

## ***GOD'S REQUIREMENTS***

### ***Micah 6:8***

***He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

Micah 6:8 is God's answer to the notion that, so long as we show up at worship, we can live as we please. The prophet was sent to a nation to address her sins. He spoke of her rebellion (Micah 1:5). He addressed her idolatry (1:7). He confronted those who "scheme iniquity" (2:1). He had to condemn the injustice that was rampant (2:2, 3).

He made no bones about it, punishment was coming (2:3). A God whose character includes justice will not tolerate injustice. *THE* one true God will not tolerate idolatry on the part of His people.

Those who were doing those things went to the temple to worship, as if that nullified all of the injustice and idolatry. They saw offering worship as the one big requirement. So, the prophet asked the question "with what shall I come to the Lord and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves?" "God, aren't you pleased that I have brought rivers of oil" (6:6, 7)?

It is in response to that Micah 6:8 was spoken. God requires that our lives match what we profess in worship. Do we concern ourselves with justice, kindness, and humility? If those things are contradicted by the way we live, worship is of no benefit. Nothing has changed; God still insists that our lives be lived consistently with what we profess in worship. That is what he requires.

***--Ron Harper--***

## ***Replenished and Restored***

***“For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.”***

***Jeremiah 31:25***

As most of you know, I sell cattle every Monday evening at Midsouth Livestock Center. Once my graduate classes have been completed, I make the five-mile drive to the sale barn and watch as the other auctioneer sells the feeder cattle. But this past Monday night was different than any other Monday night. Not because the cattle were better or worse (though prices were better), but because even with the microphone turned all the way up, I still could not hear the auctioneer. You see, the sale barn has a tin roof over the entirety of the barn. At approximately 4:18 PM, I heard a sound I had not heard in a long time. It was the sound of rain!

Some people love rainy days and storms. I am not some people. Rain gets my tractor stuck, and storms make my cows go crazy. However, as Luke Bryan says, rain is a good thing. Rain replenishes the Earth and allows vegetation to grow, animals to drink, and human to do almost anything. Seeing the grass become green after a good soaking rain allows us to see just how beautifully God cares for his creation.

Sometimes we may feel like we are in a spiritual drought. Our relationship with God has become dry to the point where we are shriveled up and dying. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that he is the giver of living water (John 4:10). If we drink of this water, we will never thirst again. Jesus also said the ones who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be satisfied (Matthew 5:6). If we continue in allowing Satan to dry up our spirit, we will surely die.

What happens when the ground gets too dry? Wildfires become more likely. Even now as fires spread over East Tennessee, prayers for rain become more commonplace. In the same way, if we allow our spirit to become dry, unnourished, and shriveled, then our result is the fire of Hell. But do not be discouraged! Just like the rain replenishes the Earth and provides restoration for the ground, so also does Jesus Christ replenish our souls and provides restoration for our spirit. We need to always keep and care for our souls. They are the most valuable thing we have.

**Joshua Houston**

## PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Edna Vance, Rick Acklin, Lester & Ann Clark, Wayne Mobbs, Peggy Gilbert, Narene Davidson, Mary Williams, Melanie Martin, Candice Byars

## SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

## NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

### **\*MEMBERS**

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

**NHC:** Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton\*, Sue Reeves\*, Ernestine Taylor\*

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*, Virgie Leonard\*, Laura Wiser\*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance\*

## MILITARY:

Tony Berry

There will be a bridal basket shower for  
**Charley Smotherman and Mara Bloomfield**

who will be married on December 17<sup>th</sup>.  
They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond,  
Target and Williams Sonoma.

Charley is the son of Kelly Smotherman  
and the grandson of  
Charles and Ruthe Burton

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Disaster Relief of Nashville will be running the food line and loading 1,500 food boxes for families in Gatlinburg and Sevierville area. Volunteers needed for Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

## NEWS & NOTES

- We extend sympathy to the family of **Wayne Mingle**; he passed away Thursday at the Nashville VA. He was the brother of Wendell Mingle. Funeral service will be held today at Woodbury Funeral Home at 2 p.m. Keep the Mingle family in your prayers.
- **Congratulations!** Stuart and Leslie Conway are the proud parents of Ford Hamilton who was born on Tuesday weighing 7lbs 10oz. The proud grandparents are B.K. and Jan Ham (who will certainly have pictures to share).
- Thank you Salem Creek for donating **shoes for the homeless**. We have collected a total of 232 shoes to be given to various homeless agencies.
- **New class** beginning Sunday mornings in classroom 101. (Large Classroom)  
**Subject:** God's Patterns in the Bible  
**Discussion Leader:** John Pickard
- **Visitation Potluck Meal** today.
- The Christmas card exchange will begin today. Boxes will be available for card drop off until December 14<sup>th</sup> and the cards will be ready for pick up on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Cards for the shut ins and members at Stones River Manor will need to be mailed.
- **Gift bags for Shut-Ins.** Anyone wanting to participate is invited to meet at the church building on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to pack a bag and deliver them. Please see Larry Benson with any questions.
- In preparation of the **2017 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any additions or corrections. A printed copy of this list is in the foyer.

**\*check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

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We're on the web!  
[www.salemcreekcoc.org](http://www.salemcreekcoc.org)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday  
 Morning Worship 9:00 am  
 Bible Classes 10:15 am  
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday  
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am  
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

### ELDERS

B.K. Ham  
 Jim Hatfield  
 Jon Holland  
 Andy Mitchell  
 Randall Phifer  
 Keith Short

### MINISTER

Ron Harper

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

### DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum  
 Larry Benson Andy Melton  
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton  
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper  
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*November 27, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>226</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>166</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>143</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$6,579.00</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>13</b>

\*When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. ladies class will be cancelled\*

### *To Our Honored Guests...*

*We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!*

*We were honored by your presence!*

### GREETERS

*Please be at the door  
 30 minutes prior to service*

#### December 4

Jim & Gayle Glover

#### December 11

Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

