



CENTERVILLE

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CENTERVILLE MESSENGER 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

Worship With Us Sunday

Sunday AM
"What My Cross Does For Me"
(Mark 8:34-38)

Sunday PM
"The Jerusalem Church"
(Acts 2:44-47)

9AM and 5PM

 **CENTERVILLE**
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fall has arrived and with it some of the most beautiful days of fair temperatures and crisp morning air. I love this time of year. It is another reminder that God is still in charge, and His magnificent creation continues to reveal to us His mighty power and love for His greatest creation, mankind.

I learned long ago that when something is bothering you the best thing to do is to talk about it. Preachers and most church leaders unfortunately don't have a whole lot of people in their lives that they feel safe sharing those moments of shattered realities with. After all, Elders and preachers are supposed to be spiritually and mentally bulletproof in the eyes of the world and even the church. I think my friend must have felt that way for him to end his life the way he did.

When someone commits suicide, a single reason rarely explains it. It's often the result of many complex factors in an evil world. Biblically and theologically, there are no simple answers that would move us toward some semblance of understanding. At the end of the day, it just doesn't make sense. Why does Satan still wreak such havoc on the lives of Christians? Why were the circumstances of my friend's life and ministry so difficult? How could someone who otherwise was so sane and selfless do something so irrational and sinful? My dear friend has left behind a broken-hearted widow and a confused son. In that final moment of swirling darkness, he failed to trust God and took matters into his own hands. He had a lapse of faith and gave in to bitterness and hopelessness. Suicide is never an excusable or righteous solution, no matter how great the temptation, how bad the situation, or how serious the condition. My friend made a bad choice, he grievously sinned against God and others.

There are many unanswered questions because we are not God, and the secret things belong only to him (Dt. 29:29). We cannot fully comprehend his righteous ways (Rom. 11:33). I have believed and preached for almost 35 years about the righteousness of God and that God always does the right thing. God is always good. I believe that all things work together for good to those that truly love Him. But I wouldn't be completely honest if I didn't admit that I have wrestle deeply with all this with the loss of a dear friend to suicide. It doesn't make sense to me. And so finally, I can only once again trust in my Almighty God. After all, if he isn't orchestrating everything according to his purpose and His wise and good plan, then our world is utterly meaningless and hopeless. The death of Christ in fulfillment of the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3); followed by his victorious resurrection and promised return (John 14:1-4), gives me good reason to rest in his sovereignty even in the midst of painful and perplexing situations this life brings. God is righteous and holy, and He will always do the right thing. And I will take comfort in knowing that is the God we serve.

Please know that you are never truly alone. You have a God who wants nothing more than good for you.

God Bless -Todd

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
3-5 PM AT CAMP MERIBAH



SAVE THE DATE

Day School Corner



I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of the Day School. I have been a member of the Centerville Church of Christ since I was 5 years old and a teacher at the day school since 2019. During this time, I have taught the 2-year-olds, the 3-4-year-olds, and in the pre-k room. I have loved my time at the Day

School and was excited to take on the role of director earlier this year. I am grateful for the opportunity God has given me to be a light for the young children in our community as they start their walk with Him. As our school year continues, we will be highlighting all of our staff, as well as posting updates on events going on at Day School. Thank you all for the support you have shown our school, and I hope you enjoy seeing our *Day School Corner*.



Carter's Corner



Carter Hoover

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE COMPLIMENTED for doing an excellent job inviting their friends and classmates to our youth group activities this semester. Each week, our youth group has been full of visitors of all kinds--first-time visitors, repeat visitors, and everything in between. We all know how much courage it takes to invite your friends to church or youth activities, and our young people have stepped up and asked others each week to attend both services and youth activities. If you see any new faces around the church in the weeks ahead, be sure to welcome all the new students getting involved in our youth ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 27

LIGHTHOUSE

JOSEPH & MARSHALL
MCCAULEY

OCTOBER 4

LIGHTHOUSE

SARAH & JOSEPH ISENBERG

OCTOBER 9-13

FALL BREAK

NO WEDNESDAY CLASS

OCTOBER 13

5TH QUARTER:

PICKLEBALL NIGHT

AFTER THE GAME TIL 11:00

OCTOBER 15

SR HIGH FIRESIDE

ELI JACOBS

OCTOBER 22

JR HIGH FIRESIDE

LILLIAN JENKINS

OCTOBER 25

LIGHTHOUSE

WILL & JACKSON
MCDONALD

THE HOMECOMING 5TH QUARTER was a great success this past Sunday night, with a massive group of students gathered in our Fellowship Hall for a fun evening of "Glow Dodgeball." Our congregation has been hosting 5th Quarters for almost 30 years, and it is an excellent avenue of ministry and outreach to students in Hickman County. A huge thank you goes to Haillee, Matthew, & Ashely Halliburton, and Bryce Hughes for helping with this event.

