9:00 A.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song Leader – Tom Ritchie
Welcome – Mike James
Song – We're Marching to Zion
Song – There Is a Habitation
Song – Beyond the Sunset
Prayer – Rigel Page
Song – There is a Redeemer
Communion & Offering – Michael Claxton
Scripture – Philippians 3:17-21 – James Howard
Song – When We All Get To Heaven
"Our Citizenship is in Heaven" – Howard Norton
Song – We Shall Assemble
Shepherd's Prayer – Jim Gurchiek

5:00 P.M. ORDER OF WORSHIP

Song Leader – Harold Valentine
Welcome – Greg Brooks
Song – Day is Dying in the West
Song – Majestic Sweetness
Prayer – Charles Ganus
Song – Peace, Perfect Peace
Song – Teach Me Thy Way
Scripture – James 1:5-7 – Will Francis
"How To Know What God Wants Me To Do" – Gordon Hogan
Song – Oh Master Let Me Walk With Thee
(Lord's Supper is served in Room 100)
Prayer – Les McGalliard

ATTENDANCE

11/22/2020:
9:00 Worship— 243
Bible Classes —178/ Children's Worship — dismissed
Worship 5:00 p.m. — 96/ Worship 7:15 p.m. —dismissed

11/29/2020:
9:00 Worship— 320
Bible Classes —232/ Children's Worship — dismissed
Worship 5:00 p.m. — 102/ Worship 7:15 p.m. —dismissed

FINANCES

Budget for 11/22/2020.....$45,352.00
Giving for 11/22/2020.....$37,438.54
Budget through Week 12.....$562,688.00
Giving through Week 12.....$524,132.12

Budget for 11/29/2020.....$45,352.00
Giving for 11/29/2020.....$38,819.53
Budget through Week 13.....$608,020.00
Giving through Week 13.....$562,951.72

December 6, 2020

COLLEGE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Intentionally connected to God, His Word, His world, and to each other.

Wrestling With God

A young seeker asked a monk, renowned for his holiness, "Do you still struggle with the devil?" "The old man replied, "When I was young I did, but now I've grown tired and so has the devil. We leave each other alone!" "So it's easy for you now?" asked the young man. "Oh no," replied the monk, "Now I wrestle with God!" The surprised youth cried, "And hope to win?" "No," the other said, "I hope to lose!"

I've always liked this parable because it suggests how our spiritual struggles may change over time. It's also biblical in the way it turns worldly wisdom on its head. Who wants to "lose" a wrestling match? Nevertheless, the story falls short of fully rendering what it means to engage God in a struggle of wills.

Genesis tells us about another old man who wrestled with God. Jacob was the son of Isaac and heir to God's promise to his grandfather, Abraham. Through their line the entire world would be blessed.

Yet as a younger man Jacob often cheated and lied and used cleverness, not God, to make his way. Until finally one night, alone, he feared his old sins against Essau might cost him everything, including his life.

Genesis 32 recounts the strange wrestling match between Jacob and a stranger. The struggle continued all night and ended only when the mysterious opponent, who seemed now to be more than human, promised to bless Jacob. So Jacob won, right?

If dogged persistence is winning, yes. But afterward Jacob, whose hip had been dislocated by a mere touch from the stranger, admitted, "I have seen God face to face and yet my life has been delivered" (Gen 32:30).

Jacob knew it was God who blessed him with a new name, Israel, and, apparently, a new understanding of and submission to God's will. He reunited with his brother, and the generations of Abraham continued—with more struggles—until the Messiah came.

If Jacob could talk to that young seeker, he might say, "To beat the devil, you first have to submit to God." And if the New Testament teaches us anything, it is that when we come face to face with God in honest fear or need, He will deliver us according to His promise.

In his desperation, Jacob was wrestling. God was applying a loving embrace. That's how He wins.

John Williams

HOLIDAY GIFT OUTREACH

We are down to the last 4 Holiday Gift Outreach families. We have donations to cover most of these but would love for them to be adopted by one of our church members. Holiday Gift Outreach isn't just about buying some toys to bring joy to children. It's about making a connection within our community where we can be the hands and feet of Jesus. You can personally invite the family to our VBS, community egg hunt or Fall Festival. You can send a card on their children's birthdays. Or you can simply text or phone to check on them. These simple measures continue the connection and can impact hearts for eternity. If you are up for shopping for a family, with donated funds, call the Original Rock House at 501-268-4191 or stop by the Welcome Center on Sunday. Thank you for being a blessing to nearly 70 families and over 250 children!



