

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2900 Camden Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26101

304-428-0504

Sunday AM Worship.....9:30am

Wednesday Bible Study.....11:00am

Sunday Bible Class.....10:45am

Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00pm

Sunday PM Worship6:00pm

“Where you are always welcome!”

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58



Elders:

Jim Galloway
304-481-5189

Clayton Huber
304-669-3357

Todd Kirk
304-991-4797

Paul Saunders
304-488-9457

Ministers:

Daniel P. Curry, Jr.
304-972-7328
ToLivelsChrist89@
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Doug Wells
330-231-8097
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Family

Counselor:

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Bible Call
304-420-2416

Recorded
information on
many Bible
subjects

TO KEEP IN PRAYER

In an effort to keep our prayer list up-to-date and give adequate focus to all those in need of prayers, please give any updates on prayer requests to the office.

CHURCH FAMILY

Barbara Cramlet
Dot Haught
Nita Faye Leach

Gwen Lucas
Debby Nesselroad
Mary Nesselroad

Ray Peters
Summer Rich
Peggy Riddle

Cotton Sayre
Eloise Smith
Dorothy Stevens
Joyce Wright

SHUT-INS

Bob Armstrong
Harvey Caplinger
Naomi Carr
Keith Cowdery

Patty Dawson
Charlotte Deem
Jim & Sallie
Hinzman

Jo Langler
Linda Moncrief
Merilee Morgan
Ed & Lois Porter

Van Putnam
Jenny Reynolds
Bonnie Sams
Sue Vancamp

Cedar Grove

Janet Looney
Helen May
(Verna Huber)
Jean Huber
(Clayton Huber)

Colonial House

Lucille Hardman

Love & Care

Susan Haid
Mildred Gault

The Willows

Doris Newberry
Deloris Boyce
(Jo Langler)
Jenny Reynolds

Stonerise

Healthcare
John Rockhold

Wyngate

Rosellen Allen
(Carol Vincent)

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Jeff Bigler (Becky Inman's father)
Linda Bowie
(Van Sprague's mother)
Kelly Boyce (Jo Langler's boyfriend)
Howard Buskirk (Jo Langler's friend)
Megan Bailey Daugherty
Sharron Daggett (Aidan Klingler grandma)
Brian Decker (coworker, Ken Barnes)
John Doll (Sandy Keller's father)
Curtis Drake (Michael Lucas's bro.-in-law)
Daniel Epler (David Epler's Son)
Christie Hensley (Vivian Fadelvich's niece)
Kim Fought (Jo Goldsmith's brother)
Steve Fought (friend of Bob Miller)
Robert Fox (Ralph Fox's brother)
Jim Frashure (a friend of the Hughes')
Thomas Guerra (a friend of Tabetha Rich)
Steve Fought (friend of Bob Miller)
Gary Herridge (former elder)
Jeff Huxley (Cindy Huxley's husband)
Stormy Huxley (Cindy Huxley's niece)
Mike Inman (bro; Paul, Stan, & Sonya)
Michelle Jones
Allison Kirkland (Gwen Johnson's friend)
Paisley Lemley (d. friend, Tabetha Rich)
Kassie Lucas (daughter of Rob & Pam)

Jane McGrew (Cindy Huxley's niece)
Kay Miller (daughter of Bob Miller)
June Miller (Addie Miller's sister)
Marilyn Miskcvish
Gloria Morris (Darrell & Norma Vaught)
Chris Morris (friend of Susan Anderson)
Patty Moore (Cindy Huxley's sis.-in-law)
Becky Moyers (Cindy Huxley's sis.-in-law)
Glen & Karen Morrell (Linda Moncrief)
Dave Nicholson (friend of Hofmanns)
Kathy Plant
Dick Rhodes (Carolyn Henry's brother)
Dave Rice (Ralph Fox's friend)
John Rockhold
Jeff Ruppenthal (friend of John Bonar)
Scott Ruppenthal (friend of John Bonar)
Rex Scarbrough (Elizabeth's husband)
Korbin Schaner (Eplers' g-grandson)
Greg Smith (Keith & Eloise Smith's son)
Elsie Smith (Hubers' granddaughter)
Ronnie Smith (Keith Smith's brother)
Sandi Spitler-Klingler (Aidan's grandma)
Hazel Terry (family of Eloise Smith)
Karen Toms (Donna Tice's daughter)
Charlie Tucker (Keith Smith's nephew)
Amy Ware (Jennifer Martin's sister-in-law)

SYMPATHY

♥ Rosie Knox passed last week. We extend our deepest condolences to her family. Services were held Tuesday.

