

Great Smoky Mountains Messenger



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The Greatest Gift!



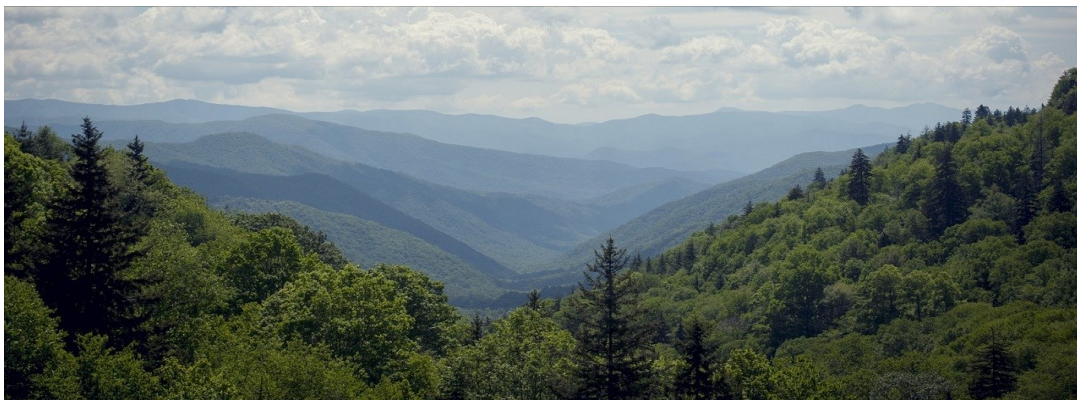
Christmas morning! I remember as a child, my brother and I could hardly sleep the night before in anticipation of the gifts that we would find under the tree. Invariably, there was always one “big” gift each year, which we would open last. To build the anticipation, my dad would keep egging us on by saying, “I wonder what’s in that big box.” As a child, I definitely enjoyed receiving gifts on Christmas.

As I grew older, I came to realize that there was more joy in giving than in receiving. To witness the merriment in someone else’s face as they open the gift that you have selected for them was a good feeling that far surpassed whatever I might receive. Paul understood this to be true as well, when he quoted the words of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

As we search the stores and websites in our modern age, from Black Friday to Christmas Eve, we are looking for just the right gift, the perfect gift, the greatest gift that we can give our loved ones. As we live here on earth, we should realize that God has given us that perfect gift. He has given us the greatest gift. He has given us His Son. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16 NKJV). God has given us a gift to pay our debt of sin; a debt that we could never repay. By the blood of Jesus, we can have redemption.

As we gather with our families and friends on this holiday, we should remember the God who gave us that greatest gift. Indeed we should always remember the God who loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us on the cross of Cavalry. It is by Jesus’ blood that we can have the hope of eternal life with Him in heaven. You won’t find a better gift than that under anybody’s tree tomorrow morning!

— Dale J. Babinsky



Elder Contacts

Mark Haynes

865.805.2293

Marc Hayes

731.608.4148

Minister

Dale J. Babinsky

336.707.7121

Please Remember/Pray For:

Patsy Bevis
Ruth Byrne
Trevor Hayes
Kenny Gross
Les Jewell
Jason Elliot (Friend of the Greens—he is on a list awaiting a liver transplant)

Carol Kizer
Skip Stewart
Heath Tolliver
Larry & Linda Valentine
Howard Yates



Coming Attractions

As we finish our series on the Ten Days That Shook the World this morning, we begin another series of lessons on Sunday evening. This series will be a look at what we can learn from those who went One-on-One With Jesus. In these lessons we will examine Jesus' interactions with The Rich Young Ruler, The Paralytic Man, Nicodemus, The Blind Man, The Woman at the Well, The Syro-Phoenician Woman, Zacchaeus, and Nathanael. These lessons will be designed to help us understand and know Jesus better so that we can have a better relationship with Him. It is our hope that you will find it a benefit to be here on Sunday evenings for this series.

Also, my preaching theme for the coming year, 2024, will be the Church. Once a month the Sunday morning sermon will deal with some aspect of the church. The schedule of lessons includes:

January—The Church is Distinctive	July—The Lord's Supper
February—The Beginning of the Church	August—The Organization of the Church
March—The Expansion of the Church	September—Built by Jesus Christ
April—Purchased by the Blood of Christ	October—The Work of the Church
May—The Worship of the Church	November—The One Body
June—Where's The Piano?	December—The Church: God's Family

These lessons as well as our past classes and sermons will be available through our website as well as our YouTube channel. Please be sure to like, subscribe, and share to help spread the word!

- ♦ The men's Bible study class will take a break until January 9, 2024.
- ♦ The women's class will be on a break until February 2024..
- ♦ Sun., Feb. 4—Potluck and Business meetings following AM service.

Have something for the bulletin? Please give updates to Dale or Leah by Thursday.



<u>Pantry Needs</u>	<u>Food Assistance Program Lead for December</u>	<u>Current Building Loan Balance</u>
Alfredo Sauce, Chili, Canned Beans, Jello 	Elora Crabtree 	\$421,988.08 

God's Plan of Salvation

- ♦ Hear the Gospel, **Romans 10:17**
- ♦ Believe the Gospel, **John 8:24**
- ♦ Repent of Sins, **Luke 13:3**
- ♦ Confess Jesus as God's Son, **Matt. 10:32**
- ♦ Baptized to wash away sins, **Acts 2:38**
- ♦ Faithful 'til death, **Revelation 2:10**

Today's Sermons

- ♦ AM — The Birth of Christ
- ♦ PM — The Rich Young Ruler

Check out the sermon archives on our website at www.gsmchurchofchrist.com

Please come back and worship with us in Spirit and in Truth—John 4:24