

Prayer Requests

- ◆ Mike Wickwar his brother's health issues; Sandra - heart surgery, Bob - Cancer.
- ◆ Keasha Marescot Mom Barbara - Dementia
- ◆ Joey Godin stomach issues
- ◆ Gabby Little personal & family health issue
- ◆ Brad & Brenda Happiness in new home.
- ◆ Linda Barnes Ongoing Health Issues
- ◆ Marion Goodwin Ongoing health issues
- ◆ Godin Family health, SIL Alzheimers
- ◆ Mary McVicar chronic kidney disease
- ◆ Glory Parker family health, traveling
- ◆ Lisa Carter's Friends Jenn & Jayne battling health and life issues
- ◆ Sampson Family health & family healing
- ◆ Our Congregation

Elders

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
Youth.....Angel Velez.....(207)730-9889
Worship.....Abe Damuth.....(207)608-1784
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GroundsLenny Spano.....(207)569-8800
Fellowship.....Matt Sampson....(207)251-3030
Finance.....John Carter.....(207)229-8516
Benevolence...John Carter.....(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 611 Heavenly Sunlight

Announcements Angel Velez

Opening Prayer: Shepherd

Song 315 When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Song 87 Sing Amen

Lord's Supper: John Marescot, Antonio Balsamo, Clifford Parker

Song 226 O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

Contribution

Song 960 It's Me

Prayer: Angel Velez

Song 634 We'll Work Till Jesus Comes

Scripture Reading: Jon Erickson

Text: **Luke 17:1-5**

Lesson: Dennis Godin

Water Under My Bridge

Lesson Text: **Matthew 6:12**

Song 860 There Is A Habitation

Closing Prayer: Tony Lemay

Song Leader: James Butler

Greeter: Brenda Horowitz

Communion Prep: Deborah Godin

Last Week's Numbers:

Attendance: 44

Contribution: \$1,590.00

***Live the Gospel at all times;
When opportunity is there...
Share then hope you have!***

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



Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Biddeford Church of Christ

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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 9/15
Life Groups

Tuesday 9/17
Bible Study

Birthdays
Vinny Balsamo 9/22

Anniversaries
Antonio & Carolyn Balsamo 9/15
Abraham & Jessica Damuth 9/18

Starts Today

*Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton
Of Jefferson City, Missouri (9/15 - 9/18)
"Life After Death"
At Southern Maine Church of Christ*

Next Week's Service Schedule

Song Leader - Antonio Balsamo
Opening Prayer - Shepherd
Lord's Supper - John Carter, TJ
Balsamo, Lenny Spano
Prayer - Mike Wickwar
Scripture Reading Sunday
Greeter - Brenda Butler
Communion Prep - Jessica Damuth

Water Under My Bridge

For the last couple of weeks, we have spent some time being reminded about how we can be empowered to let go of our past and live in Christ with confidence today while having the hope of tomorrow. Whether it be the "forgetting and reaching" of Philippians 3:13, or the acceptance of God's complete forgiveness for those in Christ, which we considered last Sunday from 1st John 1:5-10, God wants us to live in freedom from our past. He knows that to experience the true nature of the abundant life Jesus speaks of in John 10:10, our past truly needs to be water under the bridge...our bridge.

With that said, I want to consider one more idea when it comes to the image of "*water under the bridge*"; that is, the issue of our need to forgive others, something I spoke on just a few months ago. My desire to speak about it again has been stirred by my study of what Jesus taught the disciples early on in His ministry concerning how to pray. Remember these words from Jesus, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). So critical to the disciples walk that Jesus would go on to say in Matthew 6:14-15, "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." This whole line of thought begs the question, "Am I willing to forgive those in my past?"

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

Acts 9:26

When Jesus taught about prayer, He included within it those words that speak of the disciple's willingness to embrace the task of forgiving others because of their own forgiveness by God. This word debt is self-explanatory, caring the meaning of *that which is owed*. It drives home the simple fact that someone can "owe me" because of something they have done. Saul owed the early church big time! Families split, lives lost, so much hurt they suffered and now, you want us to give you a big hug and sing

"Kumbaya, My Lord" together. It's not happening...right? The debt Saul (soon to be named Paul) owed was enormous and virtually impossible to pay back. The only solution for him, for them, was God's road of forgiveness. It is a road that must be traveled.

This is why, although I know it is a command, I see it as a necessity, essential to the wellbeing of the disciple. It is not simply something God is commanding us to do, but there is a reason behind it. When the actions of others are allowed to build up in our lives, not permitting them to be water under our bridge, we change. How one might ask? Well, the decision to not forgive another only enables the heart to become bitter, defiling it over time (Hebrews 12:15). The scary thing is, that we often times don't even realize it is happening. Maybe that is why Jesus taught His disciples then, and us now, to be mindful of our need to forgive in prayer. I can understand the words of the apostle found in Luke 17:5 after Jesus taught again on the subject of forgiveness, "Increase our faith."

To be forgiving, we must walk in confidence of our own forgiveness. Paul would exhort the church in Colosse to be forgiving "even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3:13). So, do you walk in His marvelous forgiveness today? If so, is there someone in your past who owes you a debt? God invites you to release that debt and live fully in the beauty of forgiveness.

Dennis

Sermon Notes

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