



THE MESSENGER

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April 26, 2018



2018

**Church Wide
Potluck Lunch
Honoring our
High School
Seniors**

Sunday, May 6

Congratulations!

*Hayden Dugger
Nathan Greer
Hallie Hardin
Daniel Hartman
Jack Helton
Katie Hodges*

*Alex Lofton
Max Maples
Conner Rogers
Brooke Weekley
Anslee West*



STATISTICS

April 15, 2018

Bible Study	421
Sunday a.m.	603
Sunday p.m.	559
Wednesday	852
Contribution	\$15,214

April 22, 2018

Bible Study	440
Sunday a.m.	634
Sunday p.m.	464
Wednesday	792
Contribution	\$18,383

HCM Study Hall

May 6-8
 Sunday – Tuesday nights
 6pm – 11pm

**LOOK WHAT'S
 COMING UP!**

**PARENTS: PICK UP
 @BUILDING AT 8PM**

**TWEENS
 EVENT**

**MAY 13
 6PM
 \$3**

**HOME OF TIM
 & BELINDA
 ANDERSON**



Save These Dates for May!

- MAY 1:** Last night of our Homecoming Gospel Meeting with David Powell @7pm
- MAY 5:** Mid-South Youth Camp Fishing Rodeo (registration @8am)
- MAY 6:** Church-Wide Potluck Lunch honoring our High School graduates
FHU Chorale Singing @6pm
Lads to Leaders Registration in the chapel @6pm
HCM Study Hall begins @6pm
- MAY 6-8:** HCM Study Hall each night 6-11pm
- MAY 8:** Sew Sisters 9am-noon
- May 9:** Last 10AM Bible class for the semester

Last 5:45pm Service for the semester (Singing Night)
- MAY 10:** Senior OASIS luncheon @ noon
- MAY 13:** TWEENS event at the home of Tim & Belinda Anderson @6pm
- MAY 13:** Mother's Day
- MAY 14-15:** FHU Rummage Sale Drop-Off Days
- MAY 16-19:** FHU Rummage Sale Days @National Guard Armory
- May 20:** Baby Girl Shower for Melissa & Josh Hooker @2pm
- MAY 20:** Shepherding Group meeting (Morris & Steele) @6pm
- May 22:** Senior OASIS Trip to Tupelo



May Birthdays

2	Jacob Beene	13	Ben Morris	24	Katrina Cook
2	Emma Breeding	13	Blair Varner	24	Elijah Hardin
2	Steven Marise	14	Michael Burton	24	Mike Hurst
2	Dale Neal	14	Bob Day	24	Lane Weekley
3	Eli Drieling	14	Cathy Maples	25	Ella Hardin
3	Lauren White	16	Nadia Graham	25	Margaret Ridings
4	Ashley Hardin	17	Michael Hart	26	David Chasteen
4	Martha Lewis	17	Bruce Lewis	26	Donna Farris
5	Jason Deffenbaugh	18	Kevin Allen	26	Ben Flatt
5	Briella Gott	19	Cecily Davis	26	Jared Gott
6	Colt Mims	19	Barry Smith	26	Larry Kent
7	Reed Vega	20	Rylee Seratt	27	Mallory Blackwell
8	Tim Carter	20	Austin White	27	Janet Sweeney
9	Taze Lofton	21	Bridget Allen	28	Jace Carpenter
10	Bud Butler	21	Tyrone Hopper	28	Bonnie Hendrix
10	Micah Hollamon	22	Paden Buckley	31	Liam Hardin
11	Benjamin Ellis	22	Linda Hodges	31	Roy Sharp
13	Hannah Chasteen	23	Sarah Hibbett		
13	Jagger Cox	23	Elisabeth Hibbett		

