



Midway Messenger

July 7, 2019

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BIND US TOGETHER LORD

If you took a regular sized poster board and cut it up into as many little pieces as possible, you would begin to get an idea of the number of religious groups in our land and of the rampant division which exists.

Is there any hope of sense and unity amidst such circumstances?

Yes, only in Jesus can we find such hope. Consider the apostle Paul's words as a guide as we briefly explore the bond which can exist among believers (Ephesians 4:1-6).

The Lord binds us together through His teachings. There is the teaching about God. He is the Father, the Lord (the Son), and the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:4-6). Our God, above all things, wants us to be saved from our sins and serve Him (I Tim.2:4). The Father sent the Son to execute the plan on earth (Luke 4:43,44) and the Spirit revealed the plan to man and guided the men who wrote the holy scriptures (2 Pet.1:20,21).

There is one faith, that is, one system of salvation and Christian living (Eph.4:5). As Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, the life..." (John 14:6). There is one baptism involved in the gospel plan to save. It is the baptism of the great commission given by Jesus before he left earth (Matt.28:18-20). Jesus is the only Lord – we do not follow man's wisdom and traditions. The Lord is the head of the one body, the church (Eph.4:4; 1:22,23), in which forgiven people worship and carry on the Lord's work on earth. Then, there is the one hope of heaven up above (Eph.4:4; Col.1:5), an eternal home for the faithful at the very throne of God (Rev.3:21). These seven "ones" represent the full collection of the teachings of Christ which we learn by reading the New Testament and are the foundation upon which unity is realized.

The Lord also binds us together through internal goodness. In Ephesians 4, Paul emphasizes several qualities which must live in our hearts. "Lowliness" refers to humility and sacrificial love for each other. Paul mentions that he labored in Ephesus with "all humility, tears and trials" (Acts 20:19). "Meekness" is that calmness and tenderness of the soul from which powerful encouragement flows. Jesus is "meek and lowly in heart" (Matt.11:28-30). Add to these qualities – patience, love and an eagerness to serve and be united (Eph.4:3) and we will naturally have the environment the Lord expects.

"Bind us together Lord with cords which cannot be broken..." This is a great song and prayer. May we carry out these precepts in everyday life and as we work together in His church.

David

nursery available
For children ages 0-3
years during
Sunday morning
services.

FOR THE RECORD
June 30

Bible Study	113
A.M. Worship	151
P.M. Worship	93
Contribution	\$5,899
Weekly Budget	\$6,000

Remember these sick and shut-ins with visits, calls, cards and prayers.

...I was sick and you visited me...Matthew 25:36

- Harold Pirtle has been moved to NHC for rehab.
- Louise Maynard has been moved from ICU to a room and is improving.
- Noel Counce had an MRI Friday on his leg.
- We express our sympathy to Melinda Allen, in the loss of her sister, Ann Hill, and to Heather Hood in the loss of her cousin, Kagan Sutton.

ON-GOING PRAYER LIST

Continue to remember **Wilma Eady, Harold and Deborah Pirtle, Myron and Faye Dean Standridge, Corine Cahela, Laverne Martin, Luceal Meeks, Uel Hester, Lavona Cahoon**

- Kayla Barker - Online studies
- Ethan Carter - 5345 Atlanta Hwy., Montgomery, AL 36109
- Hannah Flack - 912 Lovvorn Road, Apt. 632, Carrollton, GA 30117
- Preston Grover - Calhoun Community College
- Allyson James - 10 Hackberry Circle, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
- Kellie James - Calhoun Community College
- Taylor LeMay - UNA Box 5846, Florence, AL 35632-0001
- Sasha Scott - Athens State University
- AN Hunter Lane Stewart - HSC 6, NAS North Island, PO Box 357106, San Diego, CA 92135

**OUR
COLLEGE
STUDENTS
AND
MILITARY
PERSONNEL**

Next Sunday Evening: We will be recognizing our children who have learned their memory verses over the past several months in Bible class. The verses involve periods of Bible history from Moses to the kings of Israel and Judah (Exodus through 2 Chronicles). We will recognize our children at the beginning of assembly next Sunday at 6. We ask our little ones to sit up front.

Tonight: As part of our usual summer guest speakers, we will have brother Todd O' Donnell with us. He and his family work in New Zealand. He is a very good Bible teacher and brings a very unique perspective in learning the Bible and living for Christ. Todd is a native to New Zealand, but his wife, Jeana, is from America. Her parents, Danny and Betty Rader, live in Bridgeport, Alabama and serve in the church there. The O' Donnell's daughter, Abby, came to FCF Bible camp every summer for years and is now at FHU in Henderson, TN.

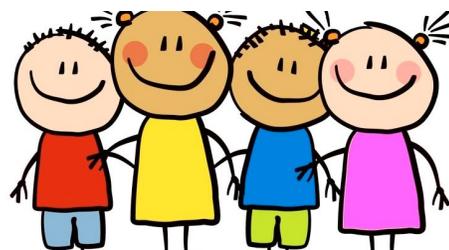
PLANNING LUNCH: Our next calendar planning session is scheduled for next Sunday, July 14, after morning services. This is a time of coordinating our church activities with the aim of saving and edifying as many souls as possible.

CAMP WEEKS CONCLUDE: The Lord provided wonderful weeks at camp this year. For example, there were 11 baptisms during senior week and many who resolved in their hearts to serve and worship more faithfully. Among the baptisms, there were two baptized who have grown up in a denominational situation. We pray the truth will be received by fellow family members and more will be added to the church by our Lord. With two Bible classes and two worship times daily, plus a wholesome environment, camp provides an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. We thank the elders and the church here for supporting this event every year. Sarah Bowen, Lauren Hamby, Brenna Fletcher, Anna Barker, Kellie James, and Kayla Barker all had a good time and served the camp in a very good manner.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

7 - (B) Denise Hutto
7 - (B) Neil LeMay
7 - (B) Windell Denney
11 - (B) Chanler Callahan
12 - (B) Tom Wilkerson

"FILL A BACKPACK"



School supply drive for East Lawrence Elementary students. Grade specific lists are on the back tables. Items are needed by Wednesday, July 31st.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ⇒ ***Today, Summer Singing following evening services, at the home of Chris & Alison James for ages 13-30's. Pizza & drinks will be provided, please bring chips or desserts.***
- ⇒ ***July 14th, Bowling after evening services. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the back. Money is due to Matt Addison by next Sunday morning.***
- ⇒ ***July 28th, Bridal Shower for Brenna Fletcher from 2-3:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Selections are at Walmart and Belk, and a money tree is available.***
- ⇒ ***A sign up sheet for holiday boxes for the children in Haiti, is available on table in back of auditorium.***