Sunday, December 11

Greeters Nathan & Regina Lee Bible Reading Windell Denney Devotional Prayer Chuck Cleghorn Song Leader (AM & PM) James Rogers Worship Prayer Marl Fuller

Lord's Table

(J) Paul Gilliland (B) Houston Hutto Jerry Hall (0) Jamie Patterson Brex Fuller **Bryant Addison** Frank Pitts Jimmy Jones

Chris Hood Announcements Dismissal Prayer Ken Nelson

Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)

-Streaming Preston Grover Will Fletcher -Songs -Audio Harry James

Prepare Communion Kellie James-Anna Barker

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Larry Little Dismissal Praver Ben Rogers

Wednesday, December 14

Song Leader Mark Biles David Barker Closing Prayer Ushers Aaron Fletcher-Nathan Lee Lock Building Jimmy Jones-Nathan Lee

December 2022

Sunday, December 18

Greeters Larry & Kay Little Bible Reading Harry James Kenneth Grover Devotional Prayer Song Leader (AM & PM) Tim Hester Worship Prayer Roger Thomas

Lord's Table

(B) Matt Addison (J) Paul Rogers Aaron Fletcher (0) Danny Standridge Larry Peebles James Rogers Rayford Morgan Roger McCaghren

Larry Little Announcements Dismissal Prayer Josh Jones

Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)

-Streaming Chris James Mark Biles -Songs Rex Free -Audio

Prepare Communion Benita James-Beth James Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Casey Pirtle Dismissal Praver Will Fletcher

Wednesday, December 21

Song Leader Jamie Patterson Closing Prayer Chuck Cleghorn Ushers Sam Scott-Chuck Cleghorn Lock Building Jimmy Jones-Nathan Lee

Contribution \$

January '23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	Mark Biles	3 Ladies Brunch Men's Breakfast
4 Midway Devo (Hoods) Cookies With Santa	5 Keslee Addison	6	7	8 Eleshea Jones	9 Phillip & Jan Waldrep	10 Holiday Fellowship
Chy Hutto	12 Trent & Anna Hill	13 Bekah Peebles	14 Patty Huskey	15	16 Caroling Lock-in	17 Liz Vandiver
18 Caroline Grover	19 Kenneth & Lori Grover	20 Regina Lee Dwayne & Jannie Williams	21 Alison James Jill Cleghorn	22 Chuck Cleghorn	23 Houston Hutto Sam Carter	24
25 Elders Meeting Card Signing	26 Eulene Logan	27	28 Drake Davis Landon Davis Kelli Barker Sherry Chamberlain	29	Ethan Carter Danny & Sabrina Standridge	31 New Year's Fellowship

December 11, 2022 Midway Church of Christ

HINDRANCES

Jesus calls us for influence. Knowing both the terror and love of the Lord, "we persuade men" (2 Cor.5:11-14). Effective leadership is abundant in spiritual influence.

Jesus once explained it like this: "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away" (Luke 14:34-35). Three times in this context, Jesus repeats the phrase, "he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26,27, 33). He seems to be issuing some warnings or stating some hindrances to proper influence. Note the following.

We may be hindered by family relations. Jesus says, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). The idea of "hate" is not malice, but "loving less" (cf.Matt.10:37). Our Lord often reminds us, that in order to receive truth, one's mind/heart must be clear of distractions (Luke 8:14). Family ties can clutter one's heart with emotions which can distort application of the truth and blind one to things which are not appropriate. Many men fail to spiritually influence because they feel the pressure from family members who are weak in faith. Real fortitude is needed.

We may be hindered by ignorance. Jesus says, "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build and was not able to finish" (Luke 14:28-30). Ignorance of the cost of following Jesus in the beginning of the process causes us to have a shallow commitment. "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). The jailor saw firsthand the beatings Paul and Silas endured. He knew what he was ahead of him. Still, when he heard the word, he believed and was baptized for forgiveness (Acts 16:22-34).

We may be hindered by attachment. Jesus says, "So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). No doubt, possessions possess many people and they never become an influence for Christ. Jesus says, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the things which he possesses" (Luke 12:15).

--David

4334 County Road 434 Moulton, AL 35650

Sunday Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am & 6:00pm Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

Volume 64, Issue 50

SICK

- Roger Thomas and Nancy Sherrill are now at home.
- Paisley Tankersley, 11 year old girl, possibly has Lymphoma. Prayers requested for her.
- Prayers requested for Linsie Smith and her newborn baby, Mackenzie Lynn.
- Stacy Logan, Eulene's son, has been moved to Encompass Rehab.
- Trib Henderson, Christie's aunt, is still in the hospital and continues to need prayers.
- Mike Jones will be having surgery December 22nd.