A SIGN-UP LIST is available in the lobby for individuals interested in decorating a trunk for Trunk-or-Treat this year. Trunk-or-Treat will occur at Camp Meribah on Saturday, October 28, from 3-5 p.m. as part of our "Halloween on the Hill." This event is always a highlight for many in our congregation and community, and we need as many cars as possible to get involved. Start making plans now to join us!

As Christians, we are responsible for positively influencing the world by shining our light for all to see. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus tells us that we are like a lamp that should always be visible. We should not keep our light hidden but instead let it shine brightly so that others can see the good things we do and give thanks to God. When we let our light shine, we are not trying to draw attention to ourselves. Instead, we are showing the love of Christ by serving others. By living out our faith and loving others well, we can point them towards God.

It is important to remember that while we are called to be a light in the world, we must also ensure that we follow God's word and allow it to guide us. Psalm 119:105 reminds us that God's word is like a light that shows us the way. We should strive to influence the world and let our light shine for others to see. Let us pray that God will help us to be a shining light in a world that needs His love and guidance. Have a great week!

In Him, Carter

Sympathy

...We express our sympathy to the family of Shirley Foster who passed away in Alabama. She was the sister of Donna Gilbert and aunt of Brad Gilbert.

...We express our sympathy to the family of Betty Gordon who passed away. She was the grandmother of Randy (Jana) Wright and the aunt of Thomas (Cheryl) Chessor.

...We express our sympathy to the family of Dustin Rose who passed away. He was a friend of Todd & Renee Parsley.

...We express our sympathy to the family of Bill Baird of the Totty's Bend Church of Christ who passed away. He was the uncle of Melissa (Tim) Sanderson.

Memorial

...a Memorial has been given to the Camp Meribah Scholarship Fund in memory of Melvin Roberson by Doug Shepherd.

AREA EVENTS

...Area Wide Singing at the Lomax Church of Christ 320 Darbytown Road Hohenwald, Tennessee 38462 William Tankersley and Casey Rogers -Emcee September 29, 2023 at 7 P.M. Join us to eat at 5:30 P.M.

Prayer Request

Felicia Roberson has requested prayers. Her husband recently passed away and she is dealing with some health issues. Keep her in your prayers as she adjust to the loss of her husband. Let us pray that she will find her strength in God who is faithful in holding her hand.

"Glow Dodgeball"



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

CONTRIBUTION

September 24, 2023

\$ 12,064.46

Camp: \$ 241.00

Budget: \$13,989.00

Thank You

Woody Woodruff and family write:

"On behalf of myself and all of my family, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for the many, many thoughts and prayers. Without them I know I would not be where I am. In Christian love..."

Felicia Roberson writes: "Thank you church family for all of your acts of kindness. Your visits, food, phone calls and monetary gifts. Thank you."



The Shepherd's Pen

Fall has officially arrived. The trees and foliage have begun that cycle of change. In the seasons of time, we see living things germinate, grow, bloom, and then begin that process of decay. Even our lives are ruled by time. There are births and deaths, beginning and endings. The cycle of change is a fundamental part to our nature. God's character is completely unchanging, and His nature is eternal. "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (Isaiah 40:8) God isn't subject to any phases or cycles. God is immune from time. "Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (Psalm 90:2) That is why as things start, finish, and change in your life, you can always put your hope in Him. God will always be steadfastly faithful to you. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." (Isaiah 40:28) Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday. Let worship this Sunday be a top priority for you and your family.
Your Elders

LET US PRAY

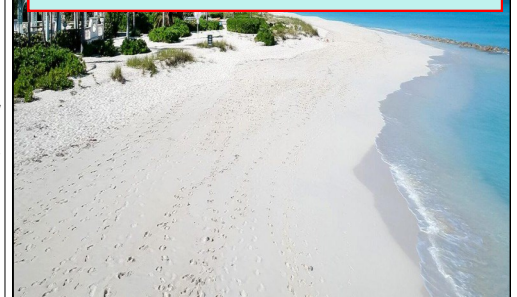
...Martha Leath's health is declining.
..Bobby McCoy is in the local hospital with pneumonia.
....Don Breece has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He is the stepfather of John (Debbie) Bradley and uncle of Valerie (Bobby) McCoy and Troy (Maleah) King.
...Don Chessor had surgery for a torn rotator cuff and bicep on Tuesday, September 26th.
...Joe VanDyke is recovering from emergency surgery and a recent fall.
...Robert Bryant is in ICU at St. Thomas Mid-Town. He is having breathing problems.
...Dan Wallace is recovering from surgery to have part of his aortic valve replaced.
...David Morris, minister of the Highland Church of Christ in Columbia, will have quadruple bypass surgery plus valve replacement on October 5th.



