

## Prayer Requests

- ◆ Brian (Dorin's Son In Law) brain tumor.
- ◆ Cheri & Jon Erickson—new arrival.
- ◆ John Marescot Surgery Recovery.
- ◆ Keasha's friend Louise in Virginia for job.
- ◆ Gabriele Little Husband-Ill, Brother-ALS.
- ◆ Lisa Carter's Friends-Jenn(Breast Cancer), Jayne(Life Struggles, Cardiac Issues)
- ◆ Mary McVicar Erik's friend kidney disease
- ◆ Linda Barnes Recovering from Surgery.
- ◆ Marion Goodwin heart issues
- ◆ Wife of Dennis' brother - Alzheimer's
- ◆ Glory Parker - Health/travel.
- ◆ Spiritual and Physical well being of the church and all its members.

## Elders

Brad Shaw (207)878-4124  
Tony Lemay (207)651-3369  
Dennis Godin (207)651-3588

## Deacons

John Carter (207)229-8516  
Matt Sampson (207)251-3030

## Ministry Leaders & Staff

Education...Antonio Balsamo...(207)286-0514  
Worship.....Abe Damuth.....(207)608-1784  
Building .....Joe Romano.....(207)281-3929  
Grounds .....Lenny Spano.....(207)569-8800  
Fellowship....Matt Sampson...(207)251-3030  
Finance.....John Carter.....(207)229-8516  
Benevolence..JohnCarter.....(207)229-8516  
Secretary.....Mike Wickwar.....(207)432-2272

