



### The Not So Natural Act of Forgiveness

We have likely all been hurt by the actions of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. You have likely hurt someone else by your actions, either intentionally or unintentionally. When we get our feelings hurt or have been harmed by the actions of others, forgiveness is a real challenge. Jesus understood how hard it is to forgive and bless your enemy. In fact, Jesus quoted: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" The natural thing is to love your friends and show loyalty to them, and you hate your enemies.

For the most part, forgiveness as we know it did not exist in ancient Greece and Rome. John Ortberg pointed out that the ancients had various means to appease anger and reestablish relationships, but those means were dictated more by standards of honor, status, and shame than by sin, atonement and grace. So, the motto of the day in ancient times and still today is: help your friends and harm your enemies. Jesus said something different: "I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:43-45).

When it comes to forgiving people, I often get the question: "Am I expected to forgive someone who is unrepentant?" Well, forgiveness is different from reconciliation. Forgiveness is the process of letting go of my right to hurt you back. It doesn't mean we are best friends with complete trust. Reconciliation requires both parties who sincerely want to come back into relationship.

Ultimately, both forgiveness and reconciliation boils down to love. We are commanded to love both the repentant person who hurt me as well as the unrepentant person who hurt me. Listen to what Jesus said: "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much!" (Luke 6:32-33).

As humans, we tend to divide the world up into an "us vs. them" mentality. Jesus came for all sides. On the cross, Jesus didn't attack or condemn his accusers and executioners; instead, he prayed, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they are doing." Jews and Samaritans had a long history of hatred for each other, yet Jesus treated the Samaritans with amazing love. Jesus didn't just love people from his side of the tracks. He loved people from the other side too. Jesus miraculously fed both the Jews and the Gentiles (Mark 6 and 8). There is a story found in all four gospels during the arrest of Jesus. Peter pulled out his sword and aims for the head of Malchus, the servant of the High Priest. Malchus ducks and it removes his ear. Jesus picks the bloody ear up and puts it back in place. Imagine the shock of Malchus. The guy whom he came to help arrest healed him. Why would Jesus do that? Because Jesus loved even him. Jesus demonstrated that we don't have to be ugly towards others to solve our problems. There is the Jesus way. The way of love. The not so natural way of forgiveness. Jesus followers should take his lead and do the same. What a much-needed testimony this would make for the Kingdom of God.

August 23, 2020  
Vol. 51 No. 34

Mark



We continue to have our **Sunday** night Bible study at 6 p.m. and **Wednesday** night Bible study at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

# Arlington Church of Christ



### Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

2206 Tecoma Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
865-523-1764

Website: [www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org](http://www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org)



Find us on: **facebook**  
Arlington Friends  
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

### Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted as we join together in worship.

*Stephen and Grace Brackney will have their renewing of vows for family and friends in Halls at Heartland Meadows, 5428 Salem Church Road, Knoxville 37938, this afternoon at 2 p.m.*



*Patrick Mead is scheduled to be at Arlington Sunday thru Wednesday, Oct. 25-28. More details to come.*



# THANK YOU

FOR PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING!

## Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and  
inform the Family of God

Sunday, August 23, 2020

### Elders

Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376  
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424  
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713  
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517  
Gregg Summers Ph: 223-4515

### Deacons

Jason McDougal - YPYF/Vacation Bible School  
Bud Norris - Worship Participants  
Keith Tatum - Education/Picture Board/Family Camp  
Ronnie Weldon - Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg

**Minister:** Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

**Secretaries:** Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

**Missionaries:** Tom & Angie Langley - WEI  
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

### SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY

9:00

Opening Prayer	Danny Davis
Communion	Dann Chapman
Security	Bill Gilliam
"	Randy Riggs

Happy Birthday!!

Aug 24 Cathy Gilliam  
Aug 26 Ava Thomas  
Aug 29 Peggy Mehlhorn



## Family Matters



We now have **two options for Sunday morning worship.**

We will have an early service at 9 a.m. and

a late service at 10:30 a.m. The 9 a.m. service will be live-streamed for those who are at home. We ask that those coming to the building wear a mask when entering and exiting as well as during the worship time.

The seating will be first come, first serve, so there will not be assigned seating. Every other row will be marked off and we ask people to keep six feet of space between their family unit and others where you sit. We appreciate your patience as we continue to make adjustments to aid our worship and time together. There is no nursery or children's Bible hour for now. All children will remain with their parents. A handout for children to take kid sermon notes along with a treat is located at the back of the auditorium where the communion is located. Please take an individual communion cup/wafer as you enter. A contribution box is also located there.



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Please add these address changes to your directory:

### Sue Donaldson:

Morning Pointe of Lenoir City  
Attn: Sue Donaldson  
155 Morning Pointe Drive, Room 301  
Lenoir City, TN 37772

### Lynda Elliott:

Lynda Elliott  
115 Fairbanks Road, Apt 214  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830



### Arlington Family:

Sandy Toney's daughter, Jessica, is recovering from surgery on a broken arm  
Tina McDougal lost her job with Stein Mart  
Ronnie Weldon waiting on test results  
Judy Baker is having back pain  
John & Laura Burka  
Rick Case  
Ben Cavin  
Tina Childress  
Frank and Teresa Combs  
Joe Croteau  
Danny & Deborah Davis  
Tom Drinnen  
Laurie Duncan  
Jerry Fittro  
John Hoff  
Becky Johnson  
Bill Langley  
Heather Percell  
Marge Percell  
Bill Pruett  
Danny Rider  
Terri Trent  
Shirley Waggoner

### Missionaries:

Tom & Angie Langley  
Tommy Drinnen

### Shut Ins:

Rosaline Davis	Katheryn Norman
Lynda Elliott	Dan Trent
Doris Hightower	Peggy Mehlhorn

### Friends and Family:

Doug Braunstein, homeless, pray for a place to live  
Lauren & Michael Duggin's 7 yr old daughter, Emery, broke her leg last week  
Joyce Sanders' grand daughter, Taylor Helms, is expecting a baby boy, who has a hole in his heart  
John and Bernice Lowery, relatives of Becky Johnson, battling health problems  
Becky Johnson's friend, Doris Berry  
Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law starting stronger chemo treatment  
Bob Campbell's sister, Kathy, with cancer  
Betty Weaver's son, John Nipper  
Ada Shannon's sister, Shorty, and her husband  
Ben Ream's neighbor, James Childress  
Bernice Borg's mother, Sue Brady  
Joe Turnbull's brother, John  
Diana Yarborough's friend, Jason Hibbert  
Carolyn Stanton-Hill's brother-in-law, Danny Cyphers  
Mark's niece, Katelyn Hargrave  
Heather Ream's mom  
Jerry Brackney  
Michael Maddox  
Faith Tindell  
Paul Phelps  
David Hunter  
Deb and Rob Colones  
Aleta Esau's grandson, Aiden  
Earl Werkheiser  
Merrick Hermann  
Amanda Taylor on chemo  
Laura Owens father  
Chris Wentworth battling cancer  
Edith Weldon's sister-in-law's niece, Trisha  
Tina Childress' niece, Calli Byrd  
Tina McDougal's dad  
Troy Butler