♥ Madona McPeak Smith (former member) passed earlier this week. Services were held Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISITORS — We are so glad that you are here today! Please fill out an attendance card from the pew in front of you and pass it to the nearest aisle.

MEN'S MEETING — Today at 4:00 in the MP room.

YOUTH DEVO — This evening following evening worship.

CARE GROUP 4 MEETING — There will be a five-minute meeting for Care Group 4 this evening after PM worship.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING — Tomorrow evening beginning at 6:00.

BUULETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS — Please get any announcements or notes for the bulletin through the end of the month to the office by this Tuesday.

TRAVELING YOUTH GROUP — Sunday, December 31 at 5:00 at the Barlow-Vincent church of Christ.

BRAKFAST WITH SANTA — Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 23rd at 8:00 a.m. Parents, please see Kyle Inman with any questions.

CHRISTMAS CARDS — Lists for Christmas Card are available in the lobby. There are boxes in the back hallway to deliver and pick up cards.

BOOK OF THE MONTH — The books for the month of December are Titus and Philemon. When you have completed the reading, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board outside the office. That will complete the Pauline Epistles for 2023!

Books of the Month for 2024 will be the Wisdom Literature, beginning with the first part of the book of Proverbs, chapters 1-9. A planned schedule for the year will be posted on the bulletin board.

UPDATES TO THE PRAYER LIST

- ♥ June Miller (Addie Miller's sister) is doing much better.
- ♥ Theresa Kline (Earl McConnell's friend) has small-cell lung cancer.
- ♥ Allan (Earl McConnell's friend) is in hospice with heart failure.
- ♥ Brian Haught had surgery on his finger that went well. He will have two pins in his finger for six weeks.
- ♥ Connie Lynch (Stephanie Halstead's grandmother) had a stint put in her heart. She is in the cardiovascular ICU. Room CV3.
- ♥ Mary Nessleroad was in the hospital earlier this week with dehydration but is now home.
- ♥ Debby Nessleroad is awaiting dates for surgery.
- ♥ Dave Nulter is asking for prayers for ongoing health issues.
- ♥ David Potts came forward Sunday morning.
- ♥ Steve Sommerville (Stephanie Halstead's father) will have surgery Monday at 7:30.
- ♥ Those affected by the tornadoes in Tennessee last weekend.
- ♥ Ryan (Hesselrode) Bertka gave birth to Katherine Jade Bertka on 12/12/2023. She was 8lbs 11oz.

Deacons:

Kevin Cochran
Youth: Teens

Doug Hershman
Financial

Jon Hescht
Technology

Ryan Highman
Maintenance

Chris Hofmann
Maintenance

Cody Hoover
Education

Kevin Inman
Lads to Leaders

Kyle Inman
Youth: K-5

Jeff Taberner
Benevolence

We Care Ministry:

Red Team
Roy Halstead

Yellow Team
Rick Stanley

Green Team
Mike & Teresa
Wade

Blue Team
Chris & Terry
Hofmann

Motivation Team
DJ Curry

Operations
Bill Hoover

**Watch our
Livestream:**

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YouTube
Camden Avenue
coC Live

CURRY CONNECTION

Submission

“Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him...” (Isa 53:10a ESV). The full extent of the suffering that the Roman crucifixion produced is truly unimaginable for us today. Why did He endure the pain of the whips, the shame of being exposed before all, the cruelty of being left to hang on a cross to die? Why did He sacrifice Himself not only to die but to the torture? “(L)ooking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:2 NKJV).

Jesus wanted to fulfill the will of His Father (John 6:38) and save the world from our sin, “... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...” (Heb 12:2c). However, at the exact moment He was “...despising the shame...” (Heb 12:2d). Elsewhere in the Scripture we can witness through Jesus’ own words that He would have preferred another route. “(S)aying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done’” (Luke 22:42). Why is it that Jesus continued performing the will of another?

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Phil 2:5-8)

Have you placed much thought into what submission is? The Lamb who was led to the slaughter and opened not His mouth is the perfect example and definition of what submission is. To many people, this word, submission, causes the indigestion of pride to boil inside of them because they liken the verb to things such as oppression. The world correctly defines the word “(1) a: to yield to governance or authority b: to subject to a condition, treatment, or operation.”¹ One scholarly source defines ὑποτάσσω (translated as submitting) as “to cause to be in a submissive relationship, to subject, to subordinate.”²

Submission by definition of man and action of Christ is to surrender yourself and your will to the will of another. If we were only submitting to God on matters we agree with, then we were never in submission to Him. We were only agreeing with Him at times. At the moment when His will doesn’t necessarily align with yours, but you obey anyway, you are genuinely in submission. Our submission to God can be tested at moments of loving our enemies (Matt 5:44), bearing one another’s burdens (Gal 6:1), submitting to one another (Eph 5:21), repenting of sin (Luke 13:3), or obeying the will of God (Heb 5:9).

