



CENTERVILLE MESSENGER (096380) Free Upon Request-Published Weekly by Centerville Church of Christ, 138 N. Central Ave., Centerville, TN 37033-1427
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"From Where I Sit"

Todd Parsley



The day has finally arrived, the day that we all have prayed for is near. Sunday it was announced by the Elders that we will meet together again on June 7th. Details are included in this edition of the messenger from the Elders about that day and some logistical and safety issues. It will be great to be together again!

The writers of the New Testament often exhort readers to be sober-minded. The apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:8, *"But since we are of the day, let us be sober...."* What does he mean to be sober? "sober" means "watchful or alert." It is not necessarily a word that is always associated with abstaining from the use of alcohol; but, rather, avoiding anything that would dull our sensitivity and clear thinking and draw our attention away from the coming day of the Lord. The Hebrew writer reminds and warns in Chapter 10:31 *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."* Spiritual sobriety, being watchful, staying alert for the coming of the Lord.

How does one go about developing spiritual sobriety? The remainder of the verse answers the question. Paul goes on to say: *"But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breast place of faith and love and as a helmet the hope of salvation."* Three ingredients are mentioned as being essential to spiritual sobriety. They are faith, hope, and love. These make up the armament Christians must wear to pierce the darkness and look steadfastly to the day of the Lord's return.

Why should we be sober-minded? Paul continues, saying, *"For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him"* 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10. Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason we should strive to be sober-minded. Jesus died for us that we might live together with Him.

The conclusion of what Paul has said is in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."* The encouragement and edification we extend to one another is predicated by our own walking in the light and looking to the day Christ's return. If the encouragement we offer is not based on the Day of Christ, then it is not the kind of encouragement people need to help them prepare for eternity. If our own hope, faith, and love are not firmly grounded in our future with Jesus, we will not truly be a lot of encouragement to others anyway.

As we approach June 7th I look forward to our again encouraging one another with faith, hope and love! Yes, we have been able to worship through live stream and other resources, but something has been missing. The God knew we needed to be together on the Lord's day and I have missed that. See you soon!

Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement and support during these "weird" times. Let us always remember that God will have the last word, and it will be good!

God Bless -Todd



The Shepherd's Pen

It was on Sunday, March 22nd, we began worshipping together through live streaming on the website, Facebook, as well as our radio program. The capability to worship through these avenues of technology, not only benefited our church family, but others as well. The eldership appreciates very much your support and prayers over the past weeks. We have been encouraged by your response. Your attendance online and your faithfulness in giving have been a wonderful testimony of your love for Christ and His church. It is difficult to find enough words to express our gratitude to you, so we will simply say from the bottom of our hearts, *Thank You*. We are sharing with you this morning an announcement we all have longed to hear. We ask you mark your calendar for Sunday, June 7th. This will be the first step in assembling once again for worship, but no bible classes at this time. It will require us to have two morning worship services, enabling us to follow the social distancing and 50% capacity guidelines. We will be using the alphabetical order process to help maintain these requirements. *The first service on Sunday morning will begin at 9:00am for individuals and families whose last name begins with the letter A continuing through the letter J. The second service will begin at 10:30am for individuals and families whose last name begins with the letter K through the letter Z.* Sunday evening and Wednesday will continue to be online only. If you feel uncomfortable at this time being in a crowd, sick, or considered high risk, please stay at home, and continue to join us on our live stream, Facebook, or radio program. We will continue to be available on Saturday afternoons for you to pick up Lord Supper emblems. We have decided Vacation Bible School, which is an annual event in the month of June, is cancelled for 2020. Summer Camp is suspended indefinitely with options being considered. We again want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We are excited about this worship announcement and look forward to seeing you on Sunday, June 7th.
Your Elders

10 TOP

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized as being in the Top Ten of their Class:

Sophomores: Sara True, John Jacobs, Houston Hudgins

Freshmen : Weston Elkins, Hayden Harrison, Kilee Jenkins, Maty Hunt

Carter's Corner



KNOW THAT EVERYONE IS EXCITED to hear the news our elders presented on Sunday regarding our return to worshipping at the building on Sunday, June 7th. This is a day that I know all of us have been looking forward to for some time now, and I am thankful that our elders have been working on a plan that takes into consideration our members' health, our desire to worship together, and the considerations that our government has asked churches to make while re-opening public worship services. This whole experience with COVID-19 has been uncharted waters for all of us in many ways, and I believe that our eldership has done a

wonderful job of making the right decisions over the past weeks and months. If you have the opportunity this week, I encourage you to take the time to send a note to one of our elders thanking them for all the thought and effort they put into shepherding our congregation.

