



WE ARE ALL  
**CONNECTED**  
IN CHRIST  
EPHESIANS 4:16

*December 31, 2023*

## TODAY

### *From the Elders . . .*

In November we asked you to prayerfully consider men that you felt would be good shepherds for this congregation. We asked you to consider their Biblical qualifications, talk to them about their willingness to serve and submit their name if they expressed interest.

We have met with the men whose names were submitted and at this time believe that **Patrick Swinea** and **Eric Baxley** meet the Biblical qualifications to serve as elder for the church here at Beltline. The congregation will be given two weeks from today to prayerfully consider this. If anyone has a scriptural objection, they are asked to address that individually with Patrick Swinea or Eric Baxley. If the issue cannot be resolved in this manner, a signed letter detailing the concern should be submitted to the elders no later than January 14<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, Patrick Swinea and Eric Baxley will be installed on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please continue to pray for this effort to find additional men to serve, so that the church at Beltline can be strengthened and God will be glorified in all that we do.

### *Auditions for Recording*

**Sessions** at Beltline  
August 30 thru  
September 2, 2024,  
are now open.



**Praise & Harmony**  
*Recording Registration*



### *Our "Next Step" Initiative . . .*

We want to help people take the next step with Jesus. We believe helping people in need is a huge part in helping people take that next step. Our desire is to meet physical and financial needs as a door to the most important needs of all . . . **spiritual needs**.

At the conclusion of the services, an invitation will be made at which time you may exit to the foyer where a team of people will meet you and take you to the Next Step Room, share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus with you, and identify and attempt to meet any needs you may have.

## *Morning Worship Service*

**Song Leader ~ Matt Parker**

Song ~ I Woke up This Morning

Song ~ Days of Elijah

Song ~ Salvation Belongs to Our God

Song ~ Awesome God

**Opening Prayer ~ Dan Cunningham**

Song ~ Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Song ~ Above All

**Communion /Offering ~ Tim Olinger**

(Trays will be passed for Offering)

Song ~ All in All

Song ~ The New Song

**Lesson ~ Steve Smith**

Song ~ Purer in Heart

**Shepherds Prayer ~ Chuck Elliott**

Song ~ TBD

**Prayer Requests**—An elder is present in Room 202 if you have a need for prayer during the morning worship service. Your request can be included in the Shepherd's prayer at the conclusion of the service.

## *Evening Worship Service*

**Song Leader ~ Matt Parker**

Song ~ Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Song ~ Where Could I Go

**Opening Prayer ~ Fred Stipe**

Song ~ Hark the Gentle Voice

**Lesson ~ Trae Durden**

Song ~ Calling the Prodigal

Song ~ At Calvary

**Closing Prayer ~ Chuck Elliott**

## The Parable of Canceled Debts

- Simon is a \_\_\_\_\_; he is a member of the religious and \_\_\_\_\_ elite...
- She is a woman of the city and a \_\_\_\_\_. Woman of the city = \_\_\_\_\_.

### Why Does this Matter?

- We know that she is \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus. But we often miss how much Simon \_\_\_\_\_ the same thing. **Luke 7:36** – Simon \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
- Simon was braving the \_\_\_\_\_ and opposition of his whole family, friends, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ him, \_\_\_\_\_ him, and \_\_\_\_\_ her!

### 2 Responses to Jesus...

- Simon's approach is an \_\_\_\_\_ one...he is coming to Jesus with his \_\_\_\_\_.
- This woman comes at Jesus with her \_\_\_\_\_.
- He comes \_\_\_\_\_, she comes \_\_\_\_\_.

### Impersonal? Jesus is after his \_\_\_\_\_ religion...

- In other words, Simon believes it doesn't matter what you believe about \_\_\_\_\_, what really matters is that you are a \_\_\_\_\_ person. Jesus, in Luke 7, says the \_\_\_\_\_ of that.

### She TOUCHED Him...

- Simon doesn't want a religion of touching, or \_\_\_\_\_. He wants a \_\_\_\_\_.
- He doesn't want a personal and \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Jesus, he wants to know the highest and most noble way to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Simon wants a detached, \_\_\_\_\_, impersonal religion and Jesus will have \_\_\_\_\_ of that.

**NOTICE...**She comes without \_\_\_\_\_; he comes with \_\_\_\_\_.

- What she is doing is \_\_\_\_\_...it is costing her something. She says that if you are who you say you are that \_\_\_\_\_ everything. AND I will live a completely \_\_\_\_\_ life because of you.