CARING & SHARING

Our weekly Caring and Sharing meal is postponed until after the first of the year.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be ONE 9:00 a.m. service through January 10. Bible class will be at 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 23: NO Bible class
Sunday, December 27: ONE 9:00 a.m. service; NO Bible class
Wednesday, December 30: NO Bible class
Sunday, January 3: Baby Sunday

Due to the holidays, there will not be a church bulletin on December 27 and January 3.



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Westbrook family, **Anessa** and I would like to express our gratitude for the outpouring of sympathy cards, phone calls, and other messages from the College Church family with the passing of my father, Wally Westbrook. Thank you for letting us know how much you care during this time of loss. Thank you.

Tim Westbrook

We want to thank you for the beautiful flowers sent to mom's graveside service. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers through her loss.

The family of **Lottie Nichols**

HIS HOUSE

His House needs blankets and towels.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Thank you to **Phil Dixon, Paul Gardner**, and **Robin Miller** for the Christmas decorations on the auditorium stage during the holidays.

DIRECTORY UPDATE



Moved out of Town: Judy Pate, 4586 Forsythia Way, Apt. 346, Ooltewah, TN 37363, Cell: 501-278-7478, Email: mjudypate4@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24-January 1.



ELDERS MEETING SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2020

This month the elders

- Prayed for specific needs in the church family;
- Prayed specifically for God to help us reach the lost, locally and around the world;
- Thanked God for our young families and their children and asked Him to send us more;
- Held both virtual and in-person meetings of the elders;
- Approved returning to one Sunday morning worship service beginning November 22 and continuing until January 10;
- Approved the request of David Burks to take a Sabbatical from the eldership beginning December 1 due to his increased responsibilities at the university;
- Approved Sam Billingsley to serve as chair of the elders for the month of December with Rick Harper to assume that responsibility January 1, 2021;
- Heard a report about COVID issues in the community and in the congregation;
- Approved Brent Wilhite to serve as youth minister for 7-12 grades, with help from Nick McNabb when he was available in light of his administrative duties and the additional work arising from the pandemic response;
- Commended Todd Gentry and his ministry to a successful coat drive and for organizing and planning the second morning worship service targeting the college students;
- Approved Anna Grace Glenn (student membership and media), Ashlyn Alexander (Rock Mentoring), and Tyler Burdette (ministry) as interns in the College Outreach ministry;
- Commended John Williams for his work on the bulletin, especially organizing the articles on the mission statement and his continued work on articles on the Core Beliefs, Values, and Commitments;
- Were reminded that, similar to last year's schedule, there would be no Bible classes on December 23, December 27, or December 30;
- Learned that Westside will not host a city-wide service on Wednesday before Thanksgiving nor will College host an end-of-year service on the last Wednesday of 2020;
- Were asked to review a report on the Vision for the Road Ahead and to take a fresh look at what could be accomplished in the next 6-9 months;
- Approved the allocation of approximately $180,000 collected for Great Commission Sunday and the use of the remaining funds as seed money to help start up new ministries or support new mission efforts, which are being actively sought as this time;
- Discussed the use of church property for non-church activities.



FAMILY CONCERNS

Briarwood Nursing & Rehab: **Ellen Brown** 104.
The House of Three: LR: **Bill Diles**.
The Crossing at Riverside: **Mable Carpenter** 309; **Louise Ganus**; **Eloise Muncy** 212B; **Margaret Parker** 212A; **Joe Hurd's** mother, Patsy Hurd 216A; **Sharon Manor's** father, Harvie Reynolds 105; **Sharon Manor's** mother, Opal Reynolds 114; **Danny & Mike Wood's** mother, Frances Wood 115A.
Oakdale: **Carolyn Boutell** 117; **Rick Boutell** 117.
Providence: **Laura Smith** 308.
Searcy Healthcare: **Clarene Keesling** 82.
Hickory Heights: LR: **Larry Heusel**

PRAYER & PRAISE

Prayers:
Johnice Hearn is in UH South Campus rehab following hip replacement surgery; **Arthur Mock** had back surgery Monday, November 23, at St. Vincent North; **Annabelle Moser** is in rehab at The Crossing; **Edwin Myers**; **Lael Whitlock** will have surgery on Wednesday, December 9, in Rochester, MN.

Death:
Doris Biggerstaff, **Linda Hickerson's** mother and **Ashley Lynn's** grandmother, passed away Friday, November 27. There was a private graveside service.

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