

# Midway Church of Christ



## THANK YOU LORD FOR OLDER CHRISTIANS

Forgive me, for sometimes I do not think about how hard it is for you to come to worship. I take for granted things like putting on clothes and driving to the church building. I rarely think about how much pain you endure in getting in and out of a car or sitting on a hard church pew.

While you may fret about whether your hair is too thin or whether you are too slow, I want you to know what I see. I see love—love in a form that Jesus wants me to see it. Words cannot adequately describe your beautiful warm smile and the love you show for everyone in our church family. Your hugs are like being wrapped in a blanket of love—something I desperately need in the hustle and bustle world we live in today. I see a person who has weathered many years and truly knows the things that are important in life—a lesson that I’m still learning.

I suspect when you look in a mirror you see an old person—someone who feels the aches and pains of many years. But that’s not what I see. I see someone who I long to see sitting in “your pew” every Sunday. You see age-spots on wrinkled hands that sometimes tremble. I see the caring hands that reveal years of hard work, and gentle hands that have held many children, grandchildren, and maybe even great-grandchildren.

You see someone who can’t hear well and whose voice sounds rougher with each passing year. I see someone who sounds just like my grandparents—a sound that I treasure in my heart. You see someone who shuffles down the aisle and is slow. I see someone who may need an arm for support and someone who is teaching me a good lesson on patience. You see someone whose hair is thin and white. I see someone whose hair reveals years of wisdom. You see someone who you think will not be missed if you are not there on Sunday. I see a pillar of our church family—someone who makes everything feel just right.

You see someone whose clothes may be out of style. I see someone who has amazing stories of what life used to be like. You see someone who can’t cook as well anymore. I see someone whose pies and cakes are legendary at fellowship meals—and maybe someone who is now giving me an opportunity to provide meals for them. You see someone whose memory doesn’t work as well. I see someone whose very presence edifies and encourages me. You see someone whose has aches and pains and feels old and tired. I see a Christian soldier who still puts on the whole armor of God and is showing me what living faithfully until death really means.

Brad Harrub

Sunday, July 16	
Greeters	Paul & Ashley Gilliland
Bible Reading	Josh Jones
Devotional Prayer	Aaron Fletcher
Song Leader (AM & PM)	Tim Hester
Worship Prayer	Chris James
Lord's Table	
(B) Rex Free	(J) Ben Rogers
Windell Denney	(O) Jerry Hall
Tom Wilkerson	Preston Grover
Bryant Addison	Tim LeMay
Announcements	Brent James
Dismissal Prayer	Paul Rogers
Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)	
-Streaming	Kenneth Grover
-Songs/Audio	Will Fletcher
Prepare Communion	Bertha Nelson-Christie Fletcher
Sunday Evening	
Opening Prayer	Matt Addison
Dismissal Prayer	Marl Fuller
Wednesday, July 19	
Song Leader	Harry James
Closing Prayer	Danny Standridge
Ushers	Sam Scott-Chuck Cleghorn
Lock Building	Jamie Patterson-Ken Nelson

Sunday, July 23	
Greeters	Houston & Denise Hutto
Bible Reading	Houston Hutto
Devotional Prayer	Paul Gilliland
Song Leader (AM & PM)	Ben Rogers
Worship Prayer	Danny Standridge
Lord's Table	
(B) Casey Pirtle	(J) Larry Little
Larry Peebles	(O) Tim Hester
Frank Pitts	Roger McCaghren
Roger Jones	Rayford Morgan
Announcements	Sam Scott
Dismissal Prayer	Ken Nelson
Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)	
-Streaming	Kenneth Grover
-Songs/Audio	Mark Biles
Prepare Communion	Bonita Jones-Regina Lee
Sunday Evening	
Opening Prayer	Roger Thomas
Dismissal Prayer	Jamie Patterson
Wednesday, July 26	
Song Leader	Matt Addison
Closing Prayer	Tim LeMay
Ushers	Nathan Lee-Aaron Fletcher
Lock Building	Jamie Patterson-Ken Nelson

## July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3 Houston & Denise Hutto	4	5 Trent Hill	6 Christie Fletcher	7 Denise Hutto Neil LeMay Windell Denney	8
9 Elders/Deacons Meeting	10	11 Chanler Callahan	12 Tom Wilkerson	13	14	15 Danny Standridge
16 Bertha Nelson	17	18	19 Jerry Hall	20 Marley Kelso Brenna Stewart Roger & Judy McCaghren	21 Chris & Alison James	22 Tanner Owens
23 Elders Meeting Group Meetings	24 Wanda Morgan Rex & Margaret Free	25 Deborah Hall Marl Fuller	26	27	28 Linda Beddingfield	29
30 5th Sunday Singing	Notes 3 - Jerry Huskey 3 - Larry Peebles 3 - Windell & Jennie Denney 2 - Kellie James 2 - Tasha Davis 2 - Millard Macon 2 - Kayla Martinez 2 - Sabrina Standridge 2 - Paul & Ashley Gilliland					

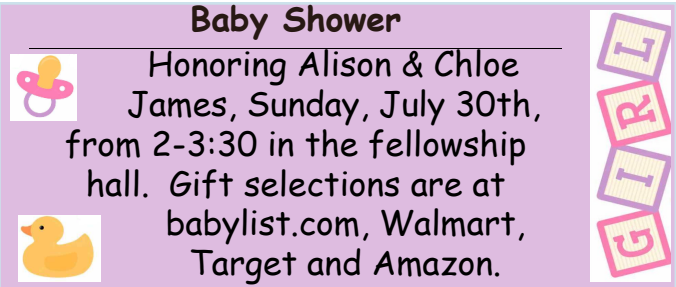


SICK & PRAYERS

- Continue to remember Margaret Free and Neil LeMay in your prayers.


