



Weekly Newsletter

January 10, 2021

Order of Worship

Greeting

Justin Hatfield

Song Leader

Kerry Cole

282 (v. 1 2, 4)

#542

Prayer

Tom Easterly

#350

#511

The Lord's Supper

John Dutton

#417

Message

Justin Hatfield

#842 (twice)

#756 (v. 1, 4)

Announcements/ Prayer

Barney Crawford



That the World Might Not Remain in Darkness

A premise of the Gospel of John is that Christ comes to people who're already lost in order to save them. It's not that everyone's doing just fine, then he shows up but many aren't open to him, and because of that they're under judgment. Instead, he comes to save a world that's condemned, and, if it remains so, it's because it prefers the way it is over the only thing that could rescue it (Jn. 3:17-19). Jesus himself says simply, "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (12:46).

Individuals may feel their "lostness" and recognize their need for "saving" in different ways. Jesus inevitably does come into conflict with those who like to think they need no saving (cf. 8:33, 39). But as we read John, we also meet people along the way who realize things aren't okay, and come seeking more. It's interesting and instructive to notice why.

For respectable Nicodemus, it seems to happen because his sense of awe in the presence of someone who is greater than himself. He comes to Jesus by night and says, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him" (3:2). His wonder at the presence of holiness and his interest in the kingdom was making him examine his own standing.

With the Samaritan woman, it's facing broken relationships, and a messed up life, and being discounted by other people, that leads her to ask Jesus to quench her thirsts (4:15). It means bringing barriers of race, morality, and class to Jesus, but her thirst is so strong, and her estimation of him is so high, that she does it anyhow.

The official at Capernaum sees his limitations and realizes his need in another way. It's urgent, immediate, and profound. His son is ill and is at the point of death (4:46-47). No one has to tell him something has to be done. When he hears that Jesus is a little over twenty miles away, he makes the trip and makes his plea, and he takes the Lord at his word.

The Lord came so that we would not have to remain in darkness. Life will make us realize, sooner or later, that's where we've been, and we'll look somewhere for light that can save us. John is telling us it's present in Jesus. "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light..."

—Bill McFarland



THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR:

- **Julie Alexander** is having hip surgery Monday, Jan. 11th at BJC Hospital in St. Louis. They anticipate her being in the hospital for a few days.
- **Becky Marsoff's Aunt Millie** is very ill. Becky's cousin, Terry, is helping care for her. Please keep them in your prayers.
- **Bill White**, had major dental surgery, Thursday, January 7th.
- **Les Horton** is having major dental surgery January 26th.
- **Shirlane Horton** is scheduled for knee surgery February 23rd.
- **Ann Freeze** is back at Woodland Manor but they anticipate a long recovery.
- **Chace Eaves** requested prayers for his friend, Rebecca, whose dad passed away and Chace's staff member Morgan.
- **Marjorie Shelby**, Lucile High's niece, is waiting to see another doctor for her medical concerns.
- **Truman Coltrane** is having some good days since his recent discharge from the hospital.

- Jon Davis' grandmother, **Ruth Lindsey**, is doing better and is currently in a rehab facility recovering from her fall.
- **Jim Elliff** as he and Johnnie continue to adjust to life with dialysis.
- **Nancy Snider** as she deals with health issues and the recent loss of her brother and sister.
- **Kerry Cole** is requesting prayers for his friend **Randall** who recently had a stroke; and his cousin, **Wendy Williams**, who was diagnosed with melanoma.
- **Ryan Murray** is back in Korea at his Air Force base. He continues to recover from his surgery.
- The Essex's granddaughter, **Victoria Lacy**, will begin radiation treatments soon.
- There are several members who are at home recovering from the virus.
- **Continued prayers for health concerns:**
 - ⇒ **Ron Bower**
 - ⇒ **Debra Davis**
 - ⇒ **Betty Grabber**

- ⇒ **Russell Harber**
- ⇒ **Marty Long**
- ⇒ **Brent Looney**
- ⇒ **Marlene Matthews**
- ⇒ **Sandra Pingenot**
- ⇒ **Ruth Raines**
- ⇒ **Jim Reaves**
- ⇒ **Dennis Smith**
- ⇒ **Nancy Snider**
- ⇒ **Betty Stockstill**
- ⇒ **Connie Westerman**
- ⇒ **Carolyn Young**
- ⇒ **Nina Peak, grandmother of Jacob Herman's wife, Tina.**
- ⇒ **Dorothy, David Grimm's mother**
- ⇒ **Clint White, Sue Lewis' son-in-law**
- ⇒ **Clark, Sheryl Low's son**
- ⇒ **Leon Wake, Tina Orum and Darren Wake's father**
- ⇒ **Beverly Hammond, Coyette Ewing's mother**
- ⇒ **Frank Cunningham, Elizabeth Lilly's father**

THIS WEEK ...

- ◆ Elder's Meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th at 6:00 pm.
- ◆ Prayer time Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
- ◆ Thursday Ladies Bible Class, Quilters and Card Makers will not meet until **January 21, 2021.**



January Anniversaries

- 13 Fred & Norma Lorenz—10 years
- 16 Bill & Gail White —11 years
- 17 Dennis & Carolyn Smith—68 years



Family Bible Study will be at Fair Haven on Sunday, January 10th at 5:00 pm.

Bible Classes are on hold. The Elders will meet next Tuesday to discuss.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- ⇒ Please join us Wednesday at 6:30 in person or via livestream (YouTube) for Bill's series "Blessed be the Name".
- ⇒ Justin will post a class for second through sixth graders on Facebook.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Wayne Deffenbaugh. He passed away on Thursday, January 7th.

He is Sara Keener's great uncle and has been a long time preacher for churches of Christ in our area. He also directed a session at Green Valley Bible Camp every summer for many years.



Youth Bible study will be at Jason and Lora Luna's home at 4840 N Farm Road 249; Strafford on January 10th 5:00 pm



January Birthdays

- 10 Jacqueline Ussery
- 11 Bill McFarland
- 14 Emma Bruton
- Gayle Gaunt
- 15 Anita Cobb
- 16 Heath Bowling
- 18 William Morrison
- David Scott
- 19 Jim Elliff
- 20 Betty Grabber
- 21 Pat Blackburn
- Gena Ussery
- 23 Jerry Milligan

Shut-Ins

- Ron Bower
- Mary Bratcher
- Don Essex
- Clarence Feeny
- Ola Jean Feeny
- Wanda Frost
- Doris Iorg
- Jim/Ruth Reaves
- Doris Tobler

Nursing Homes

- Ella Mae Findlay
- Ann Freeze
- Wayne Harmon
- Virginia Morgan
- Sandra Pingenot
- Nancy Snider

Schedule of Sunday Services

- ◆ In-Person Worship & livestream on YouTube at 10 a.m.