FIFTY TIMES

A lady in the church who invited her neighbor to go to services with her kept count of the times the neighbor refused. It came to forty-nine. She pleasantly mentioned the count to her friend as she issued her fiftieth invitation at the time of the gospel meeting. At first the friend declined again, but later called and she said she would go. "If you are interested enough in me to ask me fifty times to go, I will go with you and see what it is like." She went out and liked what she saw. She returned and she was converted – all because someone did give up too soon.

- Jeff Cantrell, Jacksonville, Alabama

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Anna Barker

FHU Box 223,

158 East Main Street, Henderson, TN 38340

Caroline Grover

Studying abroad

Lauren Hamby

U2658 USA 350 Student Center Circle, Mobile, Al 36688

Chandler James

1901 5th Ave. E. Apt # 2208,

Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Preston Grover

University of Alabama

Kellie James

Calhoun Community College

Ben Rogers

Calhoun Community College

BIBLE CURSES

- According to Galatians, what people remain under a curse?
- People who teach a false _____
 would be cursed.
- Who was made a curse for our sins?
- What sort of handicapped people should we not curse?
- Whose wife told him to curse God and die?
- What prophet ended his book with God's threat to come and strike the land with a curse?
- What book says blessing and cursing should not come out of the same mouth?
- Who had enemies that bound themselves under a curse because they were so determined to kill him?
- Who told God that Job would curse him to his face?
- What book says that kings should not be cursed, for little birds will tell on the cursing person?

Leviticus 19:14; Job 2:4-5,9; Ecclesiastes 10:20; Malachi 4:6; Acts 23:12; Galatians 1:8; 3:10; 3:13; James 3:10

ELDERS

Roger Thomas Brent James MINISTER
David Barker

DEACONS

Benevolence

Deacons: Windell Denney, Sam Scott

Visitations Deacons: All

EducationDeacons: Jamie Patterson, Houston Hutto

Local Evangelism

Deacons:

Group A—Houston Hutto

Group B—Harry James, Nathan Lee

Missions

Youth

Deacons: Larry Little

Deacons: Matt Addison

Building & Grounds

Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Nathan Lee, Aaron Fletcher

Technology

Deacons: Tim Hester

Finance

Deacons: Harry James Worship Assignments

Deacons: Matt Adison

Security

Deacons: Sam Scott **Transportation**

Deacons: Nathan Lee

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

God is named twenty-five times in the eighty-five verses of the book of Ruth. He isn't named at all in the book of Esther. Although these books are very different in some ways, they are alike in other ways. In both books, we see the providence of God at work in the lives of godly women. Paul's words to the saints at Rome could certainly be written across both books: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Wade Webster.

GOD CARES FOR YOU as a...

- Woman comforts her children (Isaiah 66:13).
- Father pities his sons (Psalm 103:13).
- Nursing mother cherishes her children (I Thessalonians 2:7).
- Shepherd seeks his sheep (Ezekiel 34:12).
- Hen gathers her chicks under her wings (Matthew 23:37).
- An eagle flutters her wings and catches her young (Deuteronomy 32:11).
- Bridegroom rejoices in marriage (Isaiah 62:5).
- -Mark Posey, Winfield, Alabama

WHAT TO DO DURING CHURCH

- What to do before the sermon "lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness" (James 1:21).
- What to do during the sermon "receive with meekness the engrafted word" (James 1:21).
- What to do after the sermon "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).
- --Gus Nichols, from the 1970's

CHURCH – DOES IT MATTER?

We encourage faithful, constant attendance to every service of the church. It matters because of the opportunity to worship. Can we ever finish offering thanksgiving to the Lord for all his blessings given to us? "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits to me" (Psalm 116:12)? It matters because of the learning which occurs. The richness of in-person Biblebased discussion is vital to life. It is food for the soul. "I treasure up the words of this mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). See you tonight at 6 and this Wednesday night at 7.

HOLIDAY OUTREACH

The holiday season is an excellent time to give and help. We are gathering toys for those in need and some have signed up to help an individual child with gifts. We can also assist families by donating a food box. See Beth James or Julie Carter for more details.

LOCK-IN

The annual December youth lock-in is a long-standing tradition in our church family. Our youth study hard all year and resist temptations of the world on a daily basis. Lock -in is a break from regular life for a few hours. If you'd like to help with any aspect of this event this week, see David. To all participants, be sure to get the information sheet sometime today. Lock-in is this Friday, December 16-17.

STOP THAT SINNING

Wendell Winkler once wrote: "We will cease to minimize sin when: 1) we call what it is; 2) we see what it is; 3) we consider what it does; and 4) we think about where it ends."



- **December 16,** Caroling/Lock-in
- December 31, New Year's Fellowship (5-10PM)