



Weekly Newsletter

January 24, 2021

***Order of Worship***

***Greeting***

Justin Hatfield

***Song Leader***

Jon Davis

#111 (1,2,4)

#344

***Prayer***

Paul Lines

#581

#688

***The Lord's Supper***

Jason Luna

#855 (1,3)

***Message***

Bill McFarland

#125 (1,3)

#863 (x2)

***Announcements/  
Prayer***

Jon Ewing



Will One Thing

Do you ever find yourself confused by the abundance of conflicting opinions—by the heated claims and counterclaims about every issue of life—that seem to be swirling around all of us these days? I heard a brother mention in one of our prayers recently that we hear so many things we don't know what to think. I imagine most of us can identify with that confession.

And since we can, there's something about the seventh chapter of John can be of particular benefit to us. The whole chapter is occupied with people's discussions, debates, and divisions over who Jesus is. Within it, I can count more than fifteen different opinions various persons or groups held about him. And not only were these views often contradictory, they were also positions with huge implications—life or death ones. It was an atmosphere of ideas that could've seemed hopelessly confusing.

But Jesus says something that is especially important in such an environment. Where there's so many claims, how's anyone to know what to think—what's really true? "If anyone's will is to do his will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority," the Lord says (Jn. 7:17).

That's as crucial a thing as has ever been said about knowing what's real. Not just if anyone wants to know for knowing's sake. Not merely if someone wants to be right on a point of fact. But if a person wills one thing—to do the will of God—he will recognize the truth of Jesus when he hears it.

To will this one thing is to be in a position to cut through the confusion in the world of ideas around us. It puts anyone in a spot to realize what people's agendas are, to tolerate people saying what they think, to examine his own thoughts and convictions, to hold himself accountable to truth beyond himself, and to do the right thing.

Will to do his will. That is the fixed point from which we can live well.

—Bill McFarland

**THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:**

- Ruth Lund's brother, **John Alspaugh**, has had Parkinson's for several years and is not doing well.
- **Van Barnes** is home but continues to have some health concerns.
- **Jim Reaves'** outpatient surgery has been postponed again to remove a skin lesion under his eye. He is awaiting a call to reschedule his procedure.
- **Beverly Hammond**, Coyeatte Ewing's mom, continues to have health concerns.
- Shirlane Horton's niece, **Jackie Thress**, and her baby are now both home.
- **Tim Marsof's Uncle Ted** passed away Tuesday. Tim & Becky traveled to Rockville, Indiana for his service.
- **Becky Marsof's Aunt Millie** is doing much better.
- **Bill White** will be having his 2nd dental surgery next Wednesday, Jan. 27th.
- **Les Horton** is having major dental surgery January 26th.
- **Shirlane Horton** is scheduled for knee surgery February 23rd.
- **Ann Freeze** is improving as she recovers from her recent fall and surgery.
- **Marjorie Shelby**, Lucile High's niece, who lives in Boise, Idaho, is having surgery January 26th.

- **Truman Coltrane** and Helen continue to need our prayers.
- Jon Davis' grandmother, **Ruth Lindsey**, is doing better and in a rehab facility recovering from her fall.
- **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 recovering from his back surgery in Korea (Air Force base).
- The Essex's granddaughter, **Victoria Lacy**, started 6 weeks of radiation treatments beginning January 18th.
- **Continued prayers for health concerns:**  
**Julie Alexander, Ron Bower; Betty Grabber, Russell Harber, Jim Elliff, Wayne Harmon, Marty Long, Izumi Loomis' mom & dad; Marlene Matthews, Sandra Pingenot, Ruth Raines, Dennis Smith, Bob & Leona Snider; Nancy Snider, Betty Stockstill, Connie Westerman, Carolyn Young, Nina Peak, grandmother of Jacob Herman's wife, Tina.; Dorothy, David Grimm's mother; Frank Cunningham, Elizabeth Lilly's father.**

**SYMPATHY**

We extend our deepest sympathy to Tina Orum and Darren Wake and their family in the loss of their dad, Leon Wake last Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

**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

**THIS WEEK ...**

- ◆ Prayer time Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
- ◆ **Thursday Ladies Bible Class** will meet on January 28th at 10:30 am. Helen Harber will be teaching Chapter 1 of the book, "From Bethlehem To Golgotha," by Hillard Story.
- ◆ **Quilters** will meet at 9 am; **Card Makers** will meet at 9:30.

**Baptism**

*We rejoice with the Morrison family in the baptism of Claudia Wednesday evening (January 20, 2021).*



**Youth Group**

Sunday, January 24—5 pm

Youth Bible study will be at Paul & Carrie Lines; 1986 N Owen Rd, Nixa, MO

**Address Change**

Don & Ruth Essex  
1460 N. Fenchurch Lane  
Springfield, MO 65802  
Cell: 417-365-3267

**January Birthdays**

- 25 Lora Luna
- 29 Illene Birdsong
- Tim Marsof
- 31 Pat Culley

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

Please join us Wednesday at 6:30 in person or via livestream (YouTube) for Bill's new series "Letters from the Lord".

Thank you so much for all the love & prayers that were said on my behalf. It has meant so very much. As the healing continues, I will prepare for part 2, I am counting down. I am looking forward to being with you in person soon.

Love, Julie

Thank you for the many cards sent to us for our Anniversary celebration and also to the Morrison children for their hand made "Get Well" cards for Bill. Bill will have his upper teeth pulled next Wednesday. We pray he will do as well as he did before. Blessings to each of you.

Bill & Gail White



Family Bible Study will be in the Fellowship Room immediately after services Sunday evening, 1/24.