### Why the different responses to Jesus?

- The different responses come from different \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
- Regardless of our upbringing, \_\_\_\_\_ or not, we need a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Simon...

- Jesus says that he cannot see his \_\_\_\_\_, he doesn't see that he cannot \_\_\_\_\_ and that he is just as \_\_\_\_\_ as this woman. He doesn't realize the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The only way for someone to be \_\_\_\_\_ with God is if Jesus pays the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Jesus response...**Simon and this woman both get something.

- Simon gets what he wants...a \_\_\_\_\_. He gets an \_\_\_\_\_ experience; he gets a \_\_\_\_\_ and then Jesus turns away.

### What does she get?

1. She gets the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ she didn't have before.
2. She gets an incredible \_\_\_\_\_.
3. She gets an *I don't care what everyone else* \_\_\_\_\_ mindset.

## Remember in Prayer...

### Reported Sick

#### • Members & Regular Attenders...

**Macy Lawrence** fell and broke both bones in her ankle/lower leg and will have surgery next week.

**Mark Walden** is recovering from two back surgeries and also has been undergoing heart tests. (1214 Co. Rd. 358, Trinity—35673)

**Bobbie Rhoades** has been in the hospital with health issues. (2226 Almon Way SW—35603)

#### Continue to recover:

**Keith Spivey** is recovering from an infection. He continues with chemo treatments. (1904 Manchester Ave., SW—35603)

**Matt Brewer** is recovering from surgery. (2203 Martinwood Lane, SW—35603)

#### Continue to remember:

**Jennifer Chandler** (send cards to: The Cannon, 203 Eleanor Way, Apartment 4106, Murfreesboro, TN 37130); **Ron Garner** is under the care of Hospice. (81 Shirley Hill Road, Somerville—35670); **Haley McInnis** (3221 Mountainview Dr., SE—35603); **Margaret Benefield** (2447 Cameron St., SW—35603); **Bettie Knight** (903 Rigel Drive, SW—35603); **David Mahaffey** (2106 11th St. SE, 35601); **Maria Sandoval** (1715 Cagle Ave., SW—35601); **Kristen Zeanah & Baileigh Grace** (83 Jackson Way—35603); **Edilberto Alvarez** (1607 College St., SE—35601); **Tim Shephard** (1619 11th St., SE, Apt. 47—35601); **Gary Hill** (2404 Crown Circle, SE—35603); **Jerry Parker** (3201 Vicksburg Dr., SW—35603); **George Wells** (4005 Saddlehorn Bend, SW—35603); **Lee & Lora Lee Brewer** (2009 Jefferson Ave., SW—35603); **Katie Shell** (2403 Woodland St., SE—35601); **Lindsay Elliott** (P. O. Box 1584—35602); **Michael Atchley** is undergoing dialysis. (2202 Harrison St., SE—35601); **Danny Truitt** (1427 Vernon St., SW—35601); **Joan McCollum** (2511 Danville Rd., SW—35603); **Bonnie Ledlow** (901 Fretwell Ave., SW—35601)

#### • Family Members & Friends...

**Harry Hames** has been in the hospital with heart issues. (1814 Eastmead Ave., SE—35601)

**Richard Adkins**, father of Rachel Dixon & Michelle Prince, has been in the hospital with health issues. (2849 Co. Rd. 358, Trinity—35673)

**Kayla Braden**, granddaughter of Sherman & Marilyn Morris, has been in Huntsville Hospital.

**Roger Perry**, brother of Doris Webster, has stage three kidney failure along with his other heart issues.

**Gary Stewart**, brother of Linda Wallace, is recovering from surgery for leg amputation. (624 Market St., Scottsboro—35768)

**Gerald Marks**, father of Deana Olinger, has been undergoing rehab after a stroke. (2418 Jarvis St., SW—35603)

**Meri Leigh Broadfoot**, granddaughter of Jeff & Alicia, is doing better; continue prayer for strength before upcoming surgery, **Sarita Gillespie** of Hatton is battling cancer.

