

Sunday, August 13

Greeters	Matt & Shania Woodruff
Bible Reading	Aaron Fletcher
Devotional Prayer	Mark Biles
Song Leader (AM & PM)	James Rogers
Worship Prayer	Matt Addison
Lord's Table	
(B) Jerry Hall	(J) Marl Fuller
Bryant Addison	(O) Paul Gilliland
Jimmy Jones	Tom Wilkerson
Harry James	Windell Denney
Announcements	Houston Hutto
Dismissal Prayer	Kenneth Grover
Control Room (Sunday & Wednesday)	
-Streaming	Tim Hester
-Songs/Audio	Will Fletcher
Prepare Communion	Benita James-Sabrina Standridge
Sunday Evening	
Opening Prayer	Preston Grover
Dismissal Prayer	Josh Jones
Wednesday, August 16	
Song Leader	Ken Nelson
Closing Prayer	Nathan Lee
Ushers	Sam Scott-Chuck Cleghorn
Lock Building	Matt Addison-Aaron Fletcher

Sunday, August 20

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

ELDERS

MINISTER

Roger Thomas	Harry James	David Barker
Brent James	Sam Scott	
Nathan Lee		

DEACONS

Benevolence

Visitations

Education

Missions

Youth

Building & Grounds

Technology

Worship Assignments

Deacon: Windell Denney
Deacons: All
Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Houston Hutto
Deacon: Larry Little
Deacon: Matt Addison
Deacons: Jamie Patterson, Aaron Fletcher
Deacon: Tim Hester
Deacon: Matt Addison

HAPPY BIRTHDAY


Tasha Davis	Aug 02	Elizabeth Owens	Aug 15
Kellie James	Aug 02	Julie Pitts	Aug 16
Larry Peebles	Aug 03	Karen Pirtle	Aug 18
Sabrina Standridge	Aug 04	Nova Randolph	Aug 19
Jan Waldrep	Aug 07	Nancy Sherill	Aug 19
Ken Nelson	Aug 08	Ellie Gilliland	Aug 24
Rachel Lee	Aug 09	David Scarbrough	Aug 25
Rex Free	Aug 09	Brex Fuller	Aug 27
Matt Addison	Aug 11	Allyson James	Aug 28
Chris James	Aug 13	Alexus Burns	Aug 29
		Casey Pirtle	Aug 29

Happy Anniversary!

Paul & Ashley Gilliland	Aug 2
Windell & Jennie Denney	Aug 3
Larry & Kay Little	Aug 30

August 13, 2023

Midway Church of Christ



The Heart of Mary

Looking carefully into the heart of Mary, the mother of Jesus, can teach us so much about dealing with what God has said to us even when we do not understand it. She obviously knew the words from heaven’s messenger and believed them. Gabriel said, “You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus” (Luke 1:31). She knew the words were true, she understood them to the best of her knowledge. These very words were in her unwritten “Bible”—the same words in our written Scriptures. How did she respond? “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

Isn’t that what happens to us as we hear the messages from heaven when we read the Scripture? We know what is said, but we try to figure out what they mean and how they apply to our lives. Unbelievers may deny what is said and ignore God’s words. We are not like them. We know they are true but immediately seek to find the meaning of the words.

There was so much that was happening in Mary’s life. Did she fully understand the words of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist? Was it possible that she might have known what the scribes knew about the city where Jesus was born? Is it possible she made that eighty-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem having insight about how God was working in her life to fulfil His will? We do not know. We read the words and we know “the rest of the story.” She heard the words of God, but there was no way she could understand them as fully as we do.

After the shepherds left her with the Child wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in that manger, the Bible says, “But Mary kept all these things...in her heart” (Luke 2:19). They had told her what they had seen in the field and heard the words from heaven that the child wrapped in swaddling clothes was the Messiah (Luke 2:11). There had to be so many unanswered questions, but she kept every word she had heard in her heart.

The text says even more. “But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.” One Greek scholar says this about the word “pondered.” “Placing together for comparison. Mary would go over each detail in the words of Gabriel and of the shepherds and compared the saying with the facts so far developed and brood over it all with a mother’s high hopes and joys.”

So, as you read the Bible and find difficult verses, do not ever forget them. Keep the words in your heart and ponder over them. Sometimes it may take a long time to sort things out, but never set them aside. Keep them, ponder over them and as you hunger and thirst you will be filled (Matt. 5:6).

-Dan Jenkins

SICK & PRAYERS

- David Scarbrough is recovering from a spinal procedure due to a car accident. Address.. c/o Brittany Fredricks 2220 Bethel Rd Hartselle, AL 35640.
- Remember Louise Thomas in your prayers as she has difficult days.
- Remember Philip Waldrep as he undergoes dialysis.
- Mike Jones is sick with Covid.
- Russell Estes didn't receive good news from the doctor. Continue to pray for him.
- Kashin West Bradley, 3 year old with Leukemia. Parents are Will and Kaitlin Bradley. Address.. 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis TN 38105.
- Tyrone Davis, Ida Scott’s nephew, needs our prayers. Address..Apt. 119 Crawford Street, Gosnell Arkansas 72315.
- Chris Sherill has requested prayers.