THINGS ARE STILL UP IN THE AIR for many of our youth activities this summer. With the announcement of our worship services returning in June, I have gotten many questions from our students wondering when our summer youth activities will resume. I am just as ready as our students are to get back to some resemblance of normalcy, but our activities must resume in the right way and at the right time. Once our worship services get back into full-swing and Sunday School resumes, we can begin to make our plans for the rest of the summer. I will keep everyone updated as soon as we are able to make plans. In the meantime, keep the faith and keep a positive attitude!

THE MORRISON NICKS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE is beginning to prepare scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 School year. Since we have not been meeting in person at the church building to pass out and receive scholarship applications, the application this year has been moved to an online format via Google Forms for this year. A link for this year's application has been sent out to all former scholarship recipients to the email they provided on their application last year. If your email address has changed or you are a first time applicant, please send me your email address so that we can send the application to you. Scholarship applications will be due by Friday, May 29th. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Philip Jacobs (who is the chairman of the Scholarship Committee for this school year), or myself.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THINGS DON'T GO YOUR WAY? This was the question that our Wednesday evening Bible class pondered last week. It's hard to always know what to do in moments of uncertainty and trials, but as we discovered last week, God's word gives us the responses that Christians should have when we experience times of things not going our way. First and foremost we can't **OVERREACT**. Many people overreact during difficult times, which can lead to mistakes, hurtful words being said, and ultimately, sin. We need to remember that God is always in control (Matthew 6:25-34). Second we need to **BE PATIENT**. People have struggled since Bible times to be patient in moments of adversity. We need to remember that God's timing is always perfect (Romans 5:6; 2 Peter 3:8-9). Next, we need to **GUARD OURSELVES** during difficult times. We must remember that Satan will use our moments when we are at our weakest to tempt us into sin (Luke 4:13). I hope that this study will encourage you as it encouraged our students last week.
In Him, Carter

READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN A YEAR

THE 2020 CHALLENGE

20 MINUTES PER DAY 20 CHAPTERS PER MONTH

WEEK OF MAY 10:	ACTS 1-5
WEEK OF MAY 17:	ACTS 6-10
WEEK OF MAY 24:	ACTS 11-15
WEEK OF MAY 31:	ACTS 16-20
WEEK OF JUNE 7:	ACTS 21-28



Thank You

Ann Johnston writes: " I want to thank this wonderful church family for the beautiful birthday cards. One gentleman called and sung Happy Birthday. Words cannot express how thankful I am for all of you. You are a blessing to me. You made my birthday wonderful!"

Sympathy

...We express our sympathy to the family of Jane Lockett who passed away at St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home. Jane and her late husband Don were members of the Centerville Church of Christ for a number of years. To her daughter Dana (Trey) Garrard and grandsons Riley and Jake we express our deepest sympathy. Her graveside service is Thursday at 1p at Memory Gardens.

...We express our sympathy to the family of Bill Shanes who passed away at St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home.

...We express our sympathy to the family of Jeff Carroll who passed away in Granite City, Illinois. He was the 38 year old great nephew of Ruth Staggs.

...We express our sympathy to the family of Betty Davidson who passed away. To her husband Guy Ward and sister-in-law Corene Allen we express our deepest sympathy.

Wedding Announcement

Nathan Martin and Ellie Smith invite you to their Wedding Celebration
Saturday June 20, 2020
at 3:30 P.M.

1135 Whitaker Drive
Missoula, MT 59803
Reception to Follow

Due to COVID-19 we are requesting that everyone please RSVP to this email nemartinwedding2020@gmail.com by May 30, 2020 with the number of attendees and contact information in the event of any changes or updates. For those who are interested please check our website at ...

The knot.com/ellieheartsnathan for updates, engagement photos, and registry details.

