

When We meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Small Groups 6pm

Wednesday:

Bible Study 6:30pm

Contact Us:

Office— 9a-1p M-F

270-825-0304

pennyrilecoc@gmail.com

P.O. Box 161, Madisonville, KY
42431

Minister: Sean Niestrath

269-352-9134

sean.niestrath@outlook.com

Welcome Guests! Please
scan the QR code or fill
out our Connection
Card-**Red Folder** . Let us
know how we can help.



Today!- Children's Church, Rm 108

Tonight!- No Singing Class, Resumes Jan 4th

Tomorrow! -Walking Group, 8:30 am

-Women's Prayer Group, 10:00 am

Dec 31— Game Night, Fellowship Hall after services

- Finger foods & snacks - **All Ages Welcome!!**

Jan 5— Ministry Meeting, 7:00 pm, Ladies Classroom

-Focus on Worship

(all events happening at the building unless otherwise noted.)



Dec 31— Game night

-after services

Contact **Jon**—270-635-1029 or

Jared—270-841-8542 for more info.



Today!!- Emma Jean Scott

Dec 29— Tyler Malik

Jan 2— Gaye Matheny

Jan 2— Joshua & Megan

Scott

Sermon Notes



Church of Christ

Dec 28, 2025

A Steward of God's Grace

(Ephesians 3:1-13)

I had a conversation with someone a couple of years ago about how he became a Christian. He grew up in a small town not three blocks from a church. He had friends that went there, but he never went, other than a couple of VBS events. As an adult, when he came across a group of people rebuilding a house after a natural disaster, he asked if he could join them. They were glad to have his help. He learned that they were Christians. Odd as it may seem, it had never occurred to him that Christians often put their faith into action. He was not convinced by their doctrine about God, he was convinced by their doctrine about how God says we should live our lives.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Ephesian (and surrounding) churches, takes a diversion from what he is telling them to remind them of the cost to him, personally, of preaching to them. Later, in the letter, he tells them that they are in a battle with “rulers, principalities, and powers of darkness and spiritual forces.” (6:18). It is to these that the wisdom of God is to be seen in the unity of all people through the good news of Christ. In this diversion, he also returns to the idea of God's “eternal purpose.” (3:11) He then drives home his point by returning to where he began – he is a prisoner for the sake of the gospel. They are not to be discouraged because of what has happened to him.

In this text in Ephesians, Paul tells us that the mystery was made known to him by revelation. This is remarkable, given that he was a Pharisee and likely knew the Law and the Prophets better than anyone alive today. The problem was not his knowledge; it was his perspective. It took the risen Jesus appearing to him to change that perspective. The divine mystery was revealed to him and he was given grace. But the grace given to him was not the end of a process, it was the beginning. He says he was given administration of God's grace for the sake of the gentiles.

No doubt Paul understood what it was like to overcome the pressure that the world (principalities and powers) put on him to keep himself pure and away from gentiles. To understand how difficult this was, keep in mind that even after seeing the risen Jesus, being struck blind, being taught, and receiving his sight, it took well over a decade before he started writing to churches.

I think there is something powerful for us to consider here. The church is given to the world to show the power of God's grace. To show that peace and unity are possible among all people. Think how much there is to overcome when a southern white conservative meets an indigenous person on the reservation. The grace that we have been given, then, is not for us. It is for those who have not yet received it. Grace that gets stuck in the life of the person who has received it will turn into a mutation of self-serving and self-righteousness that God never intended.

It is when we begin to work with the grace that has been poured on us in service to others that the wisdom of God is seen by a world that is constantly threatening to pull human beings apart from every direction. Sacrifice and suffering for the sake of others is part of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

WELCOME TO church



Children's Song

Cong. Reading: Psalm 67: 1-4

Christ For The Word We Sing

He Whispers Sweet Peace To Me

Prayer— Keith Tapp

Prince of Peace (You Are Holy)

Lamb of God

Lord's Supper

Presiding LS: Jon Stubblefield

Serving: LS: Terry Hampton,

Larry Stone Micah Bridgman

Daniel Davis Ishmael Almon

Prince of Peace, Contact My Will

Contribution

Dismiss Children's Church

Just As I Am (I Come Broken)

Scripture: Ephesians 3: 1-6 Chason S

Prayer— Brock Shoulders

Lesson— Sean Nistrath

Prepare to Meet Thy God

Benediction: Psalm 57: 1-3

The Grace

TODAY—

Call to Worship: Dan Rust

Song Leader: Eric Seesengood

Monitor: Kellie Duggin

Children's Church: Webb/Em/Bert

Sound Booth: David Stubblefield

NEXT WEEK—

Call to Worship: Barry Webb

Song Leader: Josh Lupo

Prayers: Roger Matheny/Eric Seesengood

Scripture: Darin Swaidner

Monitor: Kenneth Ashby

Children's Church: None

Sound booth: Zach Pressley

Presiding LS: Roger Dillingham

Serving LS: Jared Jones, Jeff Phillips,
Landon Duggin, Chason Shoulders, Ezra Bridgman

Alternates for January:

Terry Hampton Dan Rust

Communion Prep: Hamptons

For the Record

Last Sunday:

Bible Class— 62

Worship— 113

Contribution— \$4,420.10

Wednesday— 0



Announcements:

Overcoming Anxiety Class: Starts Next Sunday!!, 9:30 am

Room 103: *Elizabeth Webb*

Books: *Anxious for Nothing & You'll Get Through This* By: *Max Lucado*

Potter Children's Home: Collecting money in the office for church donation

New to Bulletin Board: Thank you cards for the Christmas baskets

Elders:

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Byron Pruitt (270) 841-7518

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Deacons:

Brock Shoulders,

Buster Almon,

Darin Swaidner,

David Stubblefield,

Jeremy Duggin,

Steve Stoltz,

Tim Teel,

Zach Pressley

Missionaries/Missions

Paolo Mirabelli— Rome, Italy

mirabellipaolo1gmail.com

Marvin Rivera— Tegucigalpa, Honduras

marvinrivera1985@gmail.com

Watata, Kenya



Deborah Ashby, recovering at home from knee replacement

Michael Oglesby, (Jane's cousin) recovering at home from surgery

Cody Givens, recovering from mining accident at Deaconess Midtown

Ongoing Health Concerns and Prayer:

Diana Adams, Dexter & Kathy Black, Suzette Mooney, Sherry Rushing, Jim Miller, Sister Josephine, Judy Horn, Barbara Lynch, Lisa & Emmy Dunlap, Wyatt Brown, Christy Estrada, Jon Phillips, Dennis Warszona, Jama Doc, Alberta Rust, Rebecca Nistrath, Karen Wilkerson, Benson Holmes, Lauren Turley, Alexis Coats, Linda Smith

Sunday 6pm, When God Gets Angry At The Rich, James 5: 1-6, Terry