

## God's Good Gifts

This month I want to highlight the good gifts that God gives us in our December bulletins. This time of year we give and receive all kinds of gifts. Some of these gifts are good but some feel more like obligations. You know what I mean. There are times in which we may feel obligated to give a gift to someone and we struggle to know what they might actually want. We've likely received gifts that we didn't really want or need. We smile, say thank you, and write a thank you card but aren't entirely sure what to do with the item we've been given. We appreciate the gesture and may internally repeat the saying, "It's the thought that counts."

Is this what God's gifts are like? Gestures that attempt to show love but fall short in meeting our needs and desires? Absolutely not!

Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17). God's gifts are never afterthoughts, never mismatched to our needs. They are always good, always perfect, always exactly what we need—even when we don't yet know we need them.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). The Father didn't send Jesus because He felt obligated or guilt-tripped into it. He gave His very best because love gives its best. And that Gift met our deepest need—reconciliation with God—long before we knew how desperately we needed it.

But the giving didn't stop there. The Holy Spirit Himself is God's continuing gift to every believer. Jesus promised, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13). Forgiveness, peace, and the ability to become children of God, joy that circumstances cannot steal—these are poured out without measure.

Paul reminds us that God "did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). If the Father has already given us Jesus, there is nothing good He will withhold. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places is already ours in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

This December, when you unwrap packages that may or may not be needed, remember the gifts that always are: The Savior who became poor so we might become rich, the Spirit who makes His home in us, the promise that one day we will see Him face to face and know fully, even as we are fully known.

God's gifts are never obligations. They are never regifted or returned. They are perfect love, perfectly timed, perfectly suited to make us more like Jesus. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15).

## On Our Prayer List... \*May we always be using God's blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

### {Recent Medical concerns/updates}

\*Randy Capps-CA-home on hospice  
 \*Scotty Palk-neck surgery on Dec 3rd  
 \*Rhonda Canada-(Joan Warren's dght)back in Vanderbilt more treatments

### {Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery}

\*Lacey Franklin-open heart surgery on Dec 2nd.  
 \*Dennis Wright-hm recovering fr shoulder surg

### THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER:

\*Jimmy Phy-continued endurance with cancer  
 \*Lillian Childress-(Sherry Harvey's aunt) , upcoming check up. Ck see if CA gone  
 \*Dale Street-(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA  
 \*Mack Winstead-CA-continued prayers  
 \*Hudson Jones-{2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC-Leukemia}  
 \*Robert Gardner(friend of Bill Williams) CA \*Debbie Gafford-friend of Diane Curtis

\*Houston Howell  
 \*David Nowlin-CA treatments-WcoC elder  
 \*Joel Flowers-(Joey's dad) CA-home on hospice  
 \*Jackie Borders-Lauren Stuart's mom  
 \*Maggie Wright -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA

### Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.

\*Hattie Tate \*Betty Suddeath \*Al & Vicki Peek \*Marvin England \*Mike Gunn \*Margie Gunn  
 \*Claude Hurt \*Carlene Davis \*Rhonda Canada \*Chase Lewis \*Doug Simpson \*Josh Barnett  
 \*Marcia Simpson \*Sue Edmission \*Alyssa Gold \*Carolyn Wilson \*Steve Forster \*Scotty Palk  
 \*Whitney(Bullion)Sager \*Shane Cobb \*Warren (Johnny) Proctor-back hm fr rehab. \*Thelma Davidson-(Gwen's sister)  
 \*Savannah Patrick-(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick's granddaughter-she loves cards) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN

### {Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab}

**AHC Decatur County**-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons, TN 38363 **Wyle Marshall**-(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad)  
**NHC**-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson, TN 37055- **JoAnn Haley**  
**Humphreys County NH** 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly, TN 37185-**June Dreaden**- Rm 204  
**Magnolia Place**- 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185-**Jimmy Tyler**-(room 106)  
**Waverly Hills Post Acute**-895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185-**Bertha Bradford**-rm 102A / **Gary Pace**

### At Home in McEwen

**Jim & Jane Ridings**-172 Indian Ck Rd  
**Robert Bradford**-347 Brown Mill Rd.  
**Jimmy & Retha Raye Mullinicks**-56 Mike St.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Our sympathy & prayers to Teresa & family on the loss of Kenny Fleming who passed on Monday, Dec 1st. No arrangements at time of printing.**

We are thankful & want to rejoice in the baptism of Nathan Fry, last Monday night, he is one of the lineman John has been studying with. He will be heading back to his home in Pennsylvania after lineman school. Keep him in your prayers has our new brother.