**Baby Shower**

Honoring Alison & Chloe James, Sunday, July 30th, from 2-3:30 in the fellowship hall. Gift selections are at babylist.com, Walmart, Target and Amazon.



**Monday Night Meal Delivery Resumes!**

We plan to resume Monday night meals beginning August 7. As suggested by the elders, we will be taking to our shut-in's and any of our members who are sick or have had surgery. This will give us a chance to visit as well as take them a hot meal. We will be having a meeting in foyer classroom following morning worship to see how many are available to assist.



**ELDERS**

Roger Thomas  
Brent James  
Nathan Lee

**MINISTER**

Harry James  
Sam Scott  
David Barker

**DEACONS**

**Benevolence**  
Deacon: Windell Denney

**Visitations**  
Deacons: All

**Education**  
Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Houston Hutto

**Missions**  
Deacon: Larry Little

**Youth**  
Deacon: Matt Addison

**Building & Grounds**  
Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Aaron Fletcher

**Technology**  
Deacon: Tim Hester

**Worship Assignments**  
Deacon: Matt Addison

Gopher Holes

A couple of weeks ago, I looked out the front door and saw a small mound of dirt toward the front of the yard. I thought it was a new ant mound and said to myself, "I'll put some ant killer on that thing tomorrow." Well, as it would be, I forgot about it for a couple of days and the next time I looked it was now three mounds of dirt. "That's a gopher run and he's heading straight toward Ms. Janet's daylily bed!"



Funny thing about those gophers, they make their advancements incrementally instead of one straight shot. They move toward their goal a little at a time and before you know it they're in your garden or flower bed.

There's another pest that uses incremental steps to achieve his goals, the old devil himself, Satan. He places small temptations in front of us like bread crumbs on a lost man's trail. Just little indiscretions, nothing terribly noticeable, like an advancing gopher hole. It may be a wanting glance at the pretty girl, excusing the curse words we hear on our favorite TV series or movie. It could begin with missing a church service or not reading our bibles daily.

The thing is, Satan is most successful when he works slowly and gradually. As we get used to these "little sins", we become desensitized and as 1 Timothy 4:2 says, we'll have our conscience seared with a hot iron so that sin no longer bothers us. We must be constantly on guard of Satan's devises (2 Cor. 2:11) and the tricks he uses to fool us into complacency (Eph. 6:11). So when you see one of those gopher holes Satan is putting in your way, remember the words of James, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

Jay Launius

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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HOW DOES GOD VIEW OUR NATION?

In Deuteronomy 7 we read where God commanded the Israelites to completely wipe out wicked nations. In verse 2 we read, "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them."

My question for you to consider is this: If God's chosen people were about to enter our nation, would He command them to wipe us out?

I know some like to brag and say this country was founded on Christian beliefs by men who believed in God—and there may be some truth in that. But the nation I look around and see today does not even remotely resemble one that was founded on Christian principles.

Consider:

- We are the largest producer of pornography in the world.
  - We have legalized (and some rejoice in) the killing of the unborn.
  - We have desecrated God's institution of marriage and are now arguing over gender fluidity.
  - We have legalized the premature deaths of our elderly in many states.
  - We celebrate and give out awards to an entertainment industry that is debased.
  - We idolize sports and particular teams, while their posters and logos fill our homes.
  - We push for the legalization of drugs, while at the same time defund those who seek to uphold the law.
  - We gather around television sets with our friends to watch immoral tv programs—and laugh.
  - We use cuss words like they are the very breath we breath.
  - We seek handouts and entitlements like we are owed something—and then spend it foolishly.
- Moses continued in Deuteronomy 7 by saying: "For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire."
- God wanted His people to be holy. He wanted them to destroy any idols that might come between Him and them.
- I wonder – would God have the Israelites totally wipe us out if the Exodus were happening today? Are you seeking to be holy and encouraging those around you to put God first?

Brad Harrub

Let's Do It!

One of the great things about the Lord's church is that it is made up of such a diverse group of individuals. Each member brings unique personalities, gifts, and talents into the fold. Some have abilities to do one thing well, and others have different abilities to do other things well. Now, each of us could work on our own, and we could still get a lot of good things done in the name of the Lord, but it is God's design that we pool our efforts and resources. It is when we work together that much more can be accomplished than individual endeavors. This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Christians at Ephesus that "the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16). It is God's desire that the "whole body" be involved in church projects and activities. Every part needs to do their share for success. With whatever challenges our eldership decides for this congregation, let's get on board and let's work together!

Edd Sterchi

*Always pray to have  
Eyes that see the best in people,  
a Heart that forgives the worst  
a Mind that forgets the worst  
and a Soul that Never  
loses faith in God.*



Upcoming  
EVENTS

- Tonight – Youth at Spruce Pine
- July 19 – Clay McFerrin
- July 26 – Todd Clippard