**Rachel King**, sister of Pam Kimbrel, is recovering from a total hip revision.

**Matt Rae**, brother of Rebekah Clark, will be in Houston undergoing radiation at MD Anderson. He will return home after radiation to receive chemo treatments. (Send cards to Matt & Amie Rae, c/o Tony & Martha Rea, 2002 Lancaster Ave., SW—35603)

**Carolyn Plumlee**, sister of Rita Deal, has Parkinson's and is learning to walk again. (4014 Huntington Drive, Cookeville, TN—38501)

**Willow Chandler**, granddaughter of Armer Mabry, undergoing chemo and radiation for brain tumors. (send cards c/o of Armer: 305 Courtney Drive, SW, Apt. 402—35603)

**Jonna Barrier**, member at Falkville Church of Christ, battling cancer. (311 Woodfield Street, Hartselle 35640).

**Bill Gleason**, husband of Francis, is undergoing treatments for a brain tumor. (1541 Bert Stinson Road, Falkville—35622)

## Sympathy is Extended to...

**Porsha Earskine & Family** in the death of her nine-month-old daughter, **La'Niyah Ann Earskine**. Arrangements to be announced by Royal Funeral Home in Huntsville.

See **The Family Member & Friends, Continue to Remember List** and **Our Shut-in List** in the online Bulletin.

**Contact Elder for December—Tim Thomas  
January—Bob Walker**

**Deacons/Ministry Leaders for  
December—Adam Jones & Mark Burleson  
January—Brandon Bell & Matt Brewer**

**Please see Front Page for TODAY’S Event (s) . . .**

### ***January Calendar . . .***

**1—Office will be Closed**

**1—Monday Night for the Master will NOT meet**

**3—Primetimers’ Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet  
at 10:30**

**8—Monday Night for the Master will meet at 6:00 in the  
Fellowship Area**

**10—Primetimers’ Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet  
at 10:30**

**11—Daughters of Ruth will meet at 9:30 in the Fellowship Area**

**15—Monday Night for the Master will meet at 6:00 in the  
Fellowship Area**

**17—Primetimers’ Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet  
at 10:30**

**22—Monday Night for the Master will meet at 6:00 in the  
Fellowship Area**

**24—Primetimers’ Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet  
at 10:30**

**29—Monday Night for the Master will meet at 6:00 in the  
Fellowship Area**

**31—Primetimers’ Wednesday Morning Bible Study will meet  
at 10:30**

**Beltline Recovery and Support Group Meetings . . .  
Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 pm**

### ***Beltline Youth Ministry News . . .***

**See Front Page for Today’s Events**

**Dates to Remember . . .**

**JANUARY**

**7—Flint Worship Tour**

**12-15—GULF Youth Conference**

**Please check your “Group Me” for information and other**

## **Suggestions for a New Year**

As we think about this New Year, there are things that we need to remember to have a good year. The decisions and choices we make will determine the kind of year we can have. Therefore, let’s notice some suggestions that will help us to have a good year.

### **Apologize when we do wrong.**

The three words, “I am sorry” are difficult to say for those filled with pride. If you would, think of the relationships, homes and even congregations that have been destroyed because one who has committed sin, will not humble himself to repent (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17; Luke 17:3-4).

### **Accept good advice.**

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly. . . But his delight is in the law of the Lord” (Psa. 1:1-2). “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15). Now, certainly we must be able to distinguish between foolish and wise counsel.

### **Avoid conforming to the world.**

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed . . .” (Romans 12:2). We must all come to terms that the world is out to mold and shape us into that which the Lord does not want. Thus, when one begins to “love” the world and “live” like the world, we are unable to have a “good year” spiritually (1 John 2:15-17).

### **Act only after thinking.**

Some of the greatest problems we have in this life have been brought upon ourselves because we forgot to stop and think before we acted or spoke. Therefore, we need to “taste” our words and “weigh” the consequences of our actions before we speak and react (Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 4:29; Galatians 5:19-21).

### **Adhere to the Word of God.**

God has given us, through His Word, that which we need in this life (2 Peter 1:3). Hence, it is the Scriptures that provide and is profitable for our spiritual well-being (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, as we apply the Word of God to our lives, we are providing the means by which we can have a “good year” and ultimately a home in Heaven.

### **Appreciate God.**

Without God in our lives it is impossible to have a “good year” as He desires and demands. Thus, if we do appreciate and reverence God as we should, then it will be seen in our life (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

*~Via Robert Notgrass*

### ***Ladies!!***

**We Supply Snacks for the Decatur Morgan Hospital’s Mammography Center—**

Your snacks (i.e. Cheese Crackers, Peanuts, Rice Krispie Treats, Granola Bars, Peanut Butter Crackers, etc.) can be dropped in the basket in the foyer. We will also accept monetary donations. Contact Beverly Ashby at 256-466-5924 with any questions.

