

TIME OF SERVICES

Sunday:

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| Bible Classes | 10:00 a.m. |
| Worship Service | 11:00 a.m. |
| Worship Service | 6:00 p.m. |

Wednesday:

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|---------------|-----------|
| Bible Classes | 7:00 p.m. |
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Preachers

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| John Mundy | (870) 623 5339 |
| Dick Blackford | (870) 919-2266 |
| Office | (870) 933-9134 |


Elders

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Kemuel Camp | (870) 930-6970 |
| Scott Stubblefield | (870) 934-8874 |

Deacons

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Phillip Cassidy | (870) 623-2588 |
| Jeff Ladyman | (479) 236-5365 |
| Steve Lands | (870) 974-1976 |
| Travis Moody | (870) 650-1649 |

**THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY,
MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS
ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS
COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE
NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.**



StoneRidge
Church of Christ
where CHRIST is the chief cornerstone
1 Peter 2:7

Vol. 15, No .19 January 1, 2023

WHY WAS JESUS BORN?

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

MARK 10:45

Here's a side to the birth of Jesus that isn't often told: those soft little hands, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, were made so that nails might be driven through them. Those baby feet, pink and unable to walk, would one day walk up a dusty hill to be nailed to a cross. That sweet infant's head with sparkling eyes and eager mouth was formed so that someday men might force a crown of thorns onto it. That tender body, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes, would one day be ripped open by a spear.

Jesus was born to die.

Don't think I'm trying to put a damper on your "Christmas spirit". Far from it—for Jesus' death, though devised and carried out by men with evil intentions, was in no sense a tragedy. In fact, it represents the greatest victory over evil anyone has ever accomplished.

-J. MacArthur, 2001

MARY

This time of year, we talk about Mary a lot.
But what about Mary's mother?
Someone had to raise Mary to find favor with God.
Someone had to raise Mary to treasure purity.
Someone had to raise Mary to honor Joseph.
Someone had to raise Mary to know the voice of the Lord, even though they were living in the silent years.
Mary's mother, we don't know her name.
We don't know what her life looked like.
We don't know who she was married to, or what he was like.
All we know is, she raised the mother of Christ.
She raised a daughter, highly favored of the Lord.
She raised a daughter to fear the Lord, when the Lord was silent.
This is what we know.
Mary's mother didn't have an encounter with Angel, telling her to raise Mary carefully because of how the Lord was going to use her.
Mary's mother chose to raise Mary wisely so that the Lord could use her.
Mary's mother didn't have an encounter with Angel, telling her to honor her husband, because Mary would need to honor Joseph when he told her to travel to Bethlehem while she was great with child, when he told her to flee Herod's wrath (before it came to pass) in the middle of the night, Mary's mother just honored her husband, obeyed, and submitted to him because she knew that's what she was called to do.
Mary's mother didn't have an encounter with an angel, giving her a word to cling to in those dark, silent years. But she clung to the word of God that she had. She trusted his word, even during his silence.
And her home shone with divine favor, because she made choices in the dark, that affected the whole world.
Mary did you know?
She knew some, she knew what the Angel told her.
But Mary's mother?
She had no idea.
But she chose to raise a daughter that the Lord could use.
And that choice still affects us all today.
Who you raise can affect eternity.
The example you set in marriage, can affect eternity.
Your home can make the gates of Hell tremble.
But it starts with you.

-Sarah Trent

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. **Nellie Vanhooser** is dealing with a broken wrist and may need surgery...**Kemuel Camp** has been sick recently...Remember **Beth Cossey** is now in a long term care facility. Her address is on the bulletin board. She received a blood transfusion recently... **Virginia Bishop** continues to endure severe pain and is still awaiting treatment for it....**Charles Wayne French** (Nola Christenberry's brother) continues to receive treatment.. **Leon Christenberry** has been dealing with a bad cold...**Donald Crisler** continues his treatment for cancer...Remember our shut-ins: **Madonna Vines** is confined at home. **Bob** and **Jean Evans** are also confined at home...**Gail Brooks** and **Rita Kieffer** are both at St. Bernard Village...**Shirley Coots** at Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... **Joyce Riley** is at St. Elizabeth's Place... Continue to remember all of these in your prayers.

PODCAST! Hear a lesson from God's word each morning from John Mundy on Facebook & YouTube, 8 am.

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Thank you Lord for giving me The brand new year ahead. Help me live the way I should, As each new day I tread.

Give me gentle wisdom, That I might help a friend. Give me strength and courage, So a shoulder I might lend.

The year ahead is empty, Help me fill it with good things: Each new day filled with joy, And the happiness it brings.

Please give the leaders of our world A courage born of peace, That they might lead us gently, And all the fighting cease.

Please give to all upon this earth, A heart that's filled with love, A gentle happy way to live, With your blessings from above. Unknown