The next Senior outing will be October 10, 2023. We will be going to Colton's Restaurant in Dickson, Tennessee. The van will leave the parking lot at 5:30 P.M.

Needed in Turks & Caicos...

The church in Turks & Caicos is in need of a van. We are in need of \$20,000.00. We have collected \$ 8,020.00. If you can help with this project it will be appreciated! You can give your contribution to any of the Office Staff, Elders, or Ministers.



October Celebrations



George & Cindy Garland
Married 51 years
October 5, 2023



Priscilla Barber
91 Years Old
October 7, 2023



James Easley
96 Years Old
October 8, 2023



Robert & Juanita Bowman
Married 52 years
Oct. 8, 2023



Faye Dotson
81 Years Old
October 9, 2023



Reba Horner
71 Years Old
October 10, 2023



Shirley DeVore
85 Years Old
October 16, 2023



Sue Ann Loveless
88 years old
October 22, 2023



Louise Jones
83 Years Old
October 28, 2023
709 Dallas Drive
Columbia, TN
38401

Those To Serve In October

<p><u>Preside</u> <u>(PLEASE BE ASSEMBLED UP FRONT BY 8:55)</u></p> <p><u>October 1</u> Michael Bryant</p> <p><u>October 8</u> Wayne Rediker</p> <p><u>October 15</u> Brad Davis</p> <p><u>October 22</u> Randy Wright</p> <p><u>October 29</u> Philip Jacobs</p> <p><u>Left Side</u></p> <p>Cory Martin Will McDonald Brett Martin Jackson McDonald</p> <p><u>Right Side</u></p> <p>Don Roder Trevor Bowman Robert Bowman Heath Buchanan</p>	<p><u>Communion Prep.</u> <u>October 1</u></p> <p>Patricia Skelton</p> <p><u>October 8</u> Karen Bridges</p> <p><u>October 15</u> Jeremy & Meredith Qualls</p> <p><u>October 22</u> Matthew & Ashley Halliburton</p> <p><u>October 29</u> Chris & Candice Scott</p> <p><u>P.M. Communion</u> <u>In Chapel</u></p> <p>Wyatt & Jonathan Aydelott</p>	<p><u>Life Care Center</u> 10/1 Jeremy Qualls 10/8 Gethlyn Gardner 10/15 Matthew Dotson 10/22 Daniel Dressler 10/29 Norman George</p> <p>Tulipwood Service: John Bradley</p> <p><u>RADIO ROOM</u></p> <p>Media Director: Chris Teet Video: Clay Chessor Sound: Michael Jenkins Mac/Keynote: Joseph Isenberg</p> <p><u>Meals On Wheels</u> 10/4: Lesley Hudgins 10/11: Glenda Delk 10/18: Nancy Leathers 10/25: Ken & Tina Dickerson</p> <p><u>PICK-UP MEALS AT 10:40</u></p>	<p><u>Prayer Week of</u> <u>October 1</u></p> <p><u>S.M.W.</u> Marshall Spencer</p> <p><u>S.M.D.</u> Brad Garland</p> <p><u>S.E.W.</u> Brad Davis</p> <p><u>S.E.D.</u> Joseph McCauley</p> <p><u>W.E.B.S</u> Chris Peters</p> <p><u>W.E.D.</u> Clay Chessor</p>	<p><u>Read Scripture</u> Randy James</p> <p><u>Elder's Prayer:</u> Shane Willis</p> <p><u>NURSERY:</u> Carla Totty</p> <p><u>BAPT. CLOTHING:</u> Ridonna Goodpasture</p> <p><u>USHERS:</u></p> <p>Ronald Coates, Monty Dunn, Don Chessor</p>
<p><u>Greeters</u></p> <p>Randall & Christy Wells Randy & Jana Wright Faye Dotson Patrick & Alice Jones</p>				<p><u>Bible Hour</u> Clay & Tara Chessor, Wyatt Aydelott, Sam Brown, Major Qualls, Will McDonald, Gwyneth Richardson, Sarah Isenberg, Anna Kate Jenkins, Hailie Tilley "Obey God" Jonah & Joshua Hungry Hound Pantry Item: Pork & Beans</p>