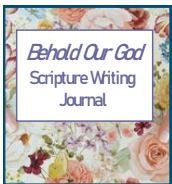
Elders, Deacons, Preachers meeting—Sunday, Dec 7th @ 5:00 PM.

**Area Wide Singing**  
 We will be hosting this year on Friday, Dec 12th @ 7:00 PM. As Mark said, this is the first year no one else as been scheduled for the same night. So we may have several more than usual. Food Sign-up sheet now in the foyer. Thank You

**Ladies:** If you're interested in joining us in doing the Ruffled Mango Scripture writing and want a notebook, the cost is (\$31.50). Please see Erin to order, & remember You can still participate without the book.

**Golden Age Banquet**  
 Will be held Saturday, Dec 13th @ noon @ Samuel's in Waverly. Is for ages 55 & up, please sign the list in the foyer by Dec 3rd if you plan to go.

**Great Smoky Mtn Marriage Retreat February 11-15, 2026.**  
 information about the speakers & schedules are on the back table in the auditorium. If you would like to attend, your tuition cost will be covered. See Keith to register.



## **I.N.F.O.C.U.S.** Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

December is here and time has flown by! I can't believe the year is almost over! Our youth kiddos headed back to school this morning after a much-deserved Thanksgiving break. They have about 3 weeks before getting another break for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

On Sunday night we were blessed to have our young men lead us in worship. Ty, Jack, and Carter all did a great job. Each one has grown so much over the years as they've participated in these leadership roles. After worship several of our youth and adults headed to the Mexican restaurant for a meal together. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship together and I appreciate all those who came.

In Christian Love, Keith

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Welcome** .....Keith Grigsby  
**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**.....Ethan Tummins  
**Sermon**.....Barry England  
**Lord's Table**.....Mike Robertson  
     Derek Berryman   Keith Grigsby  
     Daniel Curtis     Phillip Shanks  
     Wayne Vaughn     Matthew Dotson

**Closing Prayer**.....Noah Stuart  
**Collect Cards**.....Abel Tummins  
                                     & Luke Jones  
**Greeters**.....Wayne & Ann Berryman  
**Nursery**..... *Not at this time*  
**Collect Cups**.....Youth  
**Security**.....Team #4

### Sunday 6PM December 7<sup>th</sup>2025

**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**Prayer**.....John Potter  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**..... Joe Smith  
                                     & Robert Proctor  
**Closing Prayer**.....Ty Adams

### Wednesday 6:30 PM, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Lead Singing**.....John Hurt  
**Prayer**.....W. R. Long  
**Adult Class**.....John Jones

*\*If you are unable to serve.....please contact Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)*

*\*If changes need to be made in scheduling please contact Jimmy Phy.*

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*Return Service Requested*



*\*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.*

**The MESSENGER is online!**  
**Visit the church website**  
**to view!**



### OUR RECORDS for 11/30/2025

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	115
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	176
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	100
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	96
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$8,311



# The MESSENGER

*A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ*

*Week of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2025*

*A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST*



**Sunday Morning**    "Upcoming Sermons"    **Sunday Night**

**To Contact Us:**  
 9704 Hwy 70 E  
**Mail us: P.O. Box 256**  
**McEwen, TN 37101**  
 Phone: 931-582-6130

E-mail: [mcewencofo@gmail.com](mailto:mcewencofo@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com](http://www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com)

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am  
 Worship.....10:00am  
 Evening.....6:00pm

#### Wednesday

Bible Study.....6:30pm

#### Elders:

Calvin Buckner

Billy Buttrey     Bruce Mayfield  
 W.R. Long         Mike Robertson

#### Deacons:

Derek Berryman    Mike Burns  
 Wayne Coates     Mark Forster  
 John Hurt         Barry Phy  
 Robert Proctor    James Ridings  
 Joe Smith         Dwight Stuart  
 Ethan Tummins    Wade Tummins  
                                     Ronnie Tyler

#### Staff:

Ministers ----- Every Member  
 Pulpit ----- John Jones  
 Youth ----- Keith Grigsby  
 Secretaries ----- Terri Tummins  
                                     Teresa Fleming

### EVANGELISM PROGRAM

**Continue to be:**

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

**{Team - 1 will have no cards to work on this Wednesday night.}**