### **December 8: Sunday Worship Leaders**

**Songs:** Clem Rosenberger III **Opening Prayer:** Larry Krause **Communion-lead:** Ben Wright

Communion-serving: Chris Plummer,

Tom Sellers, Dan Mitchell
Scripture: Randy Grossman
Scripture Reading: Job 4:1-21
Sermon: Brandon Foresha
Closing Prayer: Rick Smith
Remarks: Brian Steffy

**Communion Prep:** Linda Fiscus

## **December 15: Sunday Worship Leaders**

**Songs:** Randy Grossman

Opening Prayer: Ryan Barron
Communion-lead: Dave Barron
Communion-serving: Jonah Lee,
Chris Plummer, Kendal Grossman
Scripture: Nolan Grossman
Scripture Reading: Job 5:1-27
Sermon: Brandon Foresha

**Sermon:** Brandon Foresha **Closing Prayer:** Caleb Smith

**Remarks:** Steve Maul

**Communion Prep:** Linda Fiscus

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ladies' Bible Study: December 12. We will be starting our new book! Be prepared for Lesson 1. Every other Thursday. *The time is 1:00pm* at the building.
- Every Wednesday at 1pm: a group gathers at the building for visiting. See Ben, Dave or Brandon.
- **New Photo Directory:** Please make sure to fill out the form for the new directory and place in basket next to the offering box in the back of the auditorium. We also need family photos to be submitted. Let Stephanie or Amber know if you need to have your photo taken. We plan to have the new directory ready in January.

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES**

- Merle Rupp is home, please continue to pray for him.
- Val's sister, Debbie, has cancer. Please pray for her and the family.
- Amber's uncle, Bert, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Julie Delp's brother-in-law passed away suddenly on Friday.
- Sally's brother-in-law, Gary Stear, started chemo last week.
- Sharon's student, Kendrick, had an accident at home. He is in the burn unit at Children's hospital. Please pray for his recovery.
- Dawn Cribbs is going through chemo and amino therapies
- Ricki's brother passed away.
- Pat's cousin, Ed Crawford, is in failing health.
- Arthur Barry is in treatment
- As always, pray for Brandon, the elders, deacons and Bible class teachers!





#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM Sunday Afternoon Service: 3:00 PM Wednesday Eve Bible Study: 7:00 PM

## **December 8, 2024**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 344 Kittanning, PA 16201

► KittanningchurchofChrist

kittanningpacoc@gmail.com

Phone: (724) 545-9020

#### MINISTER

Brandon Foresha.....(724) 525-4111

#### **ELDERS**

Steve Maul	.(724)	859-1878
Brian Steffy	(724)	664-2064
Ben Wright	.(724)	549-2805
Clem Rosenberger III	.(724)	859-1204

#### **DEACONS**

Ryan Barron: Fellowship	(724) 841-1405
Justen Traxler: Education	(501) 272-8736
Dave Barron: Benevolence	(814) 715-2942

#### We are LIVE on YouTube!!!

All of the sermon and bible study videos are organized into playlists for your convenience. Check us out.

Remember to LIKE, SUBSCRIBE and SHARE, SHARE! http://www.youtube.com/@KittanningchurchofChrist

#### **OTHER OPTIONS FOR ACCESSING SERVICES:**

- Join us on Facebook at Kittanning Church of Christ Group
- To listen via phone, call in at 1-408-418-9388; at prompt enter code 797 046 235
- For Webex conference go to:

https://kittanningchurchofchrist.my.webex.com/meet/clemdebby. You may have to download Webex program on a computer or cell phone app.

Follow instructions from the link. **Meeting # is 797046235** 

### **PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONE** if you use Webex.

\*\*Remind App text message system: To sign up and receive messages please text this number-81010 with this message-@32f4df

\*\*\*Links in digital bulletin are active links

#### **EFFECTIVE PRAYER**

In Matthew 6:9, Jesus is teaching His disciples how to pray. "Pray, then, in this way:" This was not so much the teaching of what words to say because the Jews were trained to memorize the psalms and were experienced in offering praise and worship at the temple.

