



Prayer Concerns

Donna Hall had to have another blood transfusion this past week due to low hemoglobin levels.

Ticen Houchin, Hannah Hewitt's boyfriend, has a rare disease that has caused a blockage in his artery in his left arm.

Charlie Weaver is scheduled for prostate surgery on January 3rd.

Long Term Prayers for Family and Friends

Samantha Brazel (GayLee's granddaughter, residential hospital with feeding tube)

Juanita Brunner (Shut-in), **Polly Burchfield** (Shut-in), **Moe Handy** (Shut-in, shoulder & sciatic pain), **Martin Julian** (Shut-in), **Gay Logsdon** (Shut-in), **Barb Surber** (Shut-in, dementia)

Susie Crecelous (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus)

Pam Dowty (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's)

Robert Ewing (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer)

Tom Gardner (Rachel's former teacher, colon cancer)

Rex Hembree (Della's brother, lung cancer, radiation treatments)

Marilyn Hiser (cancer treatments)

Ted Houchin (chronic lymphocytic leukemia)

Sharon Lasiter (cancer treatments)

Andy Mytides (Cindy Davis's friend, kidney failure)

Leah Ranker (David & Janice Kent's 4yr old great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome)

Vonnie Ross (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis)

Anthony Stonebraker (Sowder's neighbor, cancer treatments)

Nancy Vermillion (Burriss's friend, cancer treatments)

Delbert Vibbert (Lougene's nephew, COPD)

Charlie Weaver (cancer in lungs, prostate, & femur), **Wanda Weaver** (stage 4 kidney disease and lupus)

Joel Westberry (neck & spine)

Nancy White (John Denzio's aunt, hospice).

Missions

Fiji Bible Institute (Jason & Devin Pierce family); **India** (Jerris & Juanita Bullard, Steve & Renee Gaudreau); **Shults/Lewis Child & Family Services** (Staff & Residents); **Caleb Pierce** (Bear Valley Bible Institute)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, December 29	Revelation 13-15
Monday, December 30	Revelation 16-19
Tuesday, December 31	Revelation 20-22
Wednesday, January 1	Genesis 1-3
Thursday, January 2	Genesis 4-7
Friday, January 3	Genesis 8-11
Saturday, January 4	Genesis 12-15



Celebrations This Week Birthdays

31st Parker Jones, Gina Sowder
1st Ladonna Lowe

Ministry Donations for the Homeless

Do you have blankets, shoes, socks, gloves, hats, sweaters, pants, or jackets that are taking up space? Please consider giving to the homeless. Lisa Robling, former member and sister-in-Christ, works with a group who provides a weekly hot meal and clothing to the homeless population. They are also accepting shelf staple food with pop-open lids, such as orange juice, tuna snacks, pop tarts, or any item that is single serve that can be opened and eaten without having to be cooked. If you have any of these items, please place them on the table in the foyer, and our Morning Glories group will get them to Lisa.

Financial Peace University

The next financial class begins on January 19th in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, or to sign up, go to whitelandchurchofchrist.com/FPU. For questions, see Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski or email them at FPU@whitelandchurchofchrist.com.



Morning Glories Ministry Brunch

The next brunch for our ladies will be on Saturday, January 11th at 10am in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to join them for a time of fellowship, food, devotional and ministry planning.

Love Feast Fellowship



January 12th is our family fellowship meal following our worship service. Everyone is encouraged to bring your favorite dish and dessert to share.

Area Wide Singing & Chili Supper

Saturday, January 25th at 5pm

If you are able to make a crockpot of chili or help provide desserts, please let George know. More info will be given in the coming weeks.

Meditation of God's Word

The Proof of Love

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1John 5:3-4, NKJV)

Oftentimes when asking Christians how they manifest their love for God, the answers run the gamut of spiritual exercises, such as, reading the Bible, prayer, attending church, tithing, along with giving up a particular sin, and a warm feeling in one's heart. Amazingly, one answer that seems to be left out is one that Jesus himself mentioned to the question of how to love God. In fact, few things in the Bible are clearer than Jesus' precise answer: Obey His commands.

In the short space of nine verses, Jesus reiterates this thought three times: *"If you love me, you will obey what I command;" "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me;"* and *"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching"* (Jn 14:15, 21, 23).

One issue many believers frequently struggle with is the relationship between living by grace and obedience to God's commands. For example, nothing you ever do or don't do will make God love you any more or any less. Rather, He accepts you strictly by His grace through the merit of Jesus Christ alone. Such an unqualified statement about the love of God sounds exceedingly dangerous, leaving me open to the charge of saying in effect that God doesn't care whether your sin or not, which couldn't be further from the truth. However, consider the alternative: God loves you if you are obedient and doesn't love you if you are disobedient, since God's love is conditioned on obedience, and you are never perfectly obedient. Such a description of the all-too-common works/merit way of thinking about our relationship with God brings the issue into focus. Either we are accepted by God, either on the merit of Jesus Christ or on the basis of our own performance.

Our love for God, expressed through obedience to Him, is to be a response to His love, not a means of trying to earn it. The apostle John said, *"We love Him because He first loved us."* (1Jn 4:19). What does become very clear as we live in this relationship with our Lord is this: The evidence that we are living by grace is a loving obedience to the commands of God. Jesus plainly said that if we love Him, we will obey His commands.

As a child of God and out of a grateful response to the grace of God, we seek to understand His will and obey His commands, not to be blessed, but because we have been blessed.

...Ronnie Hewitt