May Anniversaries

2	Mon & Nadine McNeal	21	Brian & Brandi Welch
8	Bill & Deloris Harris	22	Clay & Stephanie Cox
9	Kevin & Holly Roeder	26	Sammy & Lisa Beene
10	Bill & Joanna Cearley	26	William & Joy Meadows
14	Richard & Loretta Cave	28	Paul & Billie Noles
16	Chris & Linda Hodges	31	Weldon & Carol Hendrix
20	Stephen & Joyce Morris		

Billy's Bylines

By Billy Smith

Focused on Love

This is our congregational theme for the month of May. Our focus will be on what the Lord calls the first and great commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31). The Bible never tells us to love ourselves; it assumes that we will and that we do. Therefore, we are to cherish the gift of life and use it loving God more than self and others.

The ancient Greeks had four words for love while the English language has only one. The word most frequently found in the New Testament is *agape*; it is the word that describes the nature of God: "God is love" (1 John 4:8). *Agape* desires only the good of the one loved. It is passionate for the well being of others, known as "benevolent good will." This is faithful love even when the one loved is unresponsive, unkind, unlovable, and unworthy. It is unconditional love, and that is why it is the word that best describes God our Father and Jesus our Lord.

Phileo is the word for friendship and companionship, or brotherly love (*philadelphia*). This is the love we feel for those we like and admire because of their qualities, especially in receiving the benefits of their kindness, presence, and appreciation. It involves giving as well as receiving, a love of affection and admiration for those who enrich our lives by theirs.

Eros is the word for erotic love, a love of overwhelming passion that can take control of both mind and body. It is the love of self-satisfaction, leading to selfishness and self-centeredness. While *eros* is directed toward another person, it actually has the pleasing of one's self as its goal rather than the pleasing of others. We do not find this word in the New Testament at all.

Storge is the word for the natural affection found within families, that special affection and devotion shared between husband and wife, parent and child, brothers and sisters. It is the word Paul uses in Romans 12:10, "Be devoted to one another, giving preference to one another in honor." Blessed and happy are those who share and enjoy this love throughout the course of life.

May our focus this month be on how we can love God and each other more than we have ever experienced before.

Koinonia

Bill Wade

the following was written by Allen Webster...

When a counselor asked a lady, "Have you heaped coals of fire on your enemy?" (thinking she would remember Romans 12:20, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head"), she replied, "No, but I've tried scalding water!"

Resentment and vengeance are two ingredients for a miserable life. A happy person is a giver, a forgiver, and a thanksgiver. The Bible teaches that we are forgiven to forgive.

We must be forgivers to be like God (1 Peter 1:15-16).

William Arthur Ward said, "We are most like beasts when we kill; we are most like men when we judge; we are most like God when we forgive" (Ephesians 1:7). Alexander Pope said, "To err is human, to forgive divine." There is no higher goal than to be like God and His Son Jesus – and both are forgivers.

John said, "These things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...and you know that He was manifested to take away our sins" (1 John 2:1;3:5; Isaiah 53:5)

We must be forgivers to please God.

Since God commanded us to forgive others (Mark 11:25-26; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13), when one refuses to forgive, he disobeys God and stands to be rejected (Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 5:8-9). Forgiveness is not optional. One may as well not take the Lord's supper, refuse baptism, or be unfaithful to one's spouse, as to hold a grudge. It is a life and death matter (Revelation 22:14; John 14:15).

We must be forgivers to be forgiven by God.

Jesus said, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15). Since all need forgiveness, all must forgive. A hand closed to give forgiveness is closed to receive forgiveness.

- Joseph forgave his brothers (Genesis 45:5-15)
- Moses forgave Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12:1-13)
- David forgave Saul (1 Samuel 24:9-22)
- The father forgave the prodigal (Luke 15:20-24)

Jesus told of a servant who owed a king ten thousand talents (a tremendous sum of ten million dollars) (Matthew 18:23-35). Josephus, a first-century historian, recorded that all Palestine's annual taxes was only about 800 talents. One man obviously could never pay this debt.

