

December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
2	Al Olguin		
5	Gabriel Davis		
5	Judy Taylor		
13	Larry Fulton		
14	Sybil Atha		
23	Teclia Cunningham		
23	Sandy Cavasos		
23	Jessica Cavasos		
25	Linda Beek		
27	Steve Carricato		

Mission Work Areas

Quito, Ecuador
Mazatlán, Mexico
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

New Prayer Requests

Jerry Smith (Elder at Poncha Springs) – passed away in his sleep. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.
Bill Phillips (Terry Reader's brother-in-law) – diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. Not sure of treatment at this time.
Dick McClain (friend of the Readers) – diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. He is in treatment and seems to be doing well.
Austin Petty (Zirkle's Grandson) – will be changing to a different oral chemo treatment. The first one was not helping. Keep him and his family in your prayers.
Dr. Richard "Dick" Burt (Margo Greene's brother) – is starting to show some improvement. He has had some movement in his arms and is able to feed himself. He and all of his family continue to need our prayers.
Glenda Cox' Mother – having sciatic back problems and is being admitted to a rehab nursing home until she can strengthen her back. Please pray for her.

Long Term Prayer List

Ron Hansen	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Beth Pedrie
Wayne & Marilyn Bartlow	Norma Bartlow
Joan Lawrence (stroke recovery)	Melissa Wagle (cancer)
Kendra Tate (Stanten's niece) – recovering from accident at home	Cavasos Family – multiple health issues and moving to Iowa.
Austin Petty (Zirkle's Grandson - cancer)	Tom Hartman (friend of Jeff Richards) – Mt Bike accident and cancer
Betty & Danny Sidebottom –have had to move into an assisted living facility.	

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 tdr1960@yahoo.com
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 lnreader@q.com

December 25, 2022		
Greeters:	Terry Reader	Ken Davis
Announcements:	Kelly Beek	
Song Leader:	Terry Reader	
Opening Prayer:	Len Gates	
Closing Prayer:	Ian Stewart	
Lord's Table:	Larry Fulton	Jeff Richards
	Ken Davis	Terry Reader
Coordinator:	Dan Greene	

Elders

Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

Deacons

Wayne Bartlow (719) 395-2520
Stacey Moss (719) 395-9294
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856
Larry Fulton (719) 398-9987
Len Gates (719) 207-0039



When you visit us...

December 18, 2022

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Pulpit Minister—Stanten Sikes
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www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org

Sunday

10:00 amBible Class
11:00 am.....Assembly
Noon.....Fellowship Meal
1:30 pm.....Devotional

Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Devotional
or Bible Class

A Worship Community

Greg Chandler

The book of Exodus is great literature. With excitement, the book whisks the reader to the world of ancient Egypt where the people of God, the promised descendants of God's man Abraham, labor in bondage. With power, God strikes the Pharaoh and his nation, bringing the Egyptians and their arrogant king to their knees. Crossing the Red Sea, bread from heaven, and water from a rock are but a few of the fascinating acts of God revealed within the book. However, many readers lose interest upon reaching chapter 20. The fast-paced storyline seems to come to a sudden stop as chapter upon chapter of laws, tabernacle blueprints, and instructions on sacrifice follow. It is easy to skip these sections and return to "the storyline," but one should not yield to this temptation! What appears to be minute detail is in no way a departure from the storyline; it is demonstrating God's expectations of what a holy nation and kingdom of priests will look like. It is a revelation of His mind.

One important idea that can be found within the details is an emphasis on the collective aspect of worship. Even as early as the Red Sea crossing, Moses teaches the people the "Song of the Sea" (see chapter 15). Its purpose was not only for them but also for the generations to follow; together, they would recount this magnificent display of God's power. Within God's instructions for His holy nation, He also emphasized their togetherness in celebrating feasts, offering sacrifices, and supporting the sacred work of His tabernacle. This should not come as a surprise. In His covenant invitation to them, He promised, "I will be your God if you will be My people" (cf. Exodus 6:7). While each Israelite was called to ponder this invitation, acceptance would come from the united group: **We** will be your people. This collective spirit continued throughout the Hebrew Bible as feasts were observed in unison, the Passover was remembered as a national memorial, and prophetic calls for repentance were issued to the entire nation.

After the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the spirit of unity continued. Early Christians stayed in Jerusalem, forming a community of believers: "And all who believed were together and had all things in common" (Acts 2:44). This is no surprise since the ancient promise was extended to this new group of believers. In writing to Christians, the apostle Peter stated, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). On many occasions, the New Testament writers took time to emphasize the "one another" aspects of salvation in Jesus, referring to believers as "the called out," "the family of God," and other collective terms.



Centuries have passed since those early believers huddled in Jerusalem to bask in the joy of their salvation and new family in Jesus. Over these centuries, western civilization has steadily emphasized the role and worth of the individual over the community. While not necessarily a bad thing, it has led to the de-emphasis of the spirit of community. The concept of individualism has erupted in modern American society with the notion that everyone is different and that differences should be celebrated. Instead of community, this push toward individualism has seen the splintering of society into factions based on belief and agenda.

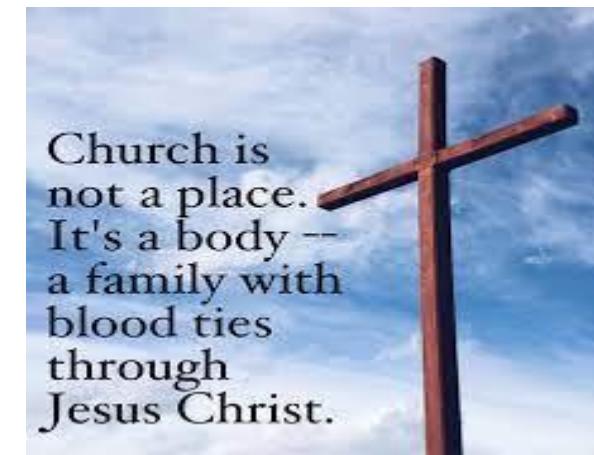
Societal changes often make their way into religion. Like the society around it, Protestantism has latched onto individualism. Phrases such as, "Make Jesus your personal Savior" illustrate this merger. While there is an essential need to develop one's own faith regardless of what others believe, this should never be to the exclusion of God's emphasis on community.

One area that has been impacted by individualism over community is worship. Some Christians, either habitually or on occasions when travel or circumstances dictate, have opted for "private worship" wherever they may be instead of assembling with saints. While this decision may have been made with sincerity and perhaps without fully realizing the outcome of the decision, individualism has been chosen over community.

While worship is always given for God's glory, He has also emphasized the "horizontal axis" of what is given to each other. Christians "speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19); "proclaim the Lord's death" when coming together to partake of the supper (1 Corinthians 11:26); "stir up one another to love and good works" by assembling together (Hebrews 10:24-25). These good things happen in community; they happen when the people of God come together. From ancient times until the present, the community aspect of worship is preparing the people of God for something great. In John's Revelation, his description of the Throne Room describes this culmination:

"Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!' And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'" (Revelation 5:11-13).

May every occasion of community worship be a fresh reminder of what lies in store for those united by the saving power of our Lord!



1 John 1:3; 7

... ³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ....

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.



We invite you to stay for our Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional! We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday - 12:00 Noon
1 st Wednesday Singing	January 4 - 7:00 PM