## Ladies Ministry

Debbie Godin (207)286-4821  
Barbara Lemay (207)850-0084

# Order of Worship

**Song 745 *Humble Thyself***

**Announcements - Shepherd**

**Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw**

**Song 31 *Be Still And Know***

**Song 344 *Low In The Grave He Lay***

**Lord's Supper - Matthew Sampson, Jacob Romano, Ruffalo Lawrance**

**Song 902 *Nothing But The Blood***

**Contribution**

**Song 800 *What A Friend We Have In Jesus***

**Prayer - Mike Wickwar**

**Song 648 *Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus***

**Scripture Reading - Jon Erickson**

***Romans 6:1-4***

**Lesson - Dennis Godin**

***Reciprocal Love***

**Lesson Text: *1 John 5:2***

**Song 587 *Sing And Be Happy***

**Closing Prayer - Shepherd**

**Song Leader - James Butler**

**Greeter - Brenda Butler**

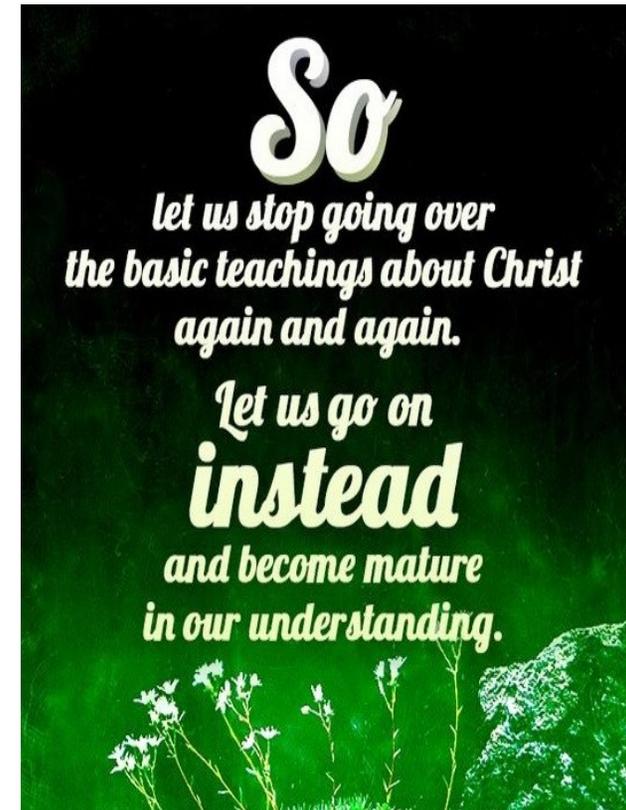
**Communion Prep - Barbara Lemay**

**Last Week's Numbers**

**Attendance: 37 Contribution: 2181.92**

***Live the Gospel at all times;  
When opportunity is there...  
Preach It!***

**THE BIDDEFORD  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WELCOMES YOU!**



**NOVEMBER 4, 2018**

**Biddeford Church of Christ**

266 Pool Street, Biddeford ME 04005

Biddefordchurchofchrist.com

(207) 284-7123

## Welcome Visitors

We here at the Biddeford Church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the Bible our principle guide for living.

### This Week's Events

Today 11/4  
**Life Groups**

Tuesday 11/6  
**Bible Study**

John & Cheri Erickson  
**Welcome a new baby girl**  
And a New Address  
**1 Brook Drive**  
**Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064**

Birthdays  
**Lisa Carter 11/10**  
**Erik Cote 11/12**

Thanksgiving Baskets In Process  
**Next Week - Stuffing (large box)**

### Next Week's Service Schedule

**Song Leader - Antonio Balsamo**  
**Opening Prayer - Brad Shaw**  
**Lord's Supper - Angel Velez, Erik Cote,**  
**Lenny Spano**  
**Prayer - Joe Romano**  
**Scripture Reading - Robert Balsamo**  
**Greeter - Jessica Damuth**  
**Communion Prep - Deborah Godin**

## Reciprocal Love

Over the last few weeks I have shared with you a couple things relating to the topic of God's love from the letter of 1<sup>st</sup> John. We looked at what drives us to "walk in the light as He is in the light" (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7); that is, the "love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God" (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1). We also considered the confidence this love, expressed through Christ, should and can bring to the Christian as they walk in His light. Each step can be taken with "boldness," free from fear of judgment, because "there is no fear in love" (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:17-18). What God has done for sinful man is so amazing!

Before we get to our verse for today, we need to consider briefly the verse before it which reads, *"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him" (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:1)*. It seems that to contradict the last two lessons concerning baptism and its essential nature. But I want you to note a couple other verses in this letter. 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:29 says in part that "everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him." Then there is 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7, which says in part that "everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." Remember, John is writing to Christians about their walk with Christ and how it needs to be revealed in life. In short, as one commentator writes, "Love me; love my offspring."

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.*

*1<sup>st</sup> John 5:2*

God's love was never intended to merely touch the individual sinner; but rather, it was intended to flow through the redeemed and out into the world. Thus, one could say that godly love was meant to be reciprocal. That is just a fancy word that means *given, felt, or done in return*. The question I wish to consider today is simple and challenging and here it is: How do I reciprocate God's love?

CAUTION!!! It is amazing how quickly one can be overwhelmed by the check list of law. We get caught up in the words "keep His commandments," failing to remember that it is "by this." The "by this" is referring to the love the believer has for the Father, and thus, as J. W. Roberts writes, "is natural to love the child of the parent when we love the parent..." Our love for God should result in our ever-growing desire to love His children as we walk in the light. The greatest command shared by Jesus is this, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). One's commitment to loving God fully is exhibited by one's willingness to "keep His commands." Note, I said exhibit! I love my wife completely, but even after 38 years of marriage, I am learning ways to exhibit that love. My complete love for her is revealed in my continued quest to learn how to love her and so it is with God and His children.

So, how do I reciprocate God's love? It begins with my understanding of God's love for me through the redemptive work of Christ. It must start there! That awareness and conviction of God and his love revealed through Christ (belief) directs or leads me to want to love Him back by seeking out those things which would please Him (Ephesians 5:10), also known as His commands. Those very commands help me to learn how to love His children, the church. What goes around, in this case, should truly come around.

*Dennis*

**Sermon Notes**

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