

Is Hope Lost?

Life boils down to two emotions vying for possession of our souls. We're either carried by the winds of joy into newness of life or we are engulfed in a prison of sorrow where nothing ever changes. Joy is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Sorrow is the cancer of the soul (Psa. 119:28; Prov. 15:13).

Because of their connection to righteousness (joy) and sin (sorrow), most of us try hard not to let any sorrow show. But it's always there, just under the surface. Hurt, loss, and disappointment are all offsprings of sorrow and reminders that no matter how "saved" we are, we are not in control. Though our God is Light we are just as prone to the ever-encompassing darkness sorrow brings to everyone. This fallen world does not desist from its attempts to rob, steal, and destroy when we become citizens of the kingdom of heaven. The words of singer/songwriter Paul Simon seem quite apropos "Hello darkness my old friend, I've come to talk with you again."

When God put the vision of the Suffering Servant into the mind and heart of the prophet Isaiah He didn't show the prophet a picture of a beast of burden (such as a mule or pack horse). Before Isaiah ever wrote a word about a lamb, he wrote of a man so immersed in sorrow that people had a hard time even looking at Him. You've been there haven't you? You can't look into the face of the father who just lost his beautiful daughter. It doesn't matter how he lost her. Accident, cancer, murder...they all produce an indescribable sorrow that is hard to acknowledge.

Isaiah foretold of the hope of heaven through the forgiveness of sin and the hope of joy replacing sorrow through the act of Christ's offering on the cross. Though we have been forgiven of sin through faith in the cross we still commit it. Is hope lost? No. Because "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). He is faithful to forgive our sins (if we confess them) even though He crushed sin on the cross. Even though He bore our grief and sorrow on the cross we still live in a fallen and sinful world that displaces our God-given joy. The same Advocate who "cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7) will also restore to you the joy of your salvation, and uphold you with a willing spirit.

Mike Barnes

Fairlawn church of Christ

6108 West Bethel Avenue

Muncie, IN 47304-8507

Phone: 765-282-0795

Fax: 765-284-2365

Email: fairlawncc@yahoo.com

Website: www.fairlawncc.org

Facebook: Fairlawn Church of Christ

Twitter: @Fairlawntweets



"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." ~Matthew 5:16

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Sunday	Bible Classes for all ages	9:00 AM
	Morning Assembly	10:00 AM

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"You are the light of the world; a city on a hill cannot be hidden"
~Matthew 5:14

Fairlawn Family Focus

Issue 2681

Newsletter of the Fairlawn church of Christ since 1971!!

April 14, 2024



Welcome Visitors!

We're glad you came our way; please let us get to know you better. Please take the time to fill out a Visitor's Card. There is a carry-in fellowship dinner some Sunday mornings after services—Please stay as our honored guests, and let us get to know you better.

Here, we strive to follow Jesus as he is seen in the New Testament. We pray, study, sing, and take communion together in order to grow closer to God and to each other.

We would love to have you grow with us toward Christ. If we can help you, in any way, please talk to us. The telephone numbers of our elders, deacons, and minister can be found within this bulletin. We hope to see you again soon and often!

FROM THE PULPIT

04-14-24 A.M.

Series continues:

"Passion"

**"JESUS THE
DISRUPTOR"**

(John 2:13-22)

04-14-24 P.M.

NO EVENING SERVICE

04-21-24 A.M.

GUEST SPEAKER—

Duane Webb

04-21-24 P.M.

NO EVENING SERVICE

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

~1 Peter 3:12



Prayer List



OUR
SHUT-INS

Donald Henderson

~Please pray for **Michael Thomas' youngest sister, Cindy**. She had emergency surgery on April 1st, for a brain aneurysm at John Hopkins Hospital in D.C.

~Please keep **Mike Barnes** in your prayers, as he spent some time in the hospital recently, for what they originally thought was food poisoning, but it ended up being kidney stones. Please pray for his full recovery.

