

Church of Christ

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

March 3, 2019

IMPROVING YOUR SERVE

One of the games my dad and I played when I was a teen was Ping-Pong. I played against my peers and generally won most games. But when I played my dad, he destroyed me every time. So, I practiced and I practiced and I practiced until one day we played each other and I finally won! He smiled and said, “Sam, I’ve been waiting for this day to come.” Now, as he said this I was thinking he was going to humbly accept his defeat. Not so much. Instead, he continued, “Now I want to play you using my left hand.” That’s when I realized; dad is left-handed. Ugh.

We played again, this time using his left hand, and he didn’t just destroy me; he left me baffled by the whole event. Not only did he beat me, but he played an entirely different style of game that included about nine new serves. I had become accustomed to the serves he conducted with his right hand and now he had nine different and even better serves with his left hand. Ugh.

Well, I’d like to go on and tell you how I traveled overseas to train with master Ping-Pong instructors, learned secret strategies, and mastered 11 unbeatable serves with either hand, but that didn’t happen. What happened is that I just kind of gave up. We haven’t played much since that day.

Besides reliving this childhood drama I have something I wanted to call your attention to from my story. My dad had developed several serves with his right hand and more with his left hand. One of the central ways to win at Ping-Pong is to effectively serve the ball. And in order to beat my dad at Ping-Pong one day I knew I’d have to improve my serve.

Now, let’s move that into another context. Let’s consider the art of serving one another. To be sure, this is not a competitive event and no one ought to be out to beat or destroy another person at serving. Serving is not a game to be won, but rather a blessing to be practiced.

Two concepts from my story may help us improve our serve: One, as there are many ways to serve a Ping-Pong ball, so there are many ways to serve others. It’s easy to look at others with different talents and think, “Sure, I’d serve more if I could do what they’re doing!” Remember, this is not a competitive event. Serving like or better than them is not the goal. The goal is to humbly serve as you are able, and to do so in the name of Jesus.

Two, as learning to serve a Ping-Pong ball takes time and practice, so it will take time and practice to improve your serve. Sometimes we wait for the big opportunity to do something really huge and great for the Lord and when or if that day comes it’s an incredible day and God is glorified. But more often than not what is missed are those daily opportunities to encourage someone, invite someone, show hospitality, send \$10 to a good mission work, visit someone who is lonely, or just do something you can do on any ordinary day.

This is how Jesus taught us to improve our serve: “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me” (Matthew 25:34-36). Let’s listen to Jesus and improve our serve.

Sam Pace
via Northwest Church of Christ
Westminster, CO

PRAY FOR...

Bailey, Susan & Emily: Jim B's relative, struggles
Baker, Helen: Melinda's mother, health
Bennett, Jim: health
Bickford, Eddie: recovery from surgery
Boula, Pat: Chris C's friend-heart valve replacement
Brownwood, John: struggles
Burna, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy's cousin, cancer
Cain, Kim: Cindy's relative, fostering kids
Cech, Matthew: health
Chambers, Michael: Alfred's nephew, health struggles
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles
Conley, Annie May, Mary's sister in TX, health issues
Darling, Wendy: rehab and health struggles
Dashaw, Justin: struggles
Doner, John: Christian's grandfather, health
Elders, Alfred and Doug
Gonyea, Louis: Patty's brother, rehab after surgery
Howard, Sammy: health struggles
Kashorek, Lori: healing~non-chemo cancer treatment
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John's friends, health struggles
Lermineau, Kids: Carl and Cindy's relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L's parents, health
McCutchan, Glenda: health & recovery
Martin, Tina: Chris' cousin, recovering pneumonia
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Croatia, Malawi
Morrison family: Mary's neighbor's family, health struggles
Noble, Arty: Sammy's father, cancer
Oster, Mariah: struggles
Traveling: Donna Alley to be with sister during surgery
Stone, Steven: struggles
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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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 ...

What's it mean to "be a man"? Culture gives us one idea while the "me too" movement gives another. On this Men's Prayer Breakfast day, perhaps looking to Jesus as God's perfect example, we can lead and love in the church, our families, and the world. How do you compare to Him?



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: Our 4th Sunday meal will be after service on 3/24.
Men's Prayer Breakfast: Our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 4/7 at 8 a.m.

Our Sympathy ...

goes out to the friends and family of Lisa Lapier, who passed this week.

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

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer" 1 Timothy 4:4-5.

Out of context, these verses might make us think that God is okay with anything that we might do—even sin if approached in the proper way. But, it is speaking about the binding of things that God has not bound in the name of being "extra-spiritual." People who do this are described as "abandon[ing] the faith" and "hypocritical liars" who "follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons." Rather, in order for us to have "life to the full," God wants us to enjoy our freedom in Christ. We are not to go the opposite direction and loosen where God has not loosened, such as using our freedom to indulge the sinful nature. It challenges us instead to not allow our Christian walk to be about ritual or externals. It makes us dive deeper into our core values as those "who believe and who know the truth" must edify others with the truth from our belief, adding to that God's benevolence of forgiveness, mercy, and grace, so that we might have true reason to reach out to them with the gospel. How do you live out your faith?

Next Sunday, March 10, is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Don't forget!



Sundae Toppings

Today: 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
3/10, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
3/17, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
3/24, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal



Mission Moment

•Please pray for all our mission works.

2019 WVBS Interactive Bible Reading Plan

SOTW: Gal. & Eph; Phil, Col, & Plm
3/3: 2 Corinthians 9-13
3/4: Galatians 1-3
3/5: Galatians 4-6
3/6: Ephesians 1-3
3/7: Ephesians 4-6
3/8: Philippians 1-4
3/9: Colossians 1-4; Philemon
SUPP: Where do we go when we die?
website: video.wvbs.org

Mark Your Calendar

3/13, Donna's birthday in Christ ('11)
3/22-24, Endwell Youth Rally
3/24, Mary Chamber's birthday
3/27, Shirley's birthday; fire inspection
3/29, Millers' anniversary ('08)
3/30, Nick's birthday;
Eddie's birthday in Christ ('08)
3/31, Crumps' anniversary ('17)

No Wednesday Winter

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

Today: 3/3

Announcements: John
Opening Prayer: Doug
Song Leader: Tyler
#538 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"
#622 "Ring Out the Message"
#528 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"
Talk/bread prayer: Howard
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Ed
Pass/collection prayer: Carl
Passer: Justin
#705 "A Common Love"
Scripture Reading: Chris - Matthew 11:27-30
Lesson: Alfred "Christians, Look at What You've Got!"

#869 "We're Marching to Zion"
Closing Song: Jim L
#867 "To Canaan's Land I'm on My Way"
Closing Prayer: Jim B

Next Sunday 3/10

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Chris
Song Leader: John
Talk/bread prayer: Garth
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Alfred
Pass/collection prayer: Jim L
Passer: Sammy
Scripture Reading: Jim B - Judges 4:8-10
Lesson: Doug "Will Not Lead to Your Glory"
Closing Song: Tyler
Closing Prayer: Howard

February 24

Bible Class	14
Morning Worship	25
Wed. Bible Class	-
Contribution	\$558.00
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$625.00

January→JFebruaryAverages; 1 Year Ago
Sun. Bible Class Ave. 17→15; 23
Sun. AM Worship Ave. 25→27; 32
Wed. Bible Class Ave. -→-; 12
Weekly Contribution Ave.\$562.50→\$715.94;\$610.49
Yearly Contribution Ave. (26 weeks) \$677.24
This Month's Playground: \$155.50
Total for Playground: \$2,106.25