

Church of Christ

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

March 4, 2018

UPSIDE DOWN TOAST

Have you ever made a piece of toast, slathered it with butter and strawberry jam, and just as you're about to take the first delicious bite, you drop it on the floor? I'm embarrassed to say this has happened to me more than once, and the toast inevitably lands facedown! Who wants upside-down toast for breakfast?

It may be a silly illustration, but it makes me think that we are like upside-down toast. We are fallen creatures, born with the DNA of hell. Our first instincts in most situations are usually wrong. Our responses are almost always self-serving. And it's not until God picks us up that we can begin to realize His lofty purposes and plans to turn our upside-down life right-side up.

In Matthew 4:1-21, we learn about the early days of Jesus' earthly ministry. His first sermon was simple: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 4:17). For hundreds of years, God's people had been "living in darkness . . . [in] the shadow of death" (Matthew 4:16). Jesus came to rescue them and us from our fallen, messed-up existence. What was the first step to recovery? You guessed it—repentance.

Repentance is not a "how to turn your life right-side up" method of self-improve-

ment. When Jesus pleaded repentance, He wasn't offering a good idea or a cool suggestion. It's important to keep in mind that the Greek word for "preach" in this text means "to herald," or to proclaim with authority. In the days before e-mail and Instant Messenger, a "herald" would travel from village to village to proclaim the king's edicts. The herald did not form discussion groups to poll the opinion of the people. Rather, he authoritatively proclaimed the message of the king.

None could be more authoritative than Jesus Himself. When the King of kings traveled through the villages preaching, His message came with the highest authority, and as such we would do well to take it seriously—to repent of our fallen ways and to yield our upside-down instincts to the right-side-up ways of His kingdom.

Repentance is never an enjoyable experience, but vulnerability is the key to victory. When we allow the Savior to pick us up and reveal the mess we've made of ourselves, it's only then that we can begin to live a useful, productive life that brings pleasure to our heavenly Father.

You may be like upside-down toast, but the good news is in Jesus Christ you don't have to stay that way!

Joe Stowell
getmorestrength.org

PRAY FOR...

Alley, Donna & family: struggles
Ballard, Nikki: struggles with moving
Ballard, Sophie: Nikki's niece, struggles
Bennett, Jim: health
Bickford, Eddie: surgery reschedules to 3/8
Bier, Christina: health and struggles
Brownwood, Donna: Melinda's relative, health
Burna, Bonnie: Carl's aunt, cancer
Buskey, Tonyea: Jackie's sister, heart surgery
Carter, Kelly: Melinda's co-worker, cancer
Cech, Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles
Darling, Wendy: Carl & Cindy's sister, broken ankle
Deeton, Mike: Katelyn's friend, heart
Duprey, Karina: Earl's niece, cancer
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Forette, Kevin: John's friend, cancer
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer
Jackson, Jessah: Amber's friend's daughter, leukemia
Kashorek, Lori: new treatment options for lung cancer
Laramy, Paul : Steven's brother, motorcycle accident
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John's friends, health struggles
Lernineau, Sean: Carl's relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L's parents, health
Loss: friends & family of Mark Stone, Helen Lavigne, and David Dodson
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia
Phillips, Florence: in nursing home
Richardson, Elizabeth:Eddie's sister, healths
Spencer Carrie: Alfred's niece, health
Stapleton, Katelyn: struggles
Stowe, Kayonna: Nikki's niece's friend, cancer
Stoffregen, Orton: Katelyn's friend's baby, health
Taylor, Robert Jr.: Nikki's dad's preacher friend, dying.
The Oasis Project
Underwood Residents: flooded housing
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 everyone who helped with the youth activity yesterday! So great to build our group.



•we may have an intern for a week sometime before Camp Hunt starts, who will be a counselor there.

•pray for Patrick, a native preacher in Malawi, who is enduring tough growing conditions and a theft.

•please let Chris know if you're wanting to go to CT for the Church Growth Conference on 3/9-10 for the

Mission Moment.

•Please pray for all our mission works.

We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:

Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 8

Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next 4th Sunday meal is 3/25 after morning service. Please invite a friend and bring a dish to pass.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: the next 1st Sunday breakfast is on 4/8 at 8 a.m. (Shifted because of Easter).

Magi Box Time

See Mary for the list of items to gather for the M.A.G.I. boxes. The boxes should be available by March 18.

Doug's Devotional

"Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. 'By what authority are you doing these things?' they asked. 'And who gave you this authority?'" Matthew 21:23.

One of my students at a secular college once tried to argue in a paper with the question, "What gives God the right ...?" I told her that if she was going to refute God, she needed to prove that He wasn't the sovereign Creator who did not have the right to establish His creation how He wanted to. She chose a different argument. God has all authority. After the cross and His resurrection, Jesus said that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to Him. With His authority, we who are baptized into Him, are to "go and make disciples ... teaching them everything [He has] commanded." To know what to teach, the Holy Spirit brought men into all truth and carried them along to record His inspired Word. For a while, that authority entrusted to us was in spoken and written forms and confirmed by various gifts, but by the end of the 1st Century, we had His completed Word that thoroughly equips us written. What are you doing with His Word?

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.



Sundae Toppings

Today: 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
3/11, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
3/18, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
3/25, 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:
"Without God"

Key to the Kingdom:
"The Kindness of a King"



2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 64-Judges 15-19

Day 65-Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-3

Day 66-Ruth 4; 1 Samuel 1-4

Day 67- 1 Samuel 5-9

Day 68- 1 Samuel 10-14

Don't quit. Recommit!

Mark Your Calendar



3/9-10, Church Growth Conference in CT
3/11, Start of Daylight Savings Time
3/13, Donna's birthday in Christ ('11)
3/14-20, Mary Cl. is traveling
3/24, Mary Ch's birthday
3/26, Donna's birthday
3/27, Shirley's birthday
3/29, Miller anniversary ('08)
3/30, Nick's birthday;
Eddie's birthday in Christ ('08)
3/31, Crump anniversary ('17)
4/29, 3-6 p.m. Spring Sing (here)

Today:3/4

Announcements: John
Opening Prayer: Alfred
Song Leader: Tyler
#705, "A Common Love"
#959, "Just a Little Talk with Jesus"
#718, "We Shall Assemble"
Talk/bread prayer: Carl
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Howard
Pass/collection prayer: Steven
#96, "I Stand in Awe"
Scripture Reading: Jim L - Matthew 21:23-27
Lesson: Doug "By What Authority"
#869, "We're Marching to Zion"
Closing Song: Chris
#76, "How Great Thou Art"
Closing Prayer: Anthony
Subs: GH, DK, JB

Next Sunday: 3/11

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Chris
Song Leader: John
Talk/bread prayer: Garth
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Jim B
Pass/collection prayer: Carl
Scripture Reading: Steven - Luke 7:20-23
Lesson: Doug "What You Have Seen and Heard"
Closing Song: Tyler
Closing Prayer: Howard

Week of February 25

Bible Class	22
Morning Worship	22
Wed. Bible Class	13
Contribution	\$520.00
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00

January→February Averages; 1 Year Ago

Sun. Bible Class Ave.	24→ 23; 20
Sun. AM Worship Ave.	32→ 32; 31
Wed. Bible Class Ave.	12→ 12; 12
Weekly Contribution Ave.	\$621.70→ \$610.49;\$588.53
Yearly Contribution Ave. (26 weeks)	\$671.76