated.

-Rick Cliett is battling bladder cancer. He is awaiting surgery on September 10 as his surgeon is on vacation. He gets very tired. He is able to manage his discomfort as long as he doesn't overdo it. Surgery is planned for 2-3 weeks. Please keep them both in your prayers.

-Priscilla Dick, former member, is dealing with cancer but reports that she is feeling better. She has completed her chemotherapy. Keep praying for her and Gary.

-Steve Dick, one of our former members, has been very ill with covid for the past two weeks. Keep Steve and Donna in your prayers.

-Al will be away tomorrow. Jacob Forman will speak in his absence in the morning and we will have a devotional service Sunday evening.

Online Worship: Online worship and Bible class will continue for those who are not able to attend in-person worship. You may access these through www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.

Online Sermon Topic: "Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man" (Al)

Our Known Sick

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

-Hubert Compton- confined to home with health issues.

-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, - declared cancer free. We give thanks to God.

-Tracey's mom, Judy Pitt, is continuing to improve slowly following her colon cancer surgery. . . 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 is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep him in prayer.

-Prayers requested for the daughter and brother of Linda Boyers. Linda has joined our online worship and Wednesday night Bible class for many months. Her daughter, Stephanie, is battling Melanoma and her brother is dealing with heart issues. He is doing better.

-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, has been declared free of cancer. Please continue to keep Chris and Bena in your prayers along with their children.

-George Tolliver's sister, Mossie Simpson, is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for Harley Tucker, who is a 24 year old friend of their family. She just started chemo for breast cancer. She lives in MS.

Sunday AM Bible Class-9:30 am

"The Church in the Beginning-Acts" (Al Behel)

Wednesday Night Bible Class-7 pm

"Colossians" (Danny Cline)

Monday Night Zoom Ladies Bible Class

Resumes Monday night after Labor Day from 6:45-7:45 pm. Polly Cline will lead the study.

Topic: "O To Be Like Thee"

Teen Bible Class

Sunday and Wednesday - (Jacob Forman)

Current Building Loan Balance

\$667,683.32

Additional Contributions Appreciated

(Thanks to some persons who make special gifts we were able to make a larger payment and reduce principal balance)

OPEN FOR ALL SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

Please join us as we re-open all services

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

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (731-608-4148)

Sermon Topic: A.M- "What's In Your Toolbox?" (Jacob Forman)

Evening Worship: Devotional Service

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