



Woodsfield Church of Christ
860 Lewisville Road
Woodsfield, Ohio 43793
Phone: 740.472.5321

www.woodsfieldchurchofchrist.org

“Serving others as we serve Jesus.”



Scott McFarland
Minister



Keith Jones
Family Life Minister

Sunday

Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Evening.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class.....7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jeff Bettinger
Bob Burrow
Keith Jones
Bob Kenney
Duane Landefeld
Brian Rose

Ronnie Beardmore
Eric Carothers
Dan Christman
Ned Day
Mark Henthorn
Shawn Howell
Butch Lallathin

Deacons

Brent McConnell
Jeff Seidler
Howard Spengler
Andrew Stalder
Jesse Stalder
Dan Watkins

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jim Mercer, Cassie Wells, Sue Dearth, Kevin Weckbacher, Peg Buckalew, Larry Briggs, Bud Byers, Gage Ackerman, Sharon Leasure, Trevor Kuhn (Bonnie Cline's great-grandson), Dan Watkins, Nancy Theiss, Leah Feasel, Nerine Seidler, the family of Kay Kenney on her passing.

Please pray for Gary Alleman. Gary has been dealing with stomach issues while he and Janice have been in Florida, and he has been in and out of the hospital. He now has had major surgery on his stomach. Pray for healing and answers as they seek treatment in Florida.

BABY SHOWER

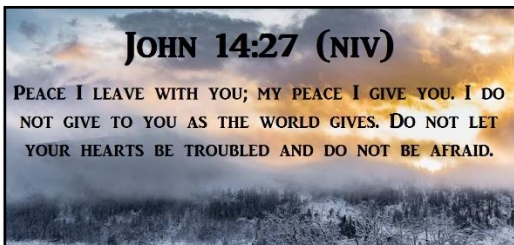
There will be a baby shower for Angela Beardmore Sunday, March 29th after evening services. If you would like to give on a gift, please see Merna Bettinger or Patti Spengler. Angela is registered at Target and Walmart: clothes sizes are 9 months and up, and diaper sizes are 3 and up.

BIBLE CLASS NEWS

Can you quote Deuteronomy 6:5? Joshua 21:45 ? or Judges 17:6? I bet the following students can: Colton Jones, Reagan Britton, Landree Rose, Trace Ruger, Alice Strump, Roree Harris, Blaine Friday, Easton Colvin, Wesley Neville, Riley Britton, Paiten Huffman, Heidi Postle, and Jaren Friday. Be sure to congratulate them - and ask them to quote it for you. Thanks to all teachers and students for keeping God's word close to your heart. Keep up the great work!

STEPPING STONES

Thanks for your support with the February calendars. If you have not turned in your donation, it is never too late.



Prudence

Last week, I shared some thoughts from Scripture about ways to handle the current situation. Though likely helpful to many of you, it was pretty generic and could be taken a few different ways depending on what you already believed about the coronavirus situation. This week, I want to be a bit more pointed. You may not agree with me on what I am about to say, and that is fine. However, I want to share some thoughts again from Scripture and apply them to what we are currently seeing.

Proverbs 22:3 says, “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.” The current situation has put a lot of people in difficult positions, particularly churches and church leaders. Should we have services or cancel? Should we encourage people to stay home or to attend? I’ve heard some argue for the continuation of services with the idea that to cancel or not attend would be a response in fear. I’ve even heard/seen some thoughts floating around that God will protect those who attend worship services for “not forsaking the assembling.” If that is you this morning, let me take a minute to share some thoughts.

God never promises to save those who ignore sound advice. After the death of Solomon, his son Rehoboam became king. When trying to decide how he would reign, 1 Kings 12 tells us Rehoboam consulted two groups of advisors. One group, the older, encouraged him to lighten up on the labor and taxes his father Solomon had enforced. The younger group encouraged Rehoboam to lead the kingdom into heavier taxation. Rehoboam listened to the younger crowd which angered the people and led to a split in the kingdom, the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah. Wisdom would have prevented this.

The church is not the building. Throughout the New Testament, the word “church” is used for the assembly of God’s people. What is always absent in the description, however, is a physical building. When the word “church” is used, it’s always a description of God’s people wherever they are. In the New Testament, they were usually meeting in someone’s house. The beautiful thing about worship is that it can happen anywhere God’s people gather: online, in a home, or under a tree!

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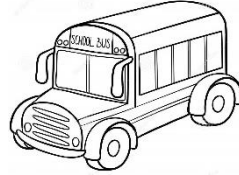
March 22, 2020

Last Week's Records

Bible Class	53
Sunday Morning	130
Bible Hour	37
Sunday Evening	48
Wednesday Evening	
Budget	\$5827
Contribution	\$3837

Last Week's Bus Riders

Green Bus	11
Workers	<u>5</u>
Total	16



Prudence-continued

Not forsaking the assembly is not missing a church service. Hebrews 10:25 is often quoted in times like these, encouraging Christians “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...” While I admire the dedication of many who would come any time the doors are open regardless of circumstances, I don’t believe that is the writer’s intent. We could actually make a case to translate the verse this way: “Stop neglecting meeting together...” It seems that the writer is actually chastising a group of people who have just stopped gathering altogether. He is not writing to people to keep them from missing any service at all, not matter what their reason. Obviously, I’m not advocating playing fast and loose with this. There are a lot of unnecessary reasons to miss a gathering as well, and a habitual absence from gathering with God’s people breeds problems for the individual (which is actually why the writer warns about this if you keep reading the rest of the chapter).

This is the longest article I’ve ever written at Woodsfield. What am I saying? I guess I’m trying to help folks understand that any cancellations, any decisions by individuals to stay at home and worship, are legitimate given the current situation. You do not need to feel guilty for not being at the building; you and I are staying home out of concern for our neighbor and the public health. Also, *this is temporary*. When this ends, I have every confidence we’ll be back together—all of us—worshipping God in our building. What an awesome celebration that will be! In the meantime, let’s do what we can to join together, protect the vulnerable in our community, and stay home for the immediate future. Join us online with our live streaming on Facebook, or seek a small group (less than 10) out to worship with Sunday mornings. We’ll be together again soon!_

-Scott McFarland