The king commanded that he, his wife, and children be sold so some payment could be made. The servant begged the king saying, "Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all." The king was moved with compassion and forgave him the entire debt.

The same servant then went and found a fellow servant who owed him a hundred pence – about fifteen dollars (only 1/600,000 of 10,000 talents). He took him by the throat and said, "Pay me." The servant pled, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you all." (Sound familiar?)

The man refused to show mercy. He had the man put in prison until he could pay the debt. When other servants saw this, they were sorry and reported to their king what had been done.

The king said to the servant who had been forgiven of the huge debt, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" The king was so angry he delivered him to tormentors.

Jesus concluded, "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." The person who says, "I can never forgive you for that," does not realize the peril in which he places his own soul.

We must forgive to be happy.

If we hold grudges and harbor bitterness, hatred, and mistrust in our hearts, we will be miserable. Forgiveness brings joy (Psalm 32:1), but it must be full forgiveness. Charles Spurgeon said, "Forgive and forget; when you bury a mad dog, don't leave his tail above the ground." When we sweep the floor, we do not leave dirt behind the door; when we forgive, we bury the hatchet – handle and all. Someone said, "A grudge is one thing that does not get better when nursed." To gain peace of mind, we must avoid keeping a mental filing system to remember offenses (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17).

The Civil War left a tragic aftermath of bitterness, hatred, and resentment in America. The wounds inflicted were deep and painful. The guns fell silent, but anger continued. Many were unwilling to forget what had been done.

One who refused bitterness was General Robert E. Lee. Though Lee had led the Confederate armies through most of the Civil War, he urged reconciliation between North and South. He opposed the erection of Confederate monuments because they kept wartime passions alive. While visiting in Lexington, Virginia, a lady took Lee to her backyard and showed him the mangled stump of a once beautiful tree. She explained, bitterly, how Union troops had destroyed her property.

Expecting sympathy, she waited for his response. Finally, Lee spoke: "Cut it down, my dear Madam, and forget it."

How many of us have something we need to cut down and forget? Paul wrote, "One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God" (Philippians 3:13-14). He also said that all bitterness and malice should be put away (Ephesians 4:31). Moses wrote, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). James said, "Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned" (James 5:9).

Thackeray and Dickens, two English literary giants, became rivals. After years of hatred, they met accidentally in London. They coldly faced each other, and then turned to leave. On impulse, Thackeray

turned back and seized Dickens' hand. Dickens was touched by the gesture; they left smiling with the old jealousy ended.

Just a few days after this incident, Thackeray died. Little did Dickens know that the next time he saw Thackeray he would be in a casket. A writer, later recalling the incident, asked, "Is it not always well to seek forgiveness now?"

Do you need to forgive or receive forgiveness?

OUR PRAYER LIST

Please help us keep the prayer list current by calling the office (989-5161) if you are aware of any updates.

Members: Ella Adams, Bill Baldy, Barbara Bell, Bob Brown, Ramona Burns, Richy Butler, Joanna Cearley, Bob Day, Debby Flatt, Don & Linda Sue Gover, Sylvia Harris, Joe Jett, Danny Jones, James Koronka, Steven Marise, Janis McCall, Dale Neal, Billie Noles, Margaret Record, Dorothy Redden, Joan Rhea, Trent Rhodes, Jan Sharp, Neal Smith, David Thomas, Helen Wade, James Webb

Shut-in Members: Bill Benson, Mary Jones, Stephen Lancin, Virginia McAdams, Lois Rhodes, Robbie Stanfill, Dot Williams, Molly Young

