

Woodsfield Church of Christ 860 Lewisville Road Woodsfield, Ohio 43793 Phone: 740.472.5321

www.woodsfieldchurchofchrist.org "Serving others as we serve Jesus."

Scott McFarland Minister Keith Jones Family Life Minister

Sunday

Wednesday

Bible Class......9:00 a.m. Worship......10:00 a.m.

Bible Class......7:00 p.m.

Sunday Evening Bible Class....6:00 p.m.

Office Hours – Sherry Lallathin – Mon – Fri. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

# **Elders**

### **Deacons**

Jeff Bettinger				
<b>Bob Burrow</b>				
<b>Keith Jones</b>				
Duane Landefeld				

Ronnie Beardmore Eric Carothers Dan Christman Shawn Howell Brent McConnell Jeff Seidler Howard Spengler Jesse Stalder

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Kent McGee (Paula Eikleberry's brother) hand surgery; Naomi Ault (Covid); Greg Ferrell (Spike Ferrell's son, Spike is a friend of Julie Huffman); Tiffany Comstock (Gary & Bev Jones's daughter), epileptic seizures; Sandy Resecker; widows and widowers of the congregation.

<u>Those battling cancer</u> — Don Bunting; Danny Weddle (Patricia Copeland's brother); Parker Miley, leukemia; Sue Hooper, chemo therapy for 3 months; Lisa Jones (stage 3 lung cancer); Logann Kehrer (a friend of Bob Burrow's coworker), diagnosed with terminal cancer; Marion Gorrell, stage 4 cancer (former co-worker of Carla Rose); Andy Copley; Patty Norris (friend of Keith Coss); Donna Hughes (friend of Naomi Ault); Tammy Carter (friend of John Ackerman); Nina Christman; Misty Robinson, friend of Grace Miles.

\* Please update the office of any changes to those on the prayer list. We update the prayer list periodically, removing names if we have not received recent updates on that person.



The Woodsfield church of Christ youth will be competing in the Miami Valley Bible Bowl, March 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Marion, Ohio. The team consists of Kiernan Bates, Jaren Friday, Willow Bates and Riley Britton. We have been studying the book of Exodus, chapters 1-20 on Sunday evenings. Please encourage these youth for their yearning

to learn God's word and their dedication.

# ${\it The Fruit} {\it of the Spirit}$



## Awaiting the King's Return

This weekend while at drill, we have to do our yearly physicals. This is a day long event that involves being in Columbus at the exam facility at 6am and going all day to hit every doctor at every station: the dentist, the eye doctor, the lab techs for bloodwork, the medics for shots, the general physician, the chaplain, etc. It's a long day of standing in line and waiting with hundreds of other soldiers.

Am I complaining? Maybe, a little. I hate lines and I hate waiting. But I was also thinking of the theme for today's worship: "Awaiting the King's Return." If you're like most Christians, waiting for Jesus to come back is a bit like standing in a long line—it feels like it will never happen! In the meantime, we get distracted and daydream to fill the time, or maybe we leave the line altogether. If you've been a Christian most of your life, you've been doing this all your life and sometimes it feels like you'll never see it. But, we know that God does not measure time the way we do; II Peter 3:8 says that one day is like a thousand years to God. So, while it feels like forever to us, it doesn't to God. We also know that God promises to return at some point! He's promised us so and told us to be ready. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells two stories about being ready—the Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents. In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, most of the virgins lost a sense of urgency about the arrival of the bridegroom and left to go get more oil for their candles. They weren't prepared and because of it they missed the return of the bridegroom and the wedding feast.

Stories like the Parable of the Ten Virgins are cautionary tales about the dangers of not being ready. It can happen at any moment—are you ready? Are you losing focus or getting tired? Are you prepared to go at a moment's notice? Keep watching! One day, Jesus will return and our hopes will be seen. In the meantime, don't lose focus. Keep waiting!

### February 25, 2024

	OUR FAITH IN ACTION February 18, 2024				
l	Sunday Morning Bible Classes	81	Sunday morning Live feed views	20	
l	Attendance at the building	125	Post-Sunday sermon online views	28	
l	Bible Hour Attendance	24	·		
	Sunday night Bible Class	40	J.O.Y. Bus Attendance Rider 2 Workers		
Wednesday night Bible Class 4		41			
	Budget \$ 5,500 Contribution \$ 4,327				

## Wrestling with Self Forgiveness

Getting involved with other people helps us to forgive ourselves. God made the church for many good reasons. One of them was so that we could encourage one another. Of course, if we choose not to be involved with the church, we will receive little encouragement, and negative feelings of self-unforgiveness will creep back into our lives. Instead, we must practice Hebrews 3:13: "but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." We need daily encouragement. Being actively involved with the local body of Christ will give us that.

God also foresaw that Christians would need a regular time to meet with other Christians. So, he had Jesus establish the Lord's Supper to be observed every first day of the week. Acts 20:7 tells us that the church met on this day for this very purpose. In Hebrews 10:24-25, the Holy Spirit said, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Christians need to be involved in the lives of other Christians. This is a great way to overcome self-unforgiveness.

Finally, James 1:27 says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself un spotted from the world." You will never have a "bad day" visiting an orphan or a widow. They remind us of God's grace and mercy. They create gratitude in our hearts. They keep us busy doing what God wants us to do instead of going back to the guilt of the world.

Kevin Cauley New Boston Church of Christ New Boston, TX