*~Justo*

***Beltline Iglesia de Cristo***



**GREETERS**  
Dec. 31, 2023  
Lobby Entrance  
Danny Grissom  
Fran Grissom  
Peg Roach  
Robin Fortner

**GREETERS**  
Jan. 7, 2023  
Lobby Entrance

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**  
Dec. 31, 2023- AM Worship  
**Infant Nursery - 205**

No Attendants  
**Cradle Roll 204**  
Linda Heard  
Connie Pritchard  
**Toddler - 207**  
Katie Shell  
Kristen Swinea

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**  
Jan. 7, 2023 - AM Worship  
**Infant Nursery 205**

No Attendants  
**Cradle Roll 204**  
Phyllis Brewer  
Shirley Hill  
**Toddler - 207**  
April Gwin  
Amy Orman

**Ministers:**

Pulpit : Steve Smith  
Hispanic: Justo Dorantes  
Connections: Trae Durden  
Youth: Sam Welsh  
Worship: Matt Parker  
Young Adults: Taylor Sasser

**Times of Services:**

Sunday  
Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.  
Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
Evening - 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.  
**Wife: Beltline Guest Portal**  
Password: beltline

**2159 Beltline Road, S.W.—Decatur, Alabama 35601**  
E-mail: [office@beltlinechurchofchrist.org](mailto:office@beltlinechurchofchrist.org) Phone: (256) 353-1876  
Website: [www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org](http://www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org) Fax: (256) 353-7892

**REFLECTIONS for 2023**

**Our Attendance Last Week**

Worship (English)..... 662  
(Hispanic)..... 60  
Worship Total ..... 722  
Bible Study (E & H) .....  
Evening Worship .....  
Wednesday Evening (E & H) ... NC

**Our Growth**

Baptisms  
English/Hispanic..... 34/6  
WBS/Cuba..... 33/107  
Requested Prayers-English ..... 45  
Now Worshipping with Us-  
English/Hispanic ..... 38/6

**Our Giving Last Week**

Contribution.....\$71,876.16 Average.....\$40,198.23  
Budget.....\$40,856 .00

**ONLINE GIVING**

You can make your contributions by using the **PushPay** App or by going to: [www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org](http://www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org)  
**ONLINE GIVING TAB.** You can use your DEBIT CARD, CREDIT CARD or E-CHECK

**BY MAIL:** 2159 Beltline Road, SW—Decatur, AL 35601

**Lonnie Jones** offers **Counseling Service** to our Beltline Members.  
Contact information— Phone : 256-882-9799;

E-mail: [lonjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:lonjones@bellsouth.net)

**Angie Speegle** offers **Alzheimers/Dementia Service.** Contact information Phone : 256-476-4328; E-mail: [angiespeegle@gmail.com](mailto:angiespeegle@gmail.com)  
**Beltline Recovery Meetings:** Tuesdays & Thursdays at 7:00 pm



**WORLD  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

For more  
information  
call Danny or  
Deborah Truitt

**rightnow MEDIA**

**RightNow Media Access**—The QR code gives you access to the biggest video Bible study library in the world! It is provided free of charge to anyone who would like access from the Beltline church of Christ.

Just scan it into your phone, create your account and begin to enjoy tons of spiritually uplifting content. Including a KIDS section with hours of fun learning! We hope you will use this valuable resource and share it with others.



**Online Worship Services . . .**

We are live streaming our services through our web site and YouTube. The morning service will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the evening service will begin at 5:30 p.m.

If you are unable to watch at 10:00, you will be able to watch later that day if you search for Beltline Church of Christ on YouTube. It will be posted on the web site later in the week.

**Sunday Morning Classes . . .**

**Infant Nursery**—Room 205 (Not attended)  
**Cradle Roll**—Room 204  
**Toddler**—Room 207  
**Two Year Old**—305  
**Three Year Old**—306  
**Four Year Old**—311  
**Faith Boulevard**—Education Building—Small Auditorium  
**Middle School/High School**—Rooms 502-508  
**College Age/Young Adults**—Room 115  
**C.O.O.L.**—Room 501  
**C.R.E.W.**—Room 401  
**L.I.F.E.**—Room 402  
**Abundance**—Room 408  
**Seekers**—Fireside Room  
**S.A.L.T.**—Room 323  
**Cornerstone**—Rooms 317/318  
**WBS**—Rooms 113/114  
**Spanish Speaking**—Rooms 319/320

**Wednesday Morning Class . . .**

Meets at 10:30 in Room 206

**Wednesday Evening Classes . . .**

**It Starts at Home**—Trae Durden & Sam Welsh—  
Fellowship Area of the Service Center  
**Acapella Heritage/Singing & Praise**—Matt Parker—  
Overflow Room 408  
**Esther**—Patrick Swinea & Wayne Speegle—Room 401/402  
**Ladies Class**—Julie Huisman—Fireside Room  
**Young Adults** (Ages 18-25)—Taylor Sasser—Room 115  
**World Bible School**—Danny Truitt—Room 113  
**Spanish Speaking**—Rooms 319/320

