

Church of Christ

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

November 11, 2018

PILGRIMAGE TOWARD INTIMACY

Several years ago, as I passed the fifty mark on the calendar of my life, I discovered a new and distinct desire to go deeper and pursue God more intentionally than ever before. I had dreamed a lot of dreams and seen many of them materialize. God, for reasons best known to Him, had been abundantly good to me. But after all those years of fast-paced busyness for Him and of conquering frontiers that loomed large in front of me, I found that beyond and under it all I still had a yearning in the core of my being that kept drawing my attention back to God.

I had given God my best years and maximized my energies for Him, but busyness had not drawn me closer to Him. I discovered that, in some ways, busyness creates a false and treacherous sense of spirituality that leads to the assumption that spirituality is a performance and that intimacy with God is a business arrangement. It creates a flat and dull sort of Christianity that can begin to turn our hearts cold and even sour if we're not careful.

I am awakening to the reality that we do ourselves no favors when we act and live as though Christianity were a stage on which we perform as if there were no deep need for an intimate relationship with the One who is the focus of our activity.

I have begun to sense as well that in the abundance of God's goodness to me, I am prone to lose touch with the reality of how much I need Him. I know I need Him—my problem is that I find it easy to lose touch with the reality and ramifications

of that knowledge. Early on in my life and ministry, my sense of need was apparent. I earned less than needed to meet my family's expenses. Without God's gracious, over-and-above financial provision, my family would not have made it. We needed Him. My insecurities as a minister and public figure also kept me very much aware of how much I needed Him. Each new church I shepherded challenged my sense of self-sufficiency.

When we forget that we need Him, our Christianity becomes little more than a task maintained by responsibilities and requirements. God really doesn't need to do much for us. We are pretty well set. While we count on Him for the big things—redemption, bailing us out if life goes in the ditch—we miss the pleasure and wonder of needing Him and being in touch with His presence and power that alone can satisfy, sustain, and secure us as an ongoing experience of life.

While my life has not been without God in some ways, it has been a life that has yet to cultivate the kind of adoring dependency that is required to experience Him most fully and to be most powerfully used of Him.

It's not that I haven't felt His touch. I have—in some very special ways. In fact, those periodic brushes with His wonderful reality are part of what drives me to live in the constancy of His touch. And it's not that I haven't loved Him. I do. It's that I stand ready and wanting to know Him in a more personal and intimate way. I am hearing the longing of my soul for more of Him.

I want to go deeper with God. Want to come along?

Joe Stowell
getmorestrength.org

PRAY FOR...

Bailey, Susan: Jim B's friend-struggles
Baker, Helen: Melinda's mother, health
Bennett, Jim: health
Boula, Pat: Chris C's friend-heart valve replacement
Brownwood, John: struggles
Burna, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy's cousin, cancer
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles
Conley, Annie May, Mary's sister in TX, in hospital
Darling, Wendy: rehab and health struggles
Dashnaw, Justin: rehab following surgery
Elders, Alfred and Doug
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer
Hemingway, David: struggles
Kashorek, Lori: healing~non-chemo cancer treatment
Lapier, Lisa: Patty's neighbor, lung cancer
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John's friends, health struggles
Lermineau, Sean: Carl and Cindy's relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L's parents, health
Mariah's family: struggles
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Croatia, Malawi, Zambia
Nelson, Barb, Alex & Nick's grandmother, cancer
Sinclair, Sharon: treatments for cancer
Warrick, Oaklyn: 1 year-old, heart surgeries
West, Larry: Melinda's friend in CA, health
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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77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, Ny 12901
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www.plattsburghchurch.com

shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509

available: by appointment

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 ...

Today is Raking Day! We'll all get to work right after service and take a break to eat a quick & easy lunch. The items we're collecting for Thanksgiving Baskets is due next Sunday, 11/18, and we'll work during the family meeting to put them together. We've got a box for redeemable bottles to help raise money for a playground next spring. Total so far: \$1189.20. We're also collecting items for Thanksgiving Baskets and money to build a playground next spring. Thank you for your help.



We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John's class--Gospel of John (not him!)
Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: NO meal after morning service on November's 4th Sunday.
Men's Prayer Breakfast: our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 12/2 at 8 a.m.

Let's Do Why We Gathered

To help eliminate distractions during worship, the side door will be locked at 11:00 on Sunday mornings. We would ask that you're in the building by that time ready to worship and that bathroom breaks during service be kept to a minimum. Help be a good example for those around you by restricting the use of electronic devices to Bible apps.

Doug's Devotional

"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. ... Be always on the watch, and pray ... that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man" Luke 21:34-36.

Often we want to get wrapped up in the issues of whether Jesus is speaking about the end of the world or the destruction of the temple? Premillennialism or a rapture? The point is that we must watch and pray, so we are prepared. But prepared for what? Not the end of the world but to stand before the Son of Man. What may keep us from doing that? The answer is a scarily accurate depiction of life today. Our hearts may be weighed down with dissipation, which is a wasting from misuse of our talents and time. Drunkenness—terrible escapes from life. Or caught up in the anxieties of life! Life today has lots of those ... as well as more leisure time than any generation before ours, thanks to advances in every realm of life. Not using your time and talents for yourself, then, but for God's Kingdom instead would be one way to prepare. If the end was in this moment, could you stand before the Son of Man?

Sundae Toppings

Today: Raking Day
11/18, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
-Thanksgiving Baskets due
11/25, 12:30 p.m. NO Fellowship Meal
12/2, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast;
12/9, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time



Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- Roger plans to go to Malawi in December

2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 316-Romans 4-7
Day 317-Romans 8-11
Day 318-Romans 12-15
Day 319-Romans 16; 1 Co. 1-3
Day 320-1 Corinthians 4-7

After reading Acts, just let-ter rip!



Mark Your Calendar

11/11, Raking Day (after service)
11/19, Alfred & Maddie's birthdays
11/22, Thanksgiving
11/23, Elijah's birthday
11/30, Mary Cl's birthday

Thanksgiving Baskets



This week's item: **mayonaise or peanut butter/jelly**
Next week's item: **anything that you like for your dinner that hasn't been collected**

Today: 11/11

Announcements: Alfred
Opening Prayer: Tyler
Song Leader: Steven
#742 "When Upon Life's Billows"
#548 "The Lily of the Valley"
#678 "More About Jesus"
Talk/bread prayer: Garth
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Howard
Pass/collection prayer: Carl
Passer: Justin
#800 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
Scripture Reading: Jim L - Luke 21:34-36
Lesson: Doug "Stand Before the Son of God"
#904 "Have You Been to Jesus?"
Closing Song: Chris
#417 "Where He Leads I'll Follow"
Closing Prayer: Jim B
Subs: DK, JBW, MS

Next Sunday 11/18

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Jim B
Song Leader: Garth
Talk/bread prayer: Carl
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Chris
Pass/collection prayer: John
Passer: Michael
Scripture Reading: Alfred - Luke 22:19-21
Lesson: Doug "New Covenant in My Blood"
Closing Song: Steven
Closing Prayer: Tyler

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).

November 4

Bible Class	17
Morning Worship	31
Wed. Bible Class	
Contribution	\$891.91
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$625.00