A big thank you
for the well wishes
and prayers for
our new
grandbaby, Lucas!
-David & Kelli

It's that time of year again!

We are requesting donations to be used for purchasing items to fill holiday boxes for children in Haiti. Harry Hames of the Flint congregation will be taking the funds to the Dominican Republic where \$25 worth of items will be purchased for each bag that will be prepared to be taken into Haiti. Please give your donation by, September 24th, to Joyce Fuller or Kay Little. Any amount will be appreciated. Midway will also be sending sets of clothing for children and Haitian New Testaments.

A Mother’s Prayer

If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper not a homemaker. If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child’s laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys. Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation’s message to a child’s heart. Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God’s perfection of my child. As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love.



Finding It Hard to Accept

A college student in a philosophy class was taking his first examination. On the paper there was a single line which simply said: “Is this a question? — Discuss.” After a short time he wrote: “If that is a question, then this is an answer.” The student received an “A” on the exam.



God is often asked what we consider to be very hard questions. But nothing is too hard for the Lord. However, many of his answers are often very simple to understand but hard to accept.

God very plainly told Adam and Eve: Do not eat of the fruit of one tree in a whole garden of fruit trees. The first couple had plenty of food. They understood the explicit command. But they just didn’t want to accept the rule. So they broke God’s law; and, in the breaking of that rule, they ushered death and calamity into the world (Genesis 2-3).

God gives us His commands. When we break His New Testament directives, there is punishment soon to follow. Yet, we still do the sin despite the trouble it brings. We understand the commands, we just find it hard to accept those commands.

Jesus made it plain. He said: “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

Larry Fitzgerald

Don't Forget to Download Our New App!

Lightpost

Upcoming EVENTS

- August 14—Monday Night Meals
- August 23—Ladies Wednesday Night Bible Class resumes
- August 26—Supper Outing to Chef Troy’s
- August 27—Elders meeting 5PM
- September 7— Ladies Thursday morning Bible Class begins

The Reality of the Devil

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). The word “Satan” means “adversary.” The word “devil” means “accuser” or “slanderer.” This being (most likely an angel that God created and then sinned falling from heaven [2 Peter 2:4, Revelation 12:7-9]) is both the primal enemy of God (and his people) and the one who accuses God (and his people). He tempted Eve in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-4), brought cruel trials upon Job (Job 1:9-12, 2:4-7), and tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:1-10). He is the adversary of God’s people because he seeks to sift them like wheat (Luke 22:31), devour them (1 Peter 5:8), and oppress them (Acts 10:38). He is the enemy of all righteousness (Acts 13:10), the father of lies, and a murderer (John 8:44).

The devil is a corruption of something that was once good. He perverts what is good and uses it for purposes that oppose God. When people oppose God, they do the devil’s work and are used by him for his own purposes. (We have mercy upon those who sin because they are being used.) The devil does not compromise. He demands absolute loyalty. He will not quit until he has conquered as many as he can. God’s people should not compromise with his evil, but use the message of the gospel to convert people to Jesus Christ since the devil’s goal is to get as many as he can to go to hell, a place prepared for him and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Don’t be deceived by his lies as he can appear as an angel of light to trick you (2 Corinthians 11:14).

-Kevin Cauley

The Demise of the Sunday Night Service

Traditions come and go. One such tradition in American churches is the Sunday evening service. It’s unclear when the tradition started, but records would indicate that churches have been holding evening services for well over 100 years. In recent history, there has been a sharp decline in those who attend Sunday evening services. Even in strong and thriving churches and to the dismay of church leaders, Sunday night attendance numbers continue to be dismal. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, some congregations have discontinued the evening service completely. As a result, church members no longer have to feel guilty about “forsaking the assembly” on Sunday evening and can now enjoy pastimes and pleasures without remorse. Some preachers are relieved, no longer having to prepare an additional Sunday sermon since services have now been cut by a third. Folks who may miss the morning worship for various reasons will not have the opportunity to worship the Lord on the “first day of the week.” I would predict that the Sunday evening service will soon be a thing of the past, gone with other “old time” traditions such as the two-week gospel meeting.



So what guidance can God’s word give us concerning the demise of the Sunday evening service? Only one passage comes to mind. “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). Now, we must ask ourselves, “Is meeting together with other Christians for singing, praying, giving, sharing God’s word, and partaking of the Lord’s Supper on Sunday evening a good thing?” If we are honest with ourselves, I think we all know deep down what the answer is and should be.

Jay Launius

Strong Faith, Young Hearts

In New Albany, Mississippi, a young man who starred on the baseball team had a conflict when a game was scheduled on Wednesday night during Bible class. He told his coach, who said, “Play or turn your suit in.” He went to church and the next day took his uniform to turn it in. The coach saw his true faith and kept him on the team.



A Christian student was selected homecoming queen, but she would not go to be crowned because that Friday night the church had a gospel meeting going on. She went to support the gospel. Six friends went with her and obeyed the gospel. On Friday night, they were wearing a different crown (2 Timothy 4:8).