



Morning Star Church of Christ

4249 River Street
Willoughby, OH 44095

(440) 254-6207
July 8, 2007

Welcome to The Morning Star Church of Christ. Our church meets at The Willoughby Christian Church. Sunday Bible classes are at 11:00 a.m. and services are at 12:15 p.m. Thursday Bible classes are at 7:00 p.m. for adults and children.

TRUE IN-DEPENDENCE

Renee Miller

"Great nations," writes essayist Eboo Patel "are made of righteous strivings." ...[Yet] it is not only great nations that are made of righteous strivings, but also great humans, and healthy relationships. So when we think of independence in terms of our country or in terms of our own personal lives, or in terms of our relationships, we need to ask, "What are we seeking independence from and what are we seeking independence for?" At first blush we could easily assume that we want independence from slavery, injustice, oppression and domination. Those are certainly an important part of independence, but are we not also seeking independence from all those negative qualities that hold us imprisoned in tombs of our own making? Qualities like anger, greed, refusing to forgive, gossip, joylessness, and seriousness? Qualities like these keep us from becoming what God intends. Qualities like these stunt our ability for righteous striving. St. Seraphim of Sarov, a Russian saint from the 18th century, wrote:

"Men cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. All condemnation is of the devil. Never condemn each other. Not even those whom you catch at the evil deed. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a morass of filth that nothing in another can equal it. That is why we turn away, and make much of the faults of others. Keep away from the spilling of speech. Instead of condemning others, strive to reach the inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgment. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult, outrage, and will shield your glowing hearts against the evil that creeps around."

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THOSE SERVING FOR TODAY'S SERVICES:

Today's preaching will be done by Micheal West. The usher will be Aaron West. Song leader will be Jim Zukoski. Josh Meeks has opening prayer, Micheal West has prayer of intercession and Mahlon Tennant has closing prayer. Dan Spence has communion and Larry Wilhelm, Josh Meeks and Aaron West will assist him. Alternate assistant will be Mahlon Tennant.

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So, then, what are we seeking independence for? I believe we're seeking independence not for the reality of personal freedom alone, but for the reality of being in relationship. Think of independence as in-dependence. We hear a lot about the negative aspects of co-dependence but that is not the same as in-dependence. The reality is that we are in-dependence with one another, with the earth, and with God. We do not live isolated and alone. We are connected with all of creation, and I believe we need to seek to be in that healthy in-dependence with everything living on earth and in heaven. This might mean that we are people of promise rather than predators. It might also mean that we embrace the counter-intuitive call to love our enemies. It might also mean we work to break down the walls that separate us from each other so that we begin to live from the heart the words of John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He said,

"We must delight in each other, make others' conditions our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our community as members of the same body."

What are we seeking independence from? Our own self-absorption. What are we seeking independence for? Living as a community of the same body. Amen.

IMMEDIATE PRAYER REQUESTS

- ?? Flo Wilhelm's sister had 1 liter of fluid drained off her lungs and might need a blood transfusion as her spleen's not healing properly
- ?? Marge Tennant's niece has been dealing with cancer and it is spreading
- ?? Amy Burwell's friend passed away last Tuesday.
- ?? Dan Spence's co-worker (Rex) went for a biopsy on his thyroid. It is benign but will be having a portion of his thyroid removed in August.
- ?? Courtney Schultz is on medication to shrink the benign tumor on her pituitary gland.
- ?? Mahlon Tennant is recuperating from cataract surgery
- ?? T.J. McTighe is experiencing some personal problems.
- ?? Chelsea and Celeste Allen are experiencing some difficult times.

ON-GOING PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following people who are suffering from cancer:

Micheal West's cousins (Marilyn and Thelma), Valerie Evans' stepsister (Mary), Dave Wojcik (friend of Ken Allen), Myndi Allen's Uncle Sherm and Aunt Peg, David Ward (friend of Norm Meeks), John Russell's wife (friend of John Addison), Harold Tidd's daughter, Bob Glover

Please pray for the following people who are having health problems:

Jim Zukoski, Eugene Price, June Young, Myndi Allen's mom, Jerrie and Brad Rohl, Dennis Tankersley, Steve Cirino, Augie Bruno, Rachel Wiant, Valerie Evans' father, Glenn Dunlop (friend of Norm Meeks), Mike Lackner's sister, Ruth Bell, Florence Nichols, Gladys Skidmore, Ruth Glover, Mike Lackner, Marge Tennant

Please keep Chris Zukoski and Micheal West's nephew (B.J.) in your prayers as they are serving our country in the military.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- July 8: Larry and Flo Wilhelm’s anniversary
- July 9: Nate Zukoski’s birthday
- July 15: Potluck at CiCi’s after services
- July 20: Karyn Tankersley’s birthday
- July 23: Mike and Karyn Tankersley’s anniversary
- July 26: Mike Tankersley’s birthday
- July 28: William and Evan Yezzi’s birthdays
- July 29: No potluck after services
- July 31: Brian Petti’s birthday
- August 1: Tina Zukoski’s birthday
- August 5: Breakfast potluck after services
- August 8: Joyce Toth’s birthday
- August 14: Mahlon Tennant’s birthday

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ?? The amount collected on July 1, 2007 was \$251.00 and there were 30 people in attendance.
- ?? The food pantry needs restocked. Please bring in any non-perishable items.
- ?? The website for Morning Star Church of Christ is www.morningstarchurchofchrist.org.

Please give the following prayer request or concern to the person with prayer of intercession:

Please put your suggestions on improving the worship services below and place in the can by the song books.