Jesus endured the will of the Father because He, as a good Son, was in submission to His Father (Eph 6:1; 1 Tim 3:4). We asked why, but now let us end with how. How was the Son able to submit to the Father? It was because He loved who He was in submission to. “But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here” (John 14:31). Do you love enough to be in submission (John 14:15)?

¹Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

²William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1042.

SERMON NOTES

Nothing Like the Holidays

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:15

Speaker: Daniel P. Curry, Jr.

Sermon in a Sentence: In this lesson, we learn of Jesus' compassion for family struggles by acknowledging that family problems exist, and we find comfort for those facing similar familial hardships.

Hebrews 4:15 NKJV

For we do not have a _____ who _____ sympathize with our _____, but was in _____ points _____ as we are, yet without _____.

I. The Family Dynamic During Holidays

A. Is there a Grinch in the family—someone self-centered and disruptive?

If so, you are not alone.

a. Are heartaches and unresolved issues challenging the festive spirit?

B. The Opportunity: Using Holidays to Reflect Jesus

a. Embracing the chance to reflect Christ during these occasions.

b. Despite differing views on celebrating Christmas, it's an opportunity to share the gospel.

c. Family is a prime ground for evangelism, but it is still challenging in its own way.

II. Exploring the Text (John 7:1-10)

A. Jesus avoids Judea due to threats, highlighting tensions even within His family.

a. His brothers lacked belief in His mission, creating a contrasting dynamic.

B. Implications of Strife within Jesus's Family

a. Despite Mary's knowledge, His brothers didn't believe, straining relationships.

b. Jesus's crucial decision to entrust Mary's care to a non-blood relative, John.

III. Lessons from Jesus's Life

A. Jesus didn't spend every moment with them attempting to force change but lived out His faith, devoted to God's will.

a. "If I want to heal relationship problems, I can't set out to change other people. I must first seek to change myself."

b. His brothers eventually believed, showcasing hope amidst family discord.

c. While change isn't always possible, living a faithful Christian life brings peace.

d. Adopt Jesus's principles in daily life to heal family rifts.

Our best role in family discord is living faithfully setting an example of Christ's love.
Hope in transformation exists when guided by Christ.

Hear Believe Repent Confess Faith in Jesus Be Baptized Remain Faithful

DOUG'S DISCUSSION

Carefully Chosen Comparisons

If I were to confine myself to a certain group of people, I would be an amazing basketball player. I could be the star of the team, I could score thirty to fifty points a game, and I could humiliate opposing players by consistently blocking their shots right back into their faces. How do I accomplish these marvelous feats? Easy. All I have to do is invite my ten-year-old daughter's class over for a game of basketball. Don't judge me. If I were playing people my own size, my lack of athletic ability and cartilage-free left knee would keep me from doing much of anything.

The point is that who you are comparing yourself really matters. I may be able to maintain the delusion that I am Michael Jordan in one scenario, but that idea quickly falls apart when the comparison changes. This is worth considering in many areas of life. Do you believe that you are a fantastic Christian person? In fact, do you believe that you are so holy that there really isn't anything left for you to work on? Wow . . . I certainly hope that you're right! But how did you come to your conclusions? One way you can achieve that perspective is by comparing yourself to people who are considerably less righteous than yourself. You're a decent person, right? You don't have to drive far before you come across people marching for mass murder. Compared to that, I suspect you do look holy. It doesn't even have to be that extreme. As long as you're around people who are pretty even with your efforts, you'll still feel pretty good about yourself. Come to church with a bunch of people who mumble out the praise and don't really get involved, and you'll probably feel just fine about doing the same.

The Bible has something to say about what standard we use to judge. 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, "We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise." Paul went on to say that he would use the mission God had assigned to Him as his standard. Was he doing what God wanted him to do, living how God wanted him to live? That meant more to Paul than how everyone else was living. I think this is a good example for us as well. We can justify what we are doing based on who we are comparing ourselves. When that comparison shifts to God, our desire to grow never fades. After all, "it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends" (2 Corinthians 10:18).

Thank you for all the birthday cards, calls, and talks. They were very much appreciated.

-Debby and Mary Nessleroad

Thank you!

I have been feeling much better. Thank you so much for all the prayers.

-June Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information, see the bulletin boards in the front and back of the auditorium.