Relatives: Jon & Julie Adams (Ed & Ella Adams), Betty Barber (Adam Cross/Mark Barber), Annette & William Barham (Brandon Barham/Annetta Burton), Evelyn Brigman (Buddy Parsons), Holly Brock (Linda Gover), Joe Neil Brown (Kay Tignor), Carolyn Coleman (Kevin Coleman), Peggy Cotter (Joe Cotter), Justin DeFrees (Sandy Cotter), Mary Crosswhite (Joyce Morris), Chris Davis (Mike & Julia Bolton), Jade Embry (Brian & Brandi Welch), Jennifer Fetters (Bob & Betty Bush), Imogene Fitts (Julia Bolton), MaryAnn Golson (Ken Golson), Dewayne Gunnels (Jana Dugger), Randy Haltom (Imogene Haltom), Mark Harris (Sylvia Harris), Jackie Hibbett (Lee Hibbett), Roy Hickman (Kevin Hickman), Allison Hill (Margaret Record), Ever Johnson (Paul & Patricia Johnson), Ted Lingren (Michele Kammanee), Vickie Malone (Mike Hurst), Marguerite McKnight (Ethan Hardin), Ermer McNeil (Debbie Lofton), Jack Milligan (Ann Lowe), Martel & Doris Pace (Lehman & Maurene McKnight), Charlotte Peters (Damon Welch), Barbara Ray (Carol Webb), Amy Reed (Joe & Sandy Cotter), Jurilee Rouse (Donna Witten), Frank Sarver (Sandy Cotter), Bruce & Gene Smith (Don Smith), Micke Smith (Micah Smith), Faye Stevens (Emily Marise), Jerry Steele (Algene Steele), Vincent Todaro (Linda Hodges), Mildred Wheeler (Sherry Thomas), Peggy Whitman (Lona Bolton), Erin Williams (Clay Carpenter), Ralph Wilson (Jana Dugger)

Military: Alex Carpenter, Johnathan Cronan, Will Hodges, Blake Jaggars, Colton Jones, Brice Thompson, Mark Thompson, Hunter Miller

In Iraq: Matthew Smith

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

April 29: 10AM Candice Barber & Mia Carter; **5PM** Lauren White & Shila England

May 6: 10AM Melanie Shelton, Presley & Payton Rhodes; **5PM** Spring McCutchen & Anita Burton

May 13: 10AM Nicole Breeding & Amanda Smotherman; **5PM** Melissa & Anna Bolton

May 20: 10AM Amy & Ella Smith; **5PM** Cindy & Mallory Blackwell

May 27: 10AM Molly & Maggie Hopper; **5PM** Nina Mims & Katie Maxwell

REQUESTED PRAYERS

Kenneth Moore and **Sam Quirk (FHU students)** requested prayers of the congregation.

SYMPATHY

We extend sympathy to **David Willis** since the death of his aunt, Lynn Baldwin.



Our Ministers

Roy Sharp - *Pulpit/Involvement Minister*
Billy Smith - *Pulpit Minister*
Bill Wade - *Associate Minister*
Jared Gott/Bill Wade - *Youth Ministers*
Bruce Lewis - *Senior Minister*
Lee Hibbett/Seth Stewart - *University Ministers*

Our Elders

Larry Bloomingburg	Shawn Bolton	Ron Butterfield	Richard England	Larry Gilliam
Mike McCutchen	Gary McKnight	Stephen Morris	Larry Oldham	Barry Smith
Charlie Smith	Keith Smith	Algene Steele	John Sweeney	

Our Deacons

Tony Allen	Tim Anderson	Mark Barber	Bryan Black	Mike Bolton
Patrick Bolton	Dexel Burns	Bobby Bush	Brian Butterfield	Richard Cave
Darryl Culberson	Larry Cyr	Jason Deffenbaugh	Jason Elliott	Paul Fader
Kerry Gott	Michael Green	Jerry Hesselrode	Tyrone Hopper	Todd Humphry
Bobby Hysmith	David Jackson	Ronald Johnson	Scott Kimpel	Dee Richardson
Wayne Roberts	Scott Rogers	Tony Rush	Wayne Scott	Donald Shull
David Sweeney	J. D. Thomas	Chad Thompson	Joe Trice	Tom Vickery
Damon Welch	Richard West			

