

Sunshine Church Of Christ



Volume 58, Issue 103

sunshinecofc.church

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Elders

Rich Book	820-3213
Jon Coriell	820-6145
Wayne Gampp	820-3444
Shaun McCray	935-9701

Deacons

Gabe Coriell	464-2343
Josh Coriell	981-6717
Rick Coriell	935-0717
Ryan Coriell	464-8646
Dale Kuhn	820-4690
Aaron Kallner	285-0738
Eric Miller	820-4944
Eugene Risner	820-2256
Mark Risner	820-2948

Pulpit Minister

Dr. Jon Partlow	716-8741
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Family Life Minister

Jamie Riley	935-7812
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Youth Minister

Tim Gampp	(606) 356-3345
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During the mid-nineties, I was preaching for a congregation in a town near the Smokey Mountains. Prior to the days of Matthew, Taylor was a small girl and Jonathan was a baby. In the community where Cile and I bought our first home, a neighbor set out a nativity scene in their front yard. The house was close enough to walk to and easy access to drive by on the way home from church. Taylor passionately asked each time we neared the home for us to drive by and see Baby Jesus. Most of the time, we complied with her wishes.

I never owned an outdoor nativity scene, and I was taught that displaying such a scene (nearly?) violated Scripture. Cile did collect, piece-by-piece, the Willow Tree Nativity Scene which she displays in our home year round. I do own an inexpensive Peanuts Gang nativity scene. But in the mid-nineties we had neither.

About this time a rumor was circling through town that the local principalities were talking about banning all nativity scenes and Christmas messages. Some were saying that the ban only applied to public properties while others believed it was going to be mandated to personal homes as well. The rumors were fueling the discussions. The topic was so strong that one Sunday evening, I stood before the congregation and proclaimed, "I may not care whether or not a nativity scene is displayed, but if they ban them, I will be the first to display one in my yard." I was bold in drawing my line in the sand, almost as brave as Don Quixote fighting his windmills.

The truth is no local or State legislation was coming down the pipeline to curtail religious decorations at Christmas time. Sure, the prayer before football games were being challenged in courts. True, some of the retail giants began marketing "traditional Christmas" items as "Holiday" items. But to my knowledge, no one was legislating such changes. The debate and controversy seemed to have risen as if someone created a conflict just so they could prop themselves up as a "voice of reason."

Enter the debate between "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays," and let the battle lines be drawn.

For people of faith, this has been a contentious topic of conversation. Some believe that "Merry Christmas" should always be used over "Happy Holidays" since Christmas is about Christ. Others are concerned about the secularization of the season and its drive for consumerism; "holiday" sounds like consumers on a vacation. An informed Biblical approach may actually surprise you.

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Prayer Requests

Jeff Hayward Please pray his back pain will ease as he awaits treatment.

Peggy Hollback Continue prayers for her health to improve and God's blessings on her.

Gene Kuhn (Dale Kuhn's Dad) Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Faye McGinnis Please continue prayers for her.

Norm McGinnis Please pray for him to regain strength after a recent hospital stay.

Janine Morris Please continue prayers for her healing.

Margaret Reed Please keep her in your prayers.

Kim Woods (Gary Glispie's Sister) Please pray for strength and courage for her at this time. Please bless her family with comfort during her illness.

Please remember the Havens Family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Bobbie.

Please remember all the families that are suffering with Covid in need of healing, and for protection for all of the caretakers.

<u>Judi Allison</u>	Elbrooke Room#535
<u>Esther & Gene Crisp</u>	Riverbend Room#123
<u>Sarah Gilliland</u>	Hillview Room#213
<u>Helen Hayward</u>	Homebound
<u>Ruth Morris</u>	Best Care Room#10

Please pray that God will heal our country.

Elders Meeting Together

Prayer Session:



**ALL SERVICES ARE ONLINE
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Sunday Morning Live Streaming Links:

<https://sunshinecofc.church/sermon-media>
<https://sunshinecofc.sermon.net>

Welcome To All of Our Guests

We give a special welcome to all of our guests today. If this is your first time to visit with us, please stop by the Welcome Center in the f8oyer at the conclusion of services, pick up your gift just for being our guests today.

Thank you for coming. Please come back!

Gluten Free Communion Available

We have gluten free communion bread available for anyone who needs it. It can be found at the Welcome Center. You may simply pick it up before the services on your way into the auditorium.



WELCOME TO SUNSHINE CHURCH of CHRIST

We invite you to join us for Online Services.

