

# Church of Christ

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

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December 23, 2018

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## THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

We talk a lot about hope.

We hope the weather will be good for our family vacation. We hope that our favorite team will win the Super Bowl—or at least make it to the big game! We hope that we get just what we want for Christmas.

But for many of us, hope lacks a sense of certainty. It is more like a wish—something that we want to happen but have no way of knowing that it ultimately will. So we keep our fingers crossed and “hope” that everything will go the way we want it to.

The reality is that often life doesn’t turn out the way we hoped it would. Hope is a fragile commodity. When life is disappointing, our optimism is replaced by feelings of discouragement and hopelessness. Before long we run the risk of becoming cynics who believe that there is nothing in which we can confidently hope.

This was the landscape of life when Jesus entered the world. The prevailing mood of Israel was anything but hope. The once proud nation was now a puppet state of the pagan Roman Empire. The common person lived under the defeating burden of the exaggerated requirements of the religious establishment. Centuries before, they had been promised a

deliverer who would restore Israel to its former glory, but it had never happened.

Into this sense of cynical hopelessness, true Hope was born. But the tragedy of that first Christmas was that very few realized the hope that had been introduced. Hope for the forgiveness of sins. Hope for a bright future—forever. Hope for God’s presence and power in daily living. Hope that would enable us to forget the past and set our sights on stuff that doesn’t disappoint. A hope that, because of Jesus, is a certainty and not just another wish to be dashed on the rocks of reality.

I love the honesty of the psalmist who said, “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?” We’ve all been there. But let’s not stop there. Keep reading! “Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God” (Psalm 42:5). Rejoice that Jesus came to give you something better than the disappointments of life on planet earth. And when by faith you embrace Him and all that He promised, you can have a hope that is no longer a fingers-crossed wish that you harbor in your heart, but rather a confident, courageous optimism that is rooted in the certainty of His Word.

Pin your hopes on Jesus this Christmas—you won’t be disappointed!

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, health issues  
**Darling, Wendy:** rehab and health struggles  
**Dashnaw, Justin:** rehab following surgery  
**Elders:** Alfred and Doug  
**Gonyea, Louis:** Patty's brother, surgery in VT  
**Gruetzmacher, Dejean:** Donna's daughter, struggles  
**Hagen, Robert:** Carl & Cindy's brother, cancer  
**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  
**Carol Mapes:** Ellen's mother, cancer  
**Mariah:** struggles  
**Martin, Tina:** Chris' cousin, back surgery  
**Miller, Jody:** struggles  
**Missions:** Brazil, Croatia, Malawi, Zambia  
**Nelson, Barb:** Alex & Nick's grandmother, cancer  
**Stone, Melinda:** new challenges in CA  
**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  
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office: 518-563-2970  
[www.plattsburghchurch.com](http://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.

## 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 ...

As the new year approaches, what will you commit to to strengthen your relationship with God? Now's the time to think about it. Greater time in prayer? Service? How about to knowing God through knowing His Word? A new interactive Bible reading plan from WVBS is coming soon!



## 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.

## Munchie Moments

**Fellowship Meal:** NO meal after morning service on December's 4th Sunday. But, the 5th Sunday, 12/30, bring a snack for a game/movie night!  
**Men's Prayer Breakfast:** our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 1/6 at 8 a.m.

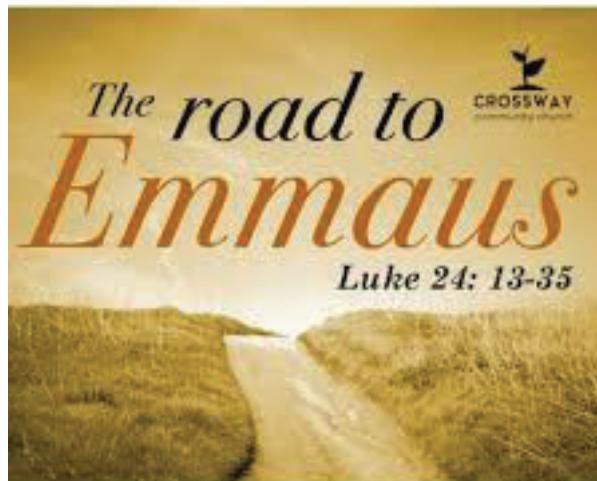
## Let's Do Why We Gathered

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

*"They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen ...'"* Luke 24:33-34.

These two had been in Jerusalem, had heard the strange news that Jesus had risen from the dead, and yet in their unbelief they left "that same day" for Emmaus. They walked along the road speaking about it all when Jesus incognito met them, had an incredible Bible study with them, and then revealed Himself through the breaking of bread. Their belief in the risen Lord made their return journey joyful and light. They were bursting with what they were now convinced was true. In this was the beginning of evangelism, edification, and benevolence. The resurrection should not just be studied as the event that occurred 2000 years ago. We trudge along discussing biblical things like we're undecided on the road to Emmaus, but true discipleship comes when the resurrection becomes real to us personally. With open eyes, we must recognize that Jesus conquered sin and death for us. Only then will we declare with a joyful heart, "It is true! The Lord has risen." Is Emmaus before or behind you?



## Sundae Toppings

**Today:** 12:30 p.m. NO Fellowship Meal  
12/30, 5 p.m. 5th Sunday snack and game/movie night  
1/6, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
1/13, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time  
1/20, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting



## Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- Pray for Roger's back from Malawi. Lots to share.
- Read Eddison's latest report from Brazil.

## 2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 358- Revelation 3-6  
Day 359- Revelation 7-10  
Day 360-Revelation 11-14  
Day 361-Revelation 15-18  
Day 362-Revelation 19-22

*After reading Acts, just let-ter rip!*



## Mark Your Calendar

12/25, Christmas  
12/29, Jim B's birthday  
12/31, Cech anniversary ('90)  
1/4, Brownwood anniversary ('16)  
1/10, Carl's birthday  
1/11, Silvia's birthday  
1/12, Patty's birthday  
1/20, Brant anniversary ('89)

## No Wednesday Winter

In the most weather and schedule adverse time of year, we are canceling Wednesday night Bible Classes through the Winter Quarter to resume in the spring. So, until next March, spend a little extra time midweek in prayer or the Word..or perhaps serving someone in need.

## Today: 12/23

Announcements: Alfred  
Opening Prayer: Tyler  
Song Leader: Steven  
#997, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
#867, "To Canaan's Land I'm on My Way"  
#396, "No Not One"  
Talk/bread prayer: Howard  
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Carl  
Pass/collection prayer: Chris  
Passer: Justin  
#538, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"  
Scripture Reading: John - Luke 24:30-35  
Lesson: Doug "It is True! The Lord has Risen"  
#934, "Softly and Tenderly"  
Closing Song: Jim L  
#346 "He Lives"  
Closing Prayer: Garth  
Subs: DK, JB

## Next Sunday 12/30

Announcements: Doug  
Opening Prayer: Carl  
Song Leader: Tyler  
Talk/bread prayer: Alfred  
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Howard  
Pass/collection prayer: Garth  
Passer: Justin  
Scripture Reading: Jim B - Acts 2:36-41  
Lesson: Doug "And There Were Added That Day"  
Closing Song: Steven  
Closing Prayer: Jim L

## 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).

## December 16

Bible Class	14
Morning Worship	25
Wed. Bible Class	-
Contribution	\$563.55
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$625.00