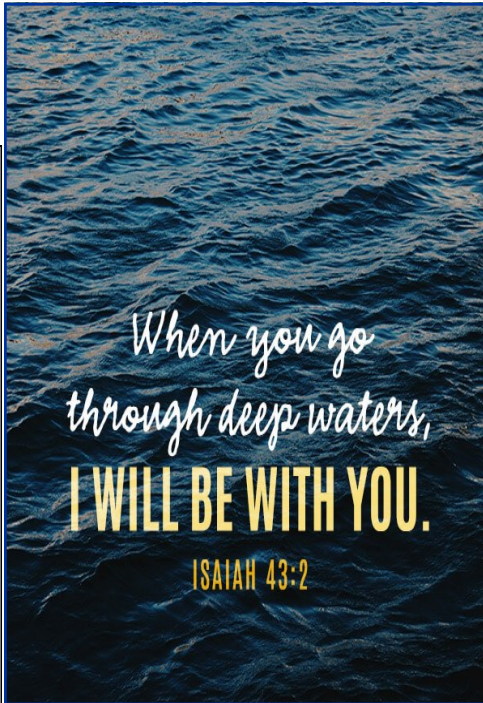
STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CONTRIBUTION

May 17 : \$ 10,581.88

Camp: \$ 300.00

Budget: \$12,976.00



Meals on Wheels



Our Meals On Wheels Program has resumed. If you cannot deliver on your scheduled day, please call the church office at 931-729-4201.

May 20: Nancy Leathers
May 27: Martha Loveless
June 3: Becky Gatewood
June 10: Katherine Shelton
June 17: Lesley Hudgins
June 24: Glenda Delk

Nursing Home: Life Care Center: Bobby Breece, Jimmy King, Seth Armstrong, Pearl Gordon, Betty Claud, Addie Bell Nash, Georgia Moss, Larry Talley
St. Thomas Hickman Nursing Home: Martha Bates, Francis McClanahan, Sybil Jenkins



Please Remember In Your Prayers:

...Sylvia Gibson, mother of Stacy (David) Breece, is recovering from hip surgery at Horizon Medical Center due to falling.

...George Peterson, father of Lesley (Jim) Hudgins, will be starting an additional line of treatments for cancer this week. His address is: 2138 Smallhouse Road Bowling Green, KY 42104

...Eric Coleman will have eye surgery May 18th and 28th.

...Stephen Dotson will have shoulder surgery June 4th.

...Roy Shannon is at home with Hospice care. Roy is the uncle of Jim & Lesley Hudgins.

...Misty Aydelott is recovering from surgery at home.

...Winnie Aydelott, mother of James (June) Aydelott, is in local hospital and continues to struggle with her health.

...Lynda Houston has been diagnosed with Pleurisy. She is feeling better.

...Allan Newton, a relative of Corbin Barr, son-in-law of Gary & Becky Gatewood, was diagnosed with an aggressive cancerous brain tumor. He will be having chemo and radiation.

Recovering from surgery or other illness: Will Terry, Reba Horner, B.J. Springer, Stephen Dotson, Brenda Wood, Charlie Shelton, Glenna Hill, Bobby & Joyce Mayberry, Grace Pinkerton, Barbara Dawes, Dan Elkins, Kitty Pharris, Alden Chilton, Ann & J.C. Wells, Ruth Reece, Ann Spencer, Allene Gordon

Please Pray For Those Who Are Dealing With Cancer: Charles Cantrell, George Peterson, Belinda Potts, Cletus Carroll, Lonnie Gilliam, Elizabeth Givens, Phil Shelton, Ann Lauran Plunkett, Jimmy Jenkins, Susan Hardy, Jimmy Copley, Gwen Rogers, David Talley, Beverly Grimes, Henrietta Rochelle, Jerry Shepard, Jimmy Mathis, John Beard

NHC Maury Regional Transitional Care Center: Jimmy Jenkins
5010 Trotwood Avenue
Columbia, TN. 38401
Room 2407

Home: Claudine Morrison, Robert & Marge Gilmer, Mildred Bridges, Dorris & Margie Claud, Floy Gatewood, Floy Lyell, A.J. & Willie B. Coates, J.W. & Sue Roder, Troy Parks

Facilities and Grounds Project List

Clean and trim all shrubbery beds. Remove excess old mulch and replace with a light top coat layer.

- *Trim lower limbs off all trees on campus.*
- *Update landscaping near auditorium entrance, clean/replace pea gravel, mulch and trim/remove some dead / dying plants. NOTE: Drainage issues to consider.*
- *Add fill dirt to eroded and exposed areas. Steps from upper parking lot to building.*
- *Clean and paint all entrance hand rails, bollards and lamp posts. Bus Garage walk thru entrance doors and trim.*
- *Pressure Wash all Sidewalks.*
- *Clean Windows inside and outside.*
- *Remove scrap gravel from low places on paved areas.*
- *Maintenance in and around Bell Tower.*
- *Miscellaneous cleaning projects inside and outside of buildings.*

This Saturday from 1 P.M. until 5 P.M. the elders and deacons will be available at the church building handing out Lord's Supper emblems and receiving contributions. We appreciate our deacons serving every Saturday. They have enjoyed seeing you coming by for emblems. If you need any assistance, please contact the office at 931-729-4201.