December

- 17 Men's Meeting - 4:00**
multi-purpose room
- 17 Youth Devo - following PM worship**
multi-purpose room
- 17 Care Group 4 Meeting**
Immediately following PM worship
- 18 Christmas Caroling - 6:00**
- 23 Breakfast with Santa - 8:00**
Please see Kyle Inman with any questions
- 31 Traveling Youth Group - 5:00**
Barlow-Vincent church of Christ



January

- 26 Ohio Winter Lectures - Fri 6:30-9 Sat 8-5**
-27 Fishfinger Road church of Christ
Theme: Faith on Fire: Igniting
Spiritual Growth & Unity

April

- 6 Bible Bowl - 9:30**
Alkire Road church of Christ
Book of Romans (KJV)
- 27 Mid-Ohio Vally Ladies' Inspiration Day**
Hosted by: Camden Avenue
Speaker: Hannah Colley
Topic: Tell Your Story
- 21 49th Annual Southeast Lectureship**
-24 Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies
Knoxville, TN
Encouraged: Finding Comfort in Christ
Studies in 2 Corinthians

MINUTE OF MEDITATION Heard on FM 96.9

The Lottery is a Small Dream

Winning the lottery is the dream of so many. The hope of that dream, in my estimation, has enabled an additional state tax that has greatly burdened many families that have someone with a gambling problem – but that's not my point for today. After all, sometimes someone does win, right? And when millions are dropped into their lap, I suppose their lives suddenly become great. Yes?

Well – oddly enough, there are several actual lottery winners who would disagree with that. A surprising number are bankrupt. Many live in realistic fear of robbery. In Pennsylvania one guy's brother hired a hit man because he figured he would get a nice inheritance if his brother were dead. Like always – Jesus is right. He warned one man in Luke 12:15, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

More money does not mean more life. More Jesus means more life. May I humbly suggest that if your big dream is to win the lottery (or any other materialistic goal) . . . you need a bigger dream.

I am Doug Wells with a minute of meditation from the Camden Avenue Church of Christ, where you are always welcome.

Serving in Worship

December 24, 2023

Elder in Charge

Paul Saunders

Deacon in Charge

Doug Hershman

Song Leader

AM - Ryan Highman

PM - Kaleb Cochran

Scripture

AM - Marion Goldsmith

PM - Jim Stoops

Prayer

9:30 AM - Josh Carr

Close - Paul Inman

6:00 PM - Levi Wells

Close - Bill Mills

Communion

AM - Jon Hescht

PM - Jeff Taberner

Welcome Center

AM - Sherry Sponseller

PM - Tammy Kerns

Wed - Marion Goldsmith

Announcements - Paul Saunders

PA System - Clayton Huber

Projector - Dustin Hughes

Security - Dennis Keller



Interactive Bible Reading Plan

<https://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan>

Nov. 19: Gal. 1-3 & Ps. 139

SOTW: Galatians & Ephesians

Nov. 20: Gal. 4-6 & Ps. 140

Nov. 21: Eph. 1-2 & Ps. 141

Nov. 22: Eph. 3-4 & Ps. 142

Nov. 23: Eph. 5-6 & Ps. 143

Nov. 24: Phil. 1-2 & Ps. 144

SOTW: Php., Col., and Philemon

Nov. 25: Phil. 3-4 & Ps. 145

Nov. 26: Col. 1-2 & Ps. 146

How to be Complete in Christ

Sack the Pulpit

Cast your vote by placing your non-perishable food donations on either the PHS Big Reds red and white table or the PSHS Patriots blue and white table.

Running totals will be posted from December 1st to 31st.

Suggested Items

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ◆ peanut butter | ◆ tuna | ◆ mac & cheese |
| ◆ jelly | ◆ cereal | ◆ canned goods |
| ◆ pancake mix | ◆ spaghetti | ◆ granola bars |
| ◆ syrup | ◆ pasta sauce | ◆ pop tarts |
| ◆ spam | | ◆ crackers |

This week:



New: 124
Total: 246



New: 185
Total: 246

Facts and Figures

December 10, 2023

Sunday AM Worship.....	205
Sunday Bible Class.....	151
Sunday PM Worship.....	137
Wednesday 11am Class.....	35
Wednesday Bible Class.....	152
Contribution.....	\$7,623

Membership 2023

Baptisms.....	14
Restored/Req. Prayer.....	9
Placed Membership.....	9

In Search of the Lord's Way

Sunday morning
7:30 on WTAP TV 15
8:00 on WVAM 1450 AM
December 10, 2023

"When Your Heart Breaks"



IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY

December: Titus & Philemon



2024: Wisdom Literature

January: Proverbs 1-9
February: Proverbs 10-20
March: Proverbs 21-31
April: Job 1-21
May: Job 22-42
June: Psalms (Book I) 1-41
July: Psalms (Book II) 42-72

We are dedicated to seeking the lost while edifying each other in order that we may all enter the eternal home promised for the faithful.