



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 29, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

November 12

Our Next Gospel Meeting

March 3-8, 2024

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 2 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

November 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ

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“MY DESIRE IS TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST”

It is 11:25 on Wednesday morning as I write this. Veronica Bowman, who has been on our prayer list for quite some time, died yesterday at 4:45 in the afternoon. I just read that Matthew Bassford died around 2 this morning. Many Christians near and dear to my heart are thinking about death right now. I'm thinking about it, too.

Death is called our “enemy” in 1 Corinthians 15:26. It is the enemy of the living, a terrifying monster lurking just out of the corner of our eye waiting to pounce. When it does, we are helpless to prevent it. This is why people spend so much time trying to avoid thinking about death.

Matthew was not like that. As his disease intensified his desire to depart and be with Christ increased. He began to speak openly about the process of dying and what awaited him just across the other side. He came to appreciate the knowledge that his death was imminent because it forced him to focus upon his walk with Christ and eternity in ways he never had before. He spoke often and with longing about topics that even Christians often shy away from. Matt was ready.

Veronica's body fought her cancer for as long as it could. Her loved ones watched her strength and vitality fade as her disease did its work. Family and friends gathered to say their farewells. She was very close to Jackie and her family. Veronica was Robin's best friend and like an aunt to Jackie. Her absence will be felt and a great many tears are still to come. Most importantly, Veronica was a child of God.

Members Needing Our Prayers

Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Janett Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Cheryl Samons, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Family of Valari Butler-Jones, Charlie Hoy, Janice Parsons, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Visit us on Facebook, YouTube, or our website to watch or listen to sermons.

There will be two funerals shortly with no absence of tears. There will also be laughter and joy. This is because God has made it so that the faithful need not grieve as those who have no hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) I cannot help but feel a touch of envy, if I'm honest. They get to see Jesus before I do. To see and experience what they see and are experiencing right now!

I pray that the unbelievers who loved Matthew and Veronica will take to heart the lessons learned in "the house of mourning." (Ecclesiastes 7:2) For those of us are believers, it is a reminder that we are one step closer to joining them in peace and rest. Paul captured the spirit of the hopeful well. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better." Far better, indeed. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
Adam Litmer	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