**For the next few weeks we will look at the
*History of the Centerville Church of Christ...***

2012- Elder, Alfred Williams, passes away after a long bout with cancer. Bobby Bates after 42 years and Bill Davis after 34 years retire from the eldership. Renovations are completed and the new office complex is completed. The

new office complex dedicated on Friend's & Family Day in memory of Dr. Bobby Morrison. Craig Shelton returns as Youth Minister. Vacation Bible School has over 300 in attendance each day. Summer Camp has almost 300 in attendance. Messenger mailed to 1500 homes and 280 emailed. 250+ foodboxes prepared. New Camera system making capable to stream services and programs live via the internet. Complete upgrade of Audio equipment following lightening strike. Average attendance 530 and 358 in Sunday School. Over \$653,000 given through weekly contributions with expenditures being 2.5% under budget for the second consecutive year.

2013-Former Elders Bill Davis and Bobby Bates pass away. Additional Elders are installed November 17, Mike Elkins, Gary Gatewood and Shane Willis, join Lonnie Gilliam, Mike Goodpasture, Bill McDonald, and Wayne Qualls. Sunday morning services begin airing in the Clarksville Area. Services continue broadcasting in the Dickson area, on the Webcast internet services and on KIX96 on Sunday morning and evening.

2014- Ruth Reece retires after 34 years as church secretary. Also retiring is Bobby McCoy as Camp Superintendent after 8 years and Hattie Delk as nursery attendant. Derek Newsom is appointed Camp Superintendent. Over 350 enjoy four weeks for our Summer Camp at Meribah with the largest Teen Week ever. A campaign was held to Provo Church of Christ in the Turks & Caicos Islands for VBS and encouragement. 1100+ food boxes distributed for the year to needy families with additional assistance given for utilities and clothing. Messenger mailed to 1348 homes and emailed to 364. The Great Toy Giveaway helped 328 children. Worship Stream viewed by 1100 per month worldwide. Day School enrollment full with 94 students.

The Elders, Ministers and Staff at the Centerville Church of Christ deeply appreciate the kind notes and words of encouragement. We would like to share a few of those with you:

Gary & Portia Baker write: " We are hoping you all and all the members are safe and well. We are enjoying the online services so much. We think of you and the sweet members there. We hope no one has the virus. We are sorry so many are hurting and have lost jobs or loved ones. We are enjoying Todd's messages so much. Blessings to everyone there. Stay safe and see you soon!"

Corene Allen writes: "Thank you for the worship service on the radio on Sunday morning and evening. I really appreciate you continuing the worship through the Lord's Supper on the radio."

Jerry & Margaret Yates write: "Elders, Deacons, Staff and Ministers, We thank you for all your dedicated service. Our prayers are with you. We miss everyone. God Bless..."

Mark & Shela Chessor write: " We are praying for all our congregation and for many, many more. We pray the Lord if it be his will, will have this virus burn out soon. We thank the Lord for all the blessings. We miss you all very much and can't wait to look upon your beautiful faces once again. With all our love..."

Ann Hooten writes: " Appreciate so much all everyone is doing while we are going through this craziness. I love my church family."

Martha Leath writes: " I miss my church family. Praying we all stay well until we meet again."

Teresa Carrol writes: " Thank you for the great sermon. I truly enjoy watching. Prayers for all."

Thomas & Cheryl Chessor write: "We miss everyone! Looking forward for all of us to be together again. Please tell everyone how much we appreciate all everyone is doing to keep our worship going. We are enjoying seeing the services live-streamed. We are encouraged by this. Sending our love to all, prayers everyone stays well."

Peter Houston writes: "Dear Brothers in the church, Lynda and I have been so appreciative of all that you, the leaders of the church have done to make our ability to worship together, if not in person, during the pandemic. Imaginations cannot adequately delve, nor words express what extra efforts, and tests of endurance you have successfully mounted to make things "GO" for your congregation. This applies as well to all church employees and countless non-titled volunteer members of the congregation. Todd, you've done an heroic job. You remind me of the old sea captain's motto, "It's not the storms you encounter at sea that really matter; but that you bring the ship safely to port." Thank you all...."