

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

December 31, 2017

DON'T JUST CELEBRATE...IMITATE!

I can still remember my dad standing there, coat on and hat in hand on Christmas afternoon asking me, “Joe, do you want to come with me?” His question made me uncomfortable because I knew I should say yes, but being deep into playing with my Christmas presents, going with him was not my idea of a great way to spend Christmas afternoon.

My idea of Christmas was a time to celebrate Christ’s birth by giving and getting gifts, eating some of Mom’s all-time best cooking, and lots of play time with my new toys!

My dad liked all that kind of stuff too. But every year he had something else in mind. He knew that Christmas was more than a celebration of Christ’s birth. For him, the spirit of Christmas had a deeper meaning. He knew that the highest form of honoring Jesus is more than celebration—it’s imitation.

In fact, seeing Christmas as merely celebration can have a selfish bent to it. It can end up being primarily about days off from work, parties, family, friends, games, football, gifts, and lots of great food. But imitation—not celebration—pays a higher compliment to the one whose life we celebrate.

For Jesus, Christmas was not warm, convenient, or comfortable. In our modern-day materialized blur of Christmas, we must keep reminding ourselves that the birth of Jesus put into motion the central act of God’s redemptive plan, and it came at a cost. Not only did

Jesus temporarily relinquish the glorious privileges of heaven, He ultimately gave His life on a blood-stained cross where His sinless body bore the weight of my sin—and yours. Jesus presented our world with a costly redemptive gift. Which is precisely why my dad was on his way out the front door.

His mission? To visit an elderly widow who lived down the street. With no children and no family, she spent every holiday alone. And every Christmas my dad, in the midst of celebration, gave the gift of himself, sharing a few moments of companionship to help ease her lonely heart.

I learned a valuable lesson from my dad. Around all of our lives there are people who long for a touch from heaven through some caring, even sacrificial, act of love on their behalf. Who are the people you could call on Christmas day? Check your party lists. Is there someone who will go nowhere if not invited by you?

Indelibly etched on my memory are those two or three times when I stood up from my toys, grabbed my coat, put my hand in Dad’s, and walked down the street to spend an hour imitating Christ’s gift of Himself.

This year, let’s do more than celebrate Christ. Let’s honor Him by imitating the grace of His selfless and sacrificial love for us.

Joe Stowell
getmorestrength.org

PRAY FOR...

Alley, Donna & family: struggles
Baker, Hailey: Maddie’s friend, broken jaw
Ballard, Sophie: Nikki’s niece, struggles
Black, Roger, Doug’s friend, stroke
Blier, Christina: health
Burna, Bonnie: Carl’s aunt, cancer
Buskey, Tonyea: Jackie’s sister, heart surgery
Cech, Terry: surgery to remove spots on bladder
Darling, Wendy: Carl & Cindy’s sister, broken ankle
Deeton, Mike: Katelyn’s friend, heart
Doner, Richard: Christian’s uncle, septic
Duprey, Karina: Earl’s niece, cancer
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Forette, Kevin: John’s friend, cancer
Jackson, Jessal: Amber’s friend’s daughter, leukemia
Kashorek, Lori: lung cancer and success of new treatment
Kaidyn and Nikki: sickness
Laramy, Paul : Steven’s brother, motorcycle accident
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John’s friends, health struggles
Lermineau, Sean: Carl’s relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L’s parents, health
Loss: two members of the Hogans’ extended family
McCoy, Donna: Melinda’s relative, health
Miller, Amber: great scan results and new job
Miller, Francis: Jody’s dad, tests
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia
Phillips, Cathy, Mary’s friend, struggles mother’s dementia
Provost, Emilie: raising Sorcha in the Lord
Spencer Carrie: Alfred’s niece, health
Stowe, Jack: health
Stapleton, Katelyn: struggles
Stowe, Kayonna: Nikki’s niece’s friend, cancer
Taylor, Robert Jr.: Nikki’s dad’s preacher friend, dying.
The Oasis Project
Ur: Chris’ friend, mother-in-law passed away
Waters, Scott: Eddie’s aide, biopsy
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers’ mother, health

“Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins.”

