## **April 14: Sunday Worship Leaders**

**Songs:** Jason Tennant

**Opening Prayer:** Clyde Shaffer **Communion-presiding:** Carl Nulph

Communion-serving: Scott Waltenbaugh,

Jesse De La Rosa, Garret Elder **Scripture:** Randy Grossman

**Scripture Reading:** Esther 3:8-15

Sermon: Brandon Foresha
Closing Prayer: Matt Fisher
Remarks: Clem Rosenberger III
Communion Prep: Laurie Barron

# **April 21: Sunday Worship Leaders**

**Songs:** Clem Rosenberger III **Opening Prayer:** Carl Nulph

**Communion-presiding:** Ben Wright **Communion-serving:** Jonah Lee,

Chris Plummer, Dave Barron

**Scripture:** Ryan Barron

**Scripture Reading:** Esther 4:1-11

Sermon: Brandon Foresha

**Closing Prayer:** Frank Ridenour

**Remarks:** Brian Steffy

**Communion Prep:** Laurie Barron

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Ladies' Bible Study: April 18 on Prayer. Every other Thursday at 1:30 pm at the building.
- Tuesdays at 6:30pm: See Frank or Lorrie if you are interested in evening visiting.
- Every Wednesday at 1pm: a group gathers at the building for visiting. See Ben or Brandon.
- Sunday afternoon studies: Please sign up to teach a lesson from the new study book on table in foyer.
- The teens are collecting kids clothes (2T-8) and hard candy to send to the school in Africa. They will be sending a care package.
- We will be collecting items again for Honduras. For example: Soaps, small bottles of shampoos, cream rinse,
   Q-Tips, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, hand wipes, sanitizers, wash clothes, deodorants, combs, Kleenex etc.
   They are in need of newborn baby items as well: bottles, binkys, bath wash towels, rattles, etc.
   We will collect until May. There will a box in the foyer.
- April 27 at 9am: Brother's Day at Indiana church of Christ.

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

- Please pray for the Radaker family, who had a devastating house fire on April 5.
- Bill McGaughey will have rooster comb injections in his knee for the next 3 Thursdays.
- Please pray for Ray and Fay as they have both begun treatments this past week.
- Jason's co-worker's wife passed away after a long battle with cancer. Please pray for the DiPaolo family.
- Brandon will have an Electromyography (EMG) procedure on his back on April 19.
- Rick, who has been visiting with us, will be going through testing for dementia.
- Randy Lukehart's mom passed away. It's been 3 months yesterday since his dad passed. Pray for their family.
- Linda Fiscus will need to have a stent put in.
  - She was also hit by an electric scooter in Walmart. She injured her collarbone, shoulder and arm.
  - The doctors have increased her meds to try and eliminate her infection.
- Victoria and Keegan Wilson, from the Honduras mission, recently had a baby boy.





## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM Sunday Evening Service: 6:30 PM Wednesday Eve Bible Study: 7:00 PM April 14, 2024

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

Rittanning Church of Christ Group

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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 ......(724) 841-1405 Justen Traxler .....(501) 272-8736

# 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 will likely 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 and are not asking questions or commenting. If you have questions about Webex, please call Debby at (724) 954-4776.

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

# **Church Family: You Are Your Brother's Keeper**

Pull out your church directory from a few years ago and chances are good you'll find a few faces who just don't come around on Sunday anymore. Whether it's young people who lost their faith after high school, families who got busy with activities, those who spiraled into sin, or whoever else it may be, unfortunately it's inevitable that members will fall away from the church from time to time.

Some people leave loudly, causing great division in the church or refusing to repent of an uncovered sin. Most,

however, simply drift. They miss a Sunday here or there, then a few more. Next thing you know, no one's seen

them in months. They might answer a phone call and say they'll "try to be there this Sunday," but the departure has begun. The cares of the world have choked out their faith and God and His church just don't register on their priority list anymore.

The parables of Luke 15 (lost sheep, lost coin, prodigal son) show us the great value God places on the lost and the straying. It should hurt us when people abandon our Lord. To use the New Testament metaphor of the church as a body, a man or a woman who deserts the church should feel like an amputation to the rest of us. That pain must get the attention of all of us and affect our actions.

While we can attempt the calls and visits, I believe the Bible calls us to be more proactive than reactive. In other words, efforts to strengthen the faith of the weak should be



happening long before they show they are weak – perhaps even before they are weak. But who's going to do it? God expects all of us to be involved in strengthening each other. Unlike Cain brushing off God's question of where Able was, we are our brothers' keepers.

In Hebrews 3:12 the writer commands each Christian to take care that they don't fall away. The next verse, however, changes the perspective. The inward focus turns outward. "Encourage one another day after day... so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (emp. added). The two principles to take away: first, it's each one's responsibility to encourage their fellow Christians to stay faithful. Second, this is to happen regularly. It doesn't say "step in when you see someone drifting." It says "day by day" for a reason. We need constant encouraging to keep believing in Jesus and keep obeying Him.

The writer revisits this idea in 10:23-27. In 10:26-27 we're told if we practice willful sin, we have a terrifying expectation of judgment. 10:23-25 tell us what to do about it: hold fast our confession, consider how to stir up our fellow Christians to love and good works, not forsake the assembling, and encourage one another. Again, with the threat of falling away as the backdrop, Christians are commanded to find ways to help their fellow Christians stay on the straight and narrow.

A necessary disclaimer: we have to understand that we can't ensure salvation for everybody just by being more involved and encouraging them. In 1 and 2 Timothy Paul references Hymenaeus, Alexander, and Philetus, former co-laborers who turned from the truth. And, of course, Judas Iscariot spent 3 years with Jesus yet still betrayed Him when the time came. When Jesus Christ Himself (along with the apostle Paul) did not force someone to stay faithful, we have to accept the fact that we can't guarantee the faithfulness of everyone in our church family, either.

On the other hand, we shouldn't let that fact keep us from making every effort. Galatians 6:1-2 commands the spiritual to restore those who are caught in sin and to help bear their burdens. James 5:19-20 reminds us the importance of turning back those who stray to save their souls and cover their sins. Over and over the church is encouraged to proactively keep each other from sin and unbelief and reactively try to restore those who fall. How do we do this? The only way is through close relationships. We can't "encourage one another day after day" if we're only interacting for a few minutes before and after Sunday worship. We have to be close enough to speak difficult truths into each other's lives, and that kind of rapport takes time to build. It isn't easy, but it's worth it. Souls are at stake. Make the commitment today: I will draw near to my church family. I will do what it takes to stir them up to love and good works. I will carry them when they stumble. I will be my brothers' keeper.

- Focus Press



April 20 - Larry Krause

April 21 - Cody Hartman

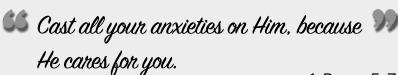
April 21 - Elizabeth Rosenberger



April 18 - Clem Jr. and Helen Rosenberger

April 26 - Colby and Kandi Conner

Text or email announcements and prayer requests to: Stephanie 724-398-9329 steph@grafxloft.com



- 1 Peter 5:7

Thank you for attending services with the church who meets in Kittanning!

We invite you to study and worship with us again.