In **Matthew 6:9**, Jesus is teaching His disciples how to pray. "Pray, then, in this way:" This was not so much the teaching of what words to say because the Jews were trained to memorize the psalms and were experienced in offering praise and worship at the temple. What Jesus was teaching them was how to pray effectively. In other words, how to pray so that their prayers would be heard by God; accepted by God; and most importantly answered by God. In this regard he taught them some basic things about effective prayer:

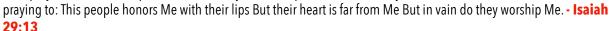
# 1. Pray to the true God if you want to be heard: 'Our Father who is in heaven, (vs. 9a)

From the beginning of time people have tried to communicate with the spiritual world. Only those who pray to the Father who claims Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, as His sons and Jesus Christ as His only divine Son are praying to the being who truly is God. No amount of prayer, no degree of sacrifice, no elaborateness of ceremony can substitute for praying to the only God that exists, the creator of the world, the one who is called Father by Jesus.

Every other prayer will be a prayer, but not one directed to or heard by God, the Father, the eternal One Who is in heaven.

## 2. Pray with respect if you want to honor God: Hallowed be Your name. (vs. 9b) Prayers offered to God must also be offered with the proper respect if they are to be

Prayers offered to God must also be offered with the proper respect if they are to be effective. The Jews knew who God was, they were not pagans, but much of the time their prayers were not acceptable because they lacked respect for the God they were



Respectful prayer requires not only words that honor God (well-spoken prayers) but also lives that are in harmony with the words. Some prayers are ineffective because we are careless in what we say, or repetitious or we do not mean or believe what is coming out of our mouths. Other times our prayers come before God without any effect because our lives are full of unrepented sins and attitudes that make a mockery of what we are asking in prayer.

#### 3. Pray and then plan, if you want your prayers answered:

<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Many times we try to use God like a genie in a bottle: someone to grant us our wishes. We lay out in front of Him in prayer everything we want and we ask Him to give it to us. Then if we get it we say thank you and if we do not we figure He did not want us to have it. Jesus said we need to ask God to tell us what He wants first, then ask for His blessing in meeting our needs, not our wants.

We need to pray first, then plan, not make our plan, then pray.

- If we pray first then God will give us the plan.
- If we pray first, then God will help us prioritize our lives.
- If we pray first, then God will lead us away from temptation; in other words, help us to avoid plans and traps that will cause us to sin.

If we pray before planning then the plan will be God's plan and He will provide for it; He will receive the glory for it; we will become fruitful because of it; and others will be blessed by it.



#### Summary

One way we can tell if our prayers are heard and honor God, is if they are answered. James says that,...the effective prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much. - James 5:16

That is to say that there is a relationship between how we pray and whether or not God answers our prayers. Has God been answering your prayers lately?

- Perhaps it is because your attitude in prayer has not been sincere and reverent. You are not praying like you really mean it.
- Maybe your life and your prayers do not quite match.
- Perhaps it is because you are not asking for God's plan for your life, you are merely asking Him to finance your own plan for your life.

One thing I do know is that the first item in God's plan for your life is that you become a Christian by believing in Jesus, repenting of your sins, being baptized in His name (Acts 2:38).

I also know that the last item in His plan is that you remain faithful until the end (Matthew 24:13).

#### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Share a time when God answered one of your prayers. How did this effect you?
- 2. What are some ways that can help a believer raise the level of respect and honor for God in prayer?
- 3. What are the ways God reveals His plans for your life as you pray to Him?

- Mike Mazzalongo, Choctaw Church of Christ, Choctaw, OK



December 12 - Louis Rigatti III

December 12 - Randy Salsgiver

December 12 - David Barron

December 14 - Merle Rupp



December 11 - Caleb & Megan Smith

Announcements & prayer requests to: Stephanie 724-398-9329 steph@grafxloft.com Remember to sign up for Lads2Leaders lunch prep.

Sign-Up sheet is on bulletin board in foyer

The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God.

— 1 Peter 4:7-10

Thank you for attending services with the church who neets in Kittanning! We invite you to study and worship with us again.