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office: 518-563-2970
www.plattsburghchurch.com

shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:

Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509

available: Fri 9-3 or by appt.

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 6:30 P.M.

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God's Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

Thank you to Rachel who spent a day working with our growing number of girls on a variety of topics throughout Thursday as part of her domestic mission requirement for OVU. As a Christian young woman who grew up in this very church, she was able to prepare the young ladies coming up behind her for the challenges of being a Christian in the North Country.



We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 6
Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Mission Moment.

•Please pray for all our mission works.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next one is snacks on our 5th Sunday movie/game night, New Year's Eve, 12/31.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: the next 1st Sunday breakfast is on 1/7/18 at 8 a.m.

The Oasis Project

The Oasis Project will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. For confidentiality reasons, if you are not vetted, please stay away from the church building during those hours. Thank you.

Doug's Devotional

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' ..." Luke 1:38

. After the shepherds left and spread the word about the Messiah's birth, Mary "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." She and Joseph marveled at Simeon and Anna's proclamations that the infant was man's salvation. They were astonished when they found the twelve year-old Son of God in His Father's house teaching the teachers. Yet, should they have been? Both Mary and the Word-made-flesh's step-dad had been visited by angels that had revealed Jesus' true Father and purpose for being born. Both accepted His explanation, and through Mary's statement we glimpse why God may have chosen her to serve in this unique way. But, perhaps like all of God's servants, even today, who are eager to do God's will, we may not understand at our baptism the plan that God has for us or what will be required. We, like all of us on the verge of a calendar year not yet entered, shake with expectation and anticipation for what God will bring about. Like Mary's, our job is to be willing clay in the hands of the Master Potter whom we trust to bring about His will. Are you willing?



Sundae Toppings

Today: 12/31, 5th Sunday; 5:30 p.m. snacks/movie/game night!

1/7, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
1/14, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
1/21, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
1/28, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal



Key Word Search

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m., 11a.m. 7 p.m.

In Search of the Lord's Ways: "Your Future"
Key to the Kingdom: "Amazing Grace"



2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 1-Genesis 1-5
Day 2-Genesis 6-10
Day 3-Genesis 11-15
Day 4-Genesis 16-20
Day 5-Genesis 21-25

If anyone would like a copy of the 30 Day Challenge (whole NT in a month!), or a Bible Highlights Reading Plan (significant passage per day), see Doug.



Mark Your Calendar

1/1, New Year's Day
1/4, Brownwood anniversary ('16)
1/5, Rachel ('06) and Patty ('12) birthdays in Christ
1/10, Carl's birthday
1/11, Silvia's birthday
1/12, Patty's birthday
1/20, Brant anniversary ('89); Steve P's birthday
1/20, Brant anniversary ('89); Steve P's birthday
1/28, Tim's birthday in Christ ('09)

Today: 12/31

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Carl
Song Leader: Garth
#300 "Praise Him! Praise Him!"
#221 "Jesus, Name Above All Names"
#287 "There Is a Redeemer"
Talk/bread prayer: Alfred
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Howard
Pass/collection prayer: Jim L
#324 "Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?"
Scripture Reading: Jim B - Luke 1:35-38
Lesson: Doug "As You Have Said"
#789 "Father"
Closing Song: Steven
#450 "Give Me The Bible"
Closing Prayer: Tyler
Subs: JBW, CC

Next Sunday: 1/7/18

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Alfred
Song Leader: Jim L
Talk/bread prayer: Carl
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Tyler
Pass/collection prayer: Howard
Scripture Reading: Chris - Colossians 1:10-14
Lesson: Doug "Live a Life Worthy"
Closing Song: Garth
Closing Prayer: Jim B

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning sign-up for this season is on the fridge. Taking a turn is appreciated & needed.
- the church's blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

Week of December 24

Bible Class	17
Morning Worship	28
Wed. Bible Class	16
Contribution	\$1,635.65
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00