

Sunshine Church Of Christ



Volume 58, Issue 104

sunshinecofc.church

Sunday, December 20, 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
-----------------	----------

Family Life Minister

Jamie Riley	935-7812
-------------	----------

Youth Minister

Tim Gampp	(606) 356-3345
-----------	----------------

Sunshine Church of Christ
20 Barklow Road
Portsmouth, OH 45662
Church Building - 740-820-3415
Innermission—740-355-3186

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year, and with apologies to Andy Williams, it may be the most wonderful time of the year. From Thanksgiving to New Years the focus on family, forgiveness and future hopes are packaged and wrapped neatly under the Christmas tree.

Since March COVID-19 has disrupted our entire lives and the story of its disruption has been told like an endlessly bad joke. We know about the social distancing protocols. We've seen the business sector take a huge hit. Questions about mental health are raised as children and parents struggle to educate at home. Who knew that the term "in person," as a legitimate way to describe our church services, would be coined? Sickness, death and dread hover like a black cloud waiting to burst. Right now, it's hard to be merry when COVID is everywhere. And so far this Christmas hasn't been near as "wonderful" as prior Christmases.

As we're stepping into Christmas, a few thoughts have been running through my mind worth sharing. First, history is replete with Christmas's that have been far from wonderful. Just four days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war on Germany (declaring war on Japan was a quicker process). By Christmas, America was committed to war with families sending their young men (and some young women) overseas. Nearly 300,000 never returned. Historians tell us that WWI left even a larger hole in people's lives, taking years to heal (a reason why Europe was so slow to stop Germany's aggression). The closest marker we have to understand COVID is the Spanish Flu which lasted two years, 1918-1920, and claimed nearly 700,000 lives. Maybe the deadliest disease was the Black Plague hitting Europe in 1347, lasting four years and claiming an estimated 25 million lives. These events are not included to minimize COVID and its impact on our lives, but to remind us that while the path we tread is new to us, it's well worn by those who have gone on before us. Jesus walked with them through their Christmas seasons, and he'll walk with us (Heb. 12:2; 13:8).

Secondly, Christmas this year has exposed what the marginalized have experienced: beneath the joy and laughter is pain and suffering. Significant pain and suffering. Social isolating has opened our eyes to the need of community and gathering. We miss our friends and family. We're battling loneliness with mental health issues rising. But what all of us are struggling with is what many people deal with on a regular basis. People are estranged and longing for reconnection, even if they don't understand how to reconnect (see Act. 2:42-47).

Continued On Back Page

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 strength and 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 caregivers.

<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 foyer 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

~~~~~  
Sunshine Family,  
We want to thank you for the prayers,  
flowers, food and love shown to us at  
this time of our great loss. God and  
Church was a big part of Bob's life. He  
enjoyed many years of helping the song  
leaders pick their songs.  
Thank you to all that prepared the  
abundance of food and delivered it to  
our house.  
Thank you Jason and Jamie for doing  
his service.  
We love you all,  
The Havens Family

~~~~~  
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.
~~~~~

"She will give birth to a son, and you  
will call him Jesus, because he will save  
his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21



## **I Am The Bible**

**I am the Bible, God's wonderful  
library. I am always - and above all -  
the truth.**

**To the weary pilgrim, I am a strong  
staff.**

**To the one who sits in darkness, I  
am glorious light.**

**To those who stumble beneath  
heavy burdens, I am sweet rest.**

**To him who has lost his way, I am a  
safe guide.**

**To those who are sick in sin, I am  
healing strength and forgiveness.**

**To the discouraged, I am a message  
of hope.**

**To those who are distressed and  
tossed about by the storms of life, I  
am an anchor, sure and steadfast.**

**To those who are searching, I reveal  
the Savior of the world.**

**I am the Bible.**

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

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

## **Family Bible Time**

**Dec.20 Lesson 413**

**1 Chronicles 1-9, Nehemiah 1-2**

**Dec.23 Lesson 414**

**Nehemiah 3-8**

# Those Who Serve

|                       |                   |                   |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday Morning</b> | <b>12/20/2020</b> | <b>12/27/2020</b> | <b>01/03/2021</b> |
| Welcome               | Shaun McCray      | Rich Book         | Jon Coriell       |
| Midservice Prayer     |                   |                   |                   |
| Communion             |                   |                   |                   |
| Reading               |                   |                   |                   |
| Closing Prayer        |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Sunday Evening</b> | <b>12/20/2020</b> | <b>12/27/2020</b> | <b>01/03/2021</b> |
| Song Leader           | Service Online    | Service Online    | Service Online    |
| Reading               |                   |                   |                   |
| Communion             |                   |                   |                   |
| Assist                |                   |                   |                   |
| Prayer                |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Wed. Evening</b>   | <b>12/23/2020</b> | <b>12/30/2020</b> | <b>01/06/2021</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)

Thirdly, a better question than asking, "Why?" is "How long?" (Ps. 13:1-2). The "Why" question is usually unanswerable. Sometimes a direct line between cause and effect can be drawn. Sometimes. Most of the time a correlation does not exist. Sure, if you smoke a pack of cigarettes for thirty years you may end up with lung cancer or COPD. Or maybe you won't. That's part of the cause and effect weirdness. But more so, asking the "Why" question puts God in a defensive posture of blame. Directly or indirectly God is at fault for causing or allowing the bad to happen (when Jesus quotes the why question of Ps. 22:1, it's relational and he's not seeking an explanation). Even if we knew the "why," it doesn't change our situation, we still have to endure or give up. But the "How long" question steps far more into faith by enlisting God's presence without further explanation. Since facts won't change our situation, we need God's assurance that our situation will come to an end.

Finally, instead of looking for the silver lining, be the silver lining for someone's life. Make that extra phone call of encouragement. Provide a meal to a neighbor or family suffering through COVID. Send a Christmas card to someone who won't receive cards. Be generous with the homeless. Purchase a meal for frontline workers. Maybe through our compassionate generosity we can make this a very merry Christmas anyway.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

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



Have a wonderful day!