~**Diane Stricklin** requests prayers for her mom, **Pat Reis**, who went to the ER on March 19th. They're still waiting for results on one more test, but it seems her problem has something to do with her blood pressure getting too high. (So NOT a stroke.) Please continue praying for her peace and healing from her recent partial hip replacement surgery.

~**Diane Stricklin** also requests prayers for **their son, Marty Stricklin**, who had leg surgery at the Cleveland Clinic on March 21st. He will also need to have another surgery in several months. Please pray for his good results and recovery.

~**Renee Huffman** requests prayers for her dad, **Estes Gregory**. He had a PET scan on April 3rd, then he will have appts. in the upcoming weeks with an oncologist and radiologist to determine a radiation plan. (They're not sure how effective the radiation will be, but it'll help with the pain.) Renee's doctor is helping with pain management for him. **Update:** *Estes is doing better, but the family asks that we continue to pray for him.*

~Prayers are requested for **Joy Salmon**, who had another surgery on her foot on Feb. 16th. Please pray that her recovery will go well, and she will have complete healing.

~**Paul & Cheryl Teague** requests

prayers for their 7-year-old grandson, **Elijah Butterfield**. He had surgery on Feb. 12th, at Riley Children's Hospital, to remove part of his skull where the skull and spinal cord meet. Recovery will be 3 weeks long. Please pray for his full recovery.

~Continued prayers are requested for **Jerry Monroe**, who is in the hospital with pneumonia and RSV. **Update:** *Jerry is improving but still has a long way to go. He's still in BMH as he is still contagious with RSV. He's been able to walk a little. He will be sent to a rehab facility when he is stronger and no longer contagious.*

~Please keep **Linda Beckman's nephew, Mason, his wife Jessica and family** in your prayers. **Baby Jameson** was born Feb. 6th and is in the NICU on a CPAP. He is only 4 pounds 5 ounces. Lift those prayers up to the Almighty Healer!

~We were informed that **Joy Salmon's sister and brother-in-law's (Janice and Ron Culy)** home, as well as their barn, on the east side of Winchester was at minimum severely damaged, if not destroyed. (A few weeks ago from the tornado/storms.) We also received info. from a neighboring resident, that the **Winchester Church of Christ** building is severely damaged. Many people in the area from Royerton to Winchester and beyond were affected by that storm. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers, as it will take some time to assess all the damage.

~Prayers are requested for **Lois Calvert's daughter, Kathy Chanel**, who has a new tumor. Please pray for her healing and strength, as she has been battling cancer for the past four years.

~**Nancy Friedrich** requests prayers for her long-time childhood friend,

Prayer List Cont'd. from Page 2

Cheryl Hubert, who has leukemia. **Update:** *She has been told she has less than 1 year to live, and she needs a bone marrow transplant. Please pray for her, & also pray that she will be open to know about God.*

~Please continue prayers for **George and Cindy Huffman's brother, Gilbert**, who has stage 4 prostate cancer.

~Please keep the **Bright family** in your prayers. **Ralph's nephew** has bone cancer, **his sister**, who is 86, had surgery for liver and colon cancer, and **Charlotte's brother, Jay**, fell out of bed and broke his hip and was to have surgery January 26th.

~Prayers are requested for **Ralph Bright's sister and niece (Sarah & Tonya)**, who are both battling stage 4 liver cancer. They live together but can't be treated with chemo or radiation.

~**Marilyn Kitchen** requests prayers for a U.S. Soldier, **Justin McMurray**. He is evidently serving in close proximity to the Israeli border. Pray for his safety as he serves there.

~Continued prayers are requested for **Tim & Jenny Leach**, as they continue to deal with **Tim's** recent diagnosis of having Pulmonary Fibrosis (a terminal lung issue). Please continue to pray fervently for Tim's healing of this and that it won't be as aggressive.

~Please continue to keep **Tony Parks** in your prayers, as he has been having seizures along with his Parkinson's.