Sunday Morning @ 10:00 AM
Sunday Eve. Class @ 6:30 PM
Wednesday Eve. @ 7:30 PM

All Services will be held Online

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**We still have a few “Blessing Bags” available on a table in the front entrance to be given to someone in need. Please feel free to pick them up to give away to anyone that it could help.**

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Thank you all so much for sharing the many ways God has blessed you this 2020 year. Your words are such an encouragement. It is good for us to stop and think about all the ways we truly are blessed everyday.

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**“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2**

**Helping others is how we show Christ’s love on earth... Help others, be nice, and show His love by being His hands and feet. The light of the world and the salt of the earth.**



## **Is It Positive or Negative**

**We have recently become very aware of the need to know what the status is about our possible condition, we’re not having any symptoms. We have even begun to realize we can have a false positive or negative, being revealed after proper testing. Sometimes, we have to wait to find the true result. But, in the meantime we do whatever we can to build ourselves up, being very careful, taking all precautions to be as strong as possible. We want to be diligent doing all that we can to be in healthy condition.**

**In the same way, we need to prepare ourselves to be as strong as we can be when troubles arise in our lives. God wants us to be ready to take on the challenges we may face. He is our defender. His Word has instruction for our well being, for now and into eternity. When the time comes for the ultimate test, we will have the positive result that we want.**

**An eternity with our Lord.**

**Study To Show Thyself Approved  
Unto God**

## **Psalm 46:1-3**

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble...**

## **Family Bible Time**

**Dec.13 Lesson 411**  
**Esther 7-10**

**Dec.16 Lesson 412**  
**Ezra 7-10**

# Those Who Serve

|                       |                   |                   |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday Morning</b> | <b>12/13/2020</b> | <b>12/20/2020</b> | <b>12/27/2020</b> |
| Welcome               | Wayne Gamp        | Shaun McCray      | Rich Book         |
| Midservice Prayer     |                   |                   |                   |
| Communion             |                   |                   |                   |
| Reading               |                   |                   |                   |
| Closing Prayer        |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Sunday Evening</b> | <b>12/13/2020</b> | <b>12/20/2020</b> | <b>12/27/2020</b> |
| Song Leader           | Service Online    | Service Online    | Service Online    |
| Reading               |                   |                   |                   |
| Communion             |                   |                   |                   |
| Assist                |                   |                   |                   |
| Prayer                |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Wed. Evening</b>   | <b>12/16/2020</b> | <b>12/23/2020</b> | <b>12/30/2020</b> |
| Song Leader           | Service Online    | Service Online    | Service Online    |
| Prayer                |                   |                   |                   |



**Sunday** Worship - 10:00 am  
Bible Study - 6:30 pm

**Wednesday** Bible Study - 7:30 pm

This bulletin is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover. Deadline for each issue is 8 am Friday. Content should be emailed to:

[info@sunshinecofc.church](mailto:info@sunshinecofc.church)

Visit us on the web:

[sunshinecofc.church](http://sunshinecofc.church)

First, neither "Christmas" nor "Holiday" is mentioned in the Bible. Obviously, Christ is in the Bible, especially as Matthew and Luke spend considerable amount of time exploring his birth (by the way John goes straight to incarnational theology, "The Word became flesh and lived among us" [Jn.1:14]). As far as holiday goes, every feast in the Bible is placed in a context of dedication to God. From Sabbath to Passover to Jubilee to Hanukkah (see Jn. 10:22-23) each feast was set aside as holy for God. So while "Christmas" and "Holiday" are not in the Bible, their presence casts a long shadow on the Biblical narrative.

Secondly, the meaning of the words, "Christmas" and "Holiday" are rooted in the religious only to sprout secularized meaning over time. Crowding into the stores (prior to COVID) to get the best deals for Christmas presents doesn't sound very sanctifying, but does look like a sellout to marketing and consumerism (no matter which phrase is used). Forgotten is that the Christ-Mas was originally a specific church service to honor Jesus with a feast (i.e., communion). On the other hand Holiday wasn't a vacation by the Brits or a marketing ploy for American consumers, but a Holy-Day set aside for God. Thus, Christmas is a holiday or the Christ-Mas is a Holy-Day.

So if we really want to redeem Christmas and transform it from the secular into the sacred, let's stop arguing over words/phrases not found in the Bible. Be at peace with either phrase. Instead, let's honor Christ on this holy day and do what Jesus did best. Let's forsake the power grab and serve our neighbors. Let's feed the hungry, heal the sick, free the captives, calm the (inner) storms, instill hope for the hopeless and forgive the debts. And in our kindness, wish warmly the people we encounter, whoever they are, "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holy-days," because as Christians, that's what we do best.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

(i.e., only God is glorified!)



Have a wonderful day!