



Weekly Newsletter

December 13, 2020

***Order of Worship***

***Greeting***

Justin Hatfield

***Song Leader***

Jon Ewing

#394

#492

***Prayer***

Cambry Thrasher

#714

#261

# 947

***The Lord's Supper***

Jeremy Thurlkill

#417

#40

***Message***

Bill McFarland

#779

***Announcements/  
Prayer***

Scott Barton



Golden Bowls Full of Incense

The dramatic message of Revelation is moved along by “golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (5:8). In this instance we’re told what the symbol represents—the bowls of incense are the prayers of God’s people. It’s an illustration used in the OT when the Lord is being asked to hear those who are calling upon him (Ps. 141:1-2).

One of the first things John notices when he sees the Lion-Lamb standing at the throne is that all the prayers of the saints are there (5:8). Soon he hears their prayers voiced: how long before their Lord vindicates their faith by bringing his judgment to bear upon those who are trying to destroy it (6:10)? And it doesn’t escape John that there is a response: first, these praying souls are comforted and protected (6:11; 7:2); and second, a sense of awe at the approach of the wrath of the Lamb settles over everything (6:12f).

Once we’ve been reassured of the Lord’s care for his faithful ones, his response to the prayers of the saints appears again as the impetus for his judgments. John sees their prayers offered on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense rising before God (8:3-4). It’s a beautiful way of saying the One who rules from the throne of heaven hears the prayers of his people.

His answer to their “how long...?” occurs as an angel takes fire from that altar where their prayers have been offered and throws it on the earth, symbolic of his judgments upon evil. It’s thought-provoking that the next time we see golden bowls, they are full, not of the prayers of the saints, but of the wrath of God, and his judgments are poured out in an effort to lead his enemies to repent (15:7; 16:9, 11 ).

The prayers of the saints have powerful implications. That they do may not be immediately apparent here, but it is in heaven. Saints receive comfort through the discipline of calling upon the Sovereign Lord, but the only answer to their prayers may be discipline of a different kind upon his enemies. Not even Almighty God can bring justice to victory without bringing injustice to defeat.

The thing for us to do is to continue steadfastly in prayer.

--Bill McFarland



- Coyeatte Ewings mother, [Beverly Hammond](#), was in the hospital last week but was able to go home Thursday.
- [Truman Coltrane](#) was discharged from the hospital Wednesday. Helen is asking that there be no calls for now.
- [Brandon Nook](#), Sheryl Larimore's son, had another surgery Thursday.
- [Susan Vickery](#), Johnnie Elliff's niece, recently lost her husband. Please keep Susan and her children in your prayers.
- [Wally Buttram](#), Gloria Luallin's brother had surgery Thursday.
- Jon Davis' grandmother, [Ruth Lindsey](#), fell and broke her hip and collar bone.
- [Jim Elliff](#) as he and Johnnie continue to adjust to life with dialysis.
- [Earl Huett](#), who was a member at Water Mill several years ago, was recently diagnosed with cancer. Please keep Earl and his wife Reba in your prayers.
- [Nancy Snider](#) as she deals with health issues and the recent loss of her brother and sister.
- [Nina Peak](#), the grandmother of Jacob Herman's wife, was recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Allen McCann's sister, [Roberta](#), is currently in a Rehab Unit.
- [Kerry Cole](#) requested prayers for his cousin, Wendy Williams, diagnosed with melanoma.
- Please continue to keep the following in your prayers who are recently recovering from the virus: [Vickie Baker](#); [James Montgomery \(Lucile High's son-in-law\)](#);
- [Ryan Murray](#) is back in Korea at his Air Force base. He continues to recover from his surgery.
- The Essex's granddaughter, [Victoria Lacy](#), has completed her chemotherapy treatments and is doing much better. She will begin radiation treatments soon. She is so grateful for the continued prayers during her journey.
- Sue Lewis' son-in-law [Clint White](#) had heart surgery last week and it went very well but he has a big recovery period.
- David Grimm's mother, [Dorothy](#), is doing much better.
- Continued prayers for health concerns: [Sandra Pingenot](#), [Brent Looney](#), [Ruth Raines](#), [Russell Harber](#), [Betty Stockstill](#), [Connie Westerman](#), [Julie Alexander](#), [Ron Bower](#), [Dennis Smith](#), [Marty Long](#), [Frank Cunningham](#), [Carolyn Young](#), [Jim Reaves](#), [Marlene Matthews](#), [Gabe](#)

### THIS WEEK ...

- ◆ Prayer time on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 pm at the church building.
- ◆ Thursday Ladies Bible Class will meet on December 17 at 10:30 am. Jan Bowling will be teaching "Bible Markings".
- ◆ Quilters will meet at 9 am.
- ◆ Card Makers will meet at 9:30 am.

### NOTE FROM ELDERS

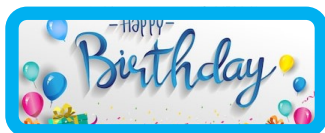
On Wednesday, December 23rd, there will be an in-person devotional for anyone who can attend.

On Wednesday, December 30th, there will be a special online year-end devotional.

**YFC & Youth Group**  
will go "Caroling" on  
Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 2:00 pm

### Shut-Ins

Ron Bower  
Mary Bratcher  
Don Essex  
Clarence Feeney  
Ola Jean Feeney  
Wanda Frost  
Doris Iorg  
Jim/Ruth Reaves  
Doris Tobler  
Nursing Homes  
Ella Mae Findlay  
Ann Freeze  
Wayne Harmon  
Virginia Morgan  
Sandra Pingenot  
Nancy Snider



### December Birthdays

13 Dovia Evans  
Seth Sekulic  
15 Josh Brumfield  
Austin McCutchen  
18 Anna Luna  
19 Aubrey Cobb  
Wyatt Dobbs  
20 Shirlane Horton  
Allie Ratliff  
21 Beverly McCormick  
22 Sue Lewis  
24 Greg Donoho  
24 Linda Tracy



### December Anniversaries

10 Jim & Ruth Reaves—55 years  
17 Eric & Wanita Duncan—26 years  
20 Andy & Kirsten McFarland—12 years  
22 Tom & Jammie Davis—26 years  
27 Allen & Carol McCann—63 years  
30 Barney & Debbie Crawford—48 years  
31 Eddie & Linda Currier—49 years

### Change of Address

Josh & Mercedes Luna  
4840 N Farm Road 249  
Strafford, MO 65757  
Josh Cell: 417-343-2466  
Mercedes Cell: 417-343-3202

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- ⇒ Please join us Wednesday at 6:30 via You Tube livestream for Bill's series "Blessed be the Name".
- ⇒ Justin will post a class for second through sixth graders. The theme is "Heroes of Faith" - Hebrews 11.

Thank you so much for the many cards we received to help celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was so nice to read all the wonderful cards!  
In Christian Love,  
Gene & Shelia Loomis



Thank you for the cards, texts, calls and visits in helping me celebrate my birthday. We all know there are struggles in life, but I feel so blessed to share time and receive support through a loving church family.

Love you all,  
Sheryl Low