Long-Term Prayer List

CONTINUED PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

~**Anderson Christian School**—Financial support needed.

~**Fran Bailey**, Lois Calvert's sister-in-law—Serious illness.

~**Beau Bell**, Michelle Cook's brother—Parkinson's disease—aggressive.

~**Collette Bright**, Charlotte Bright's daughter-in-law—Many medical issues—liver, heart, etc.

~**Dawn Cook**, Charlotte Bright's

Prayer List Cont'd.

niece—3 brain tumors.

~**Courtney (Mathews) Sullivan's mother-in-law**—Cancer.

~**Cristy Abels**—Cancer has returned.

~**Kathy Chanel**, Lois Calvert's daughter—Cancer/Chemo.

~**Cristie Dickey's mom, Dorothy Anderson**—Ongoing problems from GI perforation & surgeries.

~**Nancy Friedrich, her, bro-in-law Rick Mirecki**—cancer, **her sister Peggy**, & **her brother Joe**—health struggles, **her sister-in-law, Susan**—bladder cancer, **her great niece, Kylee**—difficult family situation, & **her great niece, Evelyn**—brain issue, and her great great nephew, **Michael Martin**, who is having epilepsy episodes.

~**Dan Huston**, Debbie Huston's husband—Multifocal Motor Neuropathy.

~**Stephnie Huston**—Serious form of autoimmune disease.

~**Judy Monroe**—M.S.

~**Tony Parks**—Parkinson's disease.

~**Angie Reed**—M.S.

~**Sam Schlagel**, Lois Calvert's son—Autoimmune issue.

~**Sally & Gary Sloan**, Jenny Leach's sister & bro.-in-law—Leukemia (both).

~**Clara Smallwood**, Angie Walls' sister—Rare form of cancer/chemo.

~**Bob & Jan Todd**—Both have Parkinson's disease.

~**Jordan Webb**—Ongoing struggles, rehab./recovery.

Deacons

Rick Beckman 765-749-6380

Finance

Marty Stricklin 765-749-7542
Buildings & Grounds

Elders

Dave Mathews 765-729-5581

Michael Thomas 765-748-6757

Minister

Mike Barnes 765-212-0337 cell

Pulpit

Email: fairlawnmin@yahoo.com

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

~Romans 8:20-21

Fairlawn Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week in April



<u>Date</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Apr. 14	Jessica Whittenburg	
Apr. 17	Mary Lawshea	
Apr. 20	Julie Barnes	



For the time being, for those unable to attend worship service at the church building, we are still publishing sermon *audio* to the following link:

<https://FairlawnChurchOfChrist.sermon.net/main>

& also *video* on Facebook: **Fairlawn Church of Christ**

and now....on Fairlawn's website: <http://www.fairlawncc.org> (click on *Media* tab, then click on *Sermons* in list, then click on the highlighted Facebook where it says our Sunday sermons can be viewed on Facebook.)

Vision Statement:

Jesus is alive in us. We live by faith. Our purpose is to make disciples by showing love, giving service and speaking truth. Jesus expects our destiny to be heaven. Dying to ourselves...we always hope, always trust and always, always live for Him.

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The pantry is in need of the following item(s):

Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix

Please note: Fairlawn is continually feeding families, and we need to keep replenishing the pantry as each week goes by. *As always, if you would like to donate money, for the purchase of perishable items, please see an elder.*

This week's pantry volunteer on call:
Linda Beckman



Fairlawn Family Focus
6108 West Bethel Ave.
Muncie, IN 47304

The Fairlawn Family Focus is published weekly as an informational ministry for the Fairlawn Family. It is typeset and printed on Thursdays in the offices of the Fairlawn church of Christ. Items submitted for publication should be sent to the Fairlawn office at the above address or emailed to:

fairlawncc@yahoo.com

*Submissions should be sent **NO LATER than midnight on the Wednesday before publication.**