**Need a Ride to our Services . . .**

Please call the following phone number and leave a message with your name and phone number. The bus driver will get in contact with you. (256) 274-3007

**Area Events . . .**

**Beginning JAN 8—Have you considered fostering or even volunteering to help kids in need?** Childhaven is conducting the required training beginning January 8th at 6 pm at Hartselle Church of Christ. This is a 10 week course that is good for 5 years. Please contact Madison Hayes if you are interested or if you have any questions.

**FEB 14-18—Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat—Climbing to Greater Heights Together**—Hosts: Midway Church of Christ, Jasper, AL.—This is a couples-only retreat for married couples of all ages.—Registration is \$99 per couple. (on site registration fee is \$110 per Couple) register at [smokymountainmarriage.com](http://smokymountainmarriage.com). For more information, call 1-877-338-3397.

**EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE at FLINT CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
begins at 7:45

## *Birthdays:*

*January 4,*

*Dan Cunningham  
Sherman Morris  
Evie Ohnemus  
Joe Prince*

*January 7,*

*Thomas Griffin  
Keith Laney*

*January 8,*

*Cristi Baxley  
Freda Fuller  
Larry Hunkapillar  
Thea Ohnemus*

*January 9,*

*Aquarius Bell  
Haley McInnis*

*January 10,*

*Andrea George  
Billy Miles  
Cora Sue Morgan*

## **SHUT-IN MEMBERS**

**Leah Favors** Room 8 at River City Healthcare Facility (1350 14th Ave., SE—35601)

**Janice Holder** (Country Cottage, 2515 Old Moulton Rd., SW—35603)

**Steve McRight** (West Minster Assisted Living , Apt. 110)

**Ann McWhorter** (1611 Cedar St., SW-35601)

**Elise Means** (2821 Sandlin Road, SW, Apt. 3C—35603)

**Mildred Wright** (1715 Iris St., SW—35601)

## **Continue to remember:**

**Harry & Georgia Hames** (1814 Eastmead Ave., SE—35601); **Jean Chittam**, mother of Don; **Linda Webster**, mother of Denise Richardson (130 Victoria Circle, SE—35603); **Chloe James**, 6-month-old granddaughter of Beth James at Adventureland and niece of Nan Walden (parents: Chris and Alison James-1199 Co. Rd. 358, Trinity-35673); **Randy Jackson**, cousin of Hattie Hampton (4025 Sprint Ave., SW—35603); **Nell Dixon**, mother of Brandon (106 Alexander Village Place, Florence-35634); **Frances Pounders**, mother of Cecil, is now in El Reposo Nursing Facility in Florence; **Charlie Parsons** (111 Gordon Drive, Madison—35758); **Jerry Fagan** (452 S. Mountain Drive, Trinity—35673); **Vicki Shelton**, friend of Jennifer Chandler, has lung cancer. (2004 County Park Road, Scottsboro—35769); **Melody Feekes**, daughter of Dino Roussos, has breast cancer. (3718 Voltaire Drive, Frisco, TX—75033); **Leah Trammell**, daughter of Linda Wallace, **James Morgan**, brother of Joe; **Lawanda Savage**, relative of Hildreth Lyle; **Jeffrey Camp**, cousin of Steve Harris (220 Henderson Lane Talladega—35160); **Beulah Glenn**, mother of Rayburn, is having health issues; **Chris Draper**, half brother of Matthew & Meghan Letson; **Harry Smith**, husband of Jane (4601 Pine Ridge Circle, SE—35603); **Meghan Hill** (3542 Chula Vista Drive, SW—35603); **Joe Betterton, Sr.**, father of Joe (1444 2nd Ave., NE, Arab—35016); **David Osborn**, relative of Angela Free (2158 Co. Rd. 362, Trinity—35673); **Daniel Roberts**, nephew of Donna Zahnd (2041 Derbyshire Drive, Macon, GA 31216); **Betty Perry**, sister-in-law of Doris Webster (209 N. Pine, Brewton—36426); **Jason Cartee**, brother-in-law of Kristy Suggs (2025 Co. Rd. 227, Moulton—35650); **Don Latham**, brother of Judy Voss (493 Cochran Drive, Norcross, GA—30071); **Mike McCollum**, husband of Joan.