


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	8 MNFM/Family Prayer Night	9	10 Happy Anniversary Mark & Kerstin Dumas	11	12 Happy Birthday Sasha Hombs & Marlaine Wilson	13 Elder/Preacher meeting
					Ladies Retreat	
14 Happy Birthday Mary Jane Parker	15	16	17	18	19 Ladies Western Fun Night 	20 Happy Birthday Kehinde Ogunsuyi & Wendy Lecat
					Mens Retreat	
21 Happy Birthday Gary Chase Jr 3rd Sunday Fellowship luncheon	22	23	24	25	26	27 Happy Anniversary Rich & Melissa Therrien Happy Birthday Sue Davies Elder/Deacon Meeting

Baggage

I was driving today and saw an interesting sign. It was an advertisement for a storage facility and in big, bold letters it said, "Do you have extra baggage? Store it here." I know that the sign is appropriate for the business, but to be honest, it touched a tender place in my heart.

Do you have extra baggage? Me too.

The truth is that we all carry around baggage. It comes in all shapes and sizes. The baggage that we carry weighs us down, steals our joy, invades our peace, and disrupts our contentment. Guilt, shame, disappointment, and discouragement have a way of piling up, settling in, and squeezing our faith in a vise. We pick up our baggage in the morning and it influences how we see ourselves and our day. We lug our baggage with us, bumping into our opportunities and choices where it colors everything with a tinge of fear. We tuck our baggage in with us at night. Exhausted, we lay awake worrying about our baggage.

There are moments when we long for freedom from our baggage. What if we could set it down? What if we could let it go? But our baggage tenaciously clings to our hearts. I am just not strong enough or brave enough to break its grip on my soul.

God doesn't want us to store our baggage. He wants to carry it. He wants to lift it off your shoulders and free you to experience all of the abundance and joy He has planned for you. Instead of storing our baggage in our hearts, souls, minds, actions, and relationships, God wants us to bring it to the cross and leave it there.

My Jesus Resolution is to take my baggage to the cross. At the cross, Jesus shows me His willingness to carry my heaviest loads. At the empty tomb, He unleashes the power that I need to break free from my heart-numbing burdens. I don't have to drown in guilt or suffer with shame. In Christ, I am set free.

~Casandra Martin



We are so pleased that you have joined us for worship this morning. If you are visiting, we hope that you will feel warmly welcomed by our church family. Our prayer is that you may be encouraged and uplifted as we worship together. Please join us downstairs after worship for some coffee and fellowship, followed by bible classes for all ages.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept 14	WORSHIP LEADERS
Doug Paul	Songs
Dave Skerry	Closing Prayer
James Casella	Scripture
Karl Davies	Lord's Supper
George Abood	Worship Tech
Mike Moser	Coordinator
Gerry Millette	Call to Worship
Park L or Steve J	Songs pm
Sept 10- Doug Paul	Wed Songs
Sept 10- Fred H.	Wed Devotional

Statistics

Sunday morning attendance:...102
 Sunday morning contribution:...\$1915.11
 Weekly budget.....\$3800.00
Pantry Served 2 Families this week.

TEENS



TUESDAY-chill
 7:00-8:00
 @ the Skerrys'

The Manchester church of Christ
 603.623.5559 mht_church@comcast.net

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 9:30
 Bible Class: 11:00
 Sunday PM: 6:00 (3rd Sunday congregational potluck @ noon)
 Small Groups:

West Side: 5:30 at the Pauls' - Study of Acts.
 Merrimack: 5:30 - youth studies
 Building: 6PM, The book of Revelation
 Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00



NOTES FROM THE ELDERS:

Take a second to read 2 Timothy 2:22-26 and think about it for a bit. Life is not just about lessons and information and discussions about the line between right and wrong. It is about integrating the truth of Jesus into our daily lives, taking what we learn and "calling on the Lord from a pure heart". May you be blessed to take that message to someone this week. God loves you!

Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
 Larry Glass 887-1741
 Gerry Millette 497-3105
 Mike Moser 429-9487

Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance
 Fred Hillhouse- Facilities
 Doug Paul- Education
 Stuart Peacock- Worship
 Pete Steffensen- Facilities
 David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach

Elders' Link: September

Barry Fogal 487-2387
bfogal@comcast.net
 Larry Glass 887-1741
larrycalling@yahoo.com

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Barry or Larry this month.

Our Family

1 Timothy 3:15 "but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."



Give Away Day helpers and donations are needed!

Collection days are each Saturday in September from 9:00-11:00 am.

Volunteers are

needed to receive and sort. Trucks and muscle are needed to pick up large donated items. Sign up in the foyer!

Ask friends, neighbors and family for donations of items in GOOD used condition.



News & Important Dates:

From Park & Linda:

"Linda and I want to thank you for the kind remembrance of our completion of 40 years with the Manchester congregation. We love you all like the family that you are. It has been our privilege to serve the Lord and you in this place; we look forward to many more fruitful years."

Sept 5-7: Teen Retreat—Remember in prayer

Sept 8: Monday Night for the Master—This Monday evening will feature working on advertisement for G.A.D. MNFM is always a great way to get involved. Join us!

Sept 8: Prayer Night—during MNFM time, some will also gather together to pray.

Sept 11-13: The Gander Brook Ladies Retreat—There is information in the foyer and on Gander Brook's website. Join women from all over New England in this annual spiritual uplift.

Sept 18-20: The Gander Brook Men's Retreat— There is information in the foyer and on Gander Brook's website. Join men from all over New England in this annual spiritual uplift.

Oct 4: Give Away Day—If you're new to the congregation, GAD is a "yard sale without pricetags". There are so many ways to help. Just ask Dave Skerry.

Oct 17-19: Gospel Meeting w/ Charlie Jackson —The topic will be "Handling Negative Emotions" Invite your friends and family now before they make other plans.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Steve & Casey Jones have placed membership with our family. Please be sure to get to know them. Their address is: 42 Horseshoe Dr Litchfield NH 03052

Please Pray...

ENCOURAGEMENT— for our shepherds and deacons; for Jean Cadet to come to know the Lord; for students and teachers returning to school.

NEEDS EMPLOYMENT—Candy Chase, Jim Kenison, Yann Lecat

PRAISE—Brian and Joyce Day's baptisms

HEALING -- Darlene Chamberlain (sciatica); Deb Dlutowski; Gary Chase; Mary Jane; David Black; Angela Beard; Rita Jones; James McLaughlin; Peggy Mailloux; Linda Tetrault

CANCER TREATMENTS-- Gary Cottrell, Curtis Winstead, Gina Jonston, Lynn Millette, Dave Seguin, David Lovering, John Matthew-experimental chemo; Barbara Ann (Margery's cousin), Truman Gist; Jeff Blackmon

OUTREACH-- VBS, FriendSpeak, GAD contacts, Bible studies in progress, food pantry.

**If you have updates to prayer requests, please call the office or let Susie know.*

FOR THE LADIES....

August Service Project: "Animal Rescue League of NH"

Sept 11-13: Ladies' Retreat at Gander Brook

Sept 19: Fun Night: Western theme 6:00

Sept 30: Fun Day Odiorne Point State Park



What Does It Mean to be Undenominational?



The churches of Christ advertise on most everything that we share with the community that we are "undenominational". It is something unique that sets us apart from other religious groups, but sometimes it just becomes the wallpaper in the background that's always there, even if we don't know why anymore. So, what does it mean to be undenominational? And is this different than being "non-denominational"? And why is it important?

To understand, we'll have to do a little light theology. The doctrine of denominationalism emerged from a well-meant but misdirected attempt to claim the unity in Christianity that Jesus expects (see John 17:20-23). Denominationalism declares that all religious groups claiming to follow Christ should be considered to be the one body of "the church of Christ", and that the different religious groups are merely segments of it, identified by different names—denominated. The expectation of denominationalism is that all "churches" will simply agree to disagree on matters of doctrine and try to get along in a sort of divided "brotherhood"; or put another way, differences in beliefs should be ignored, and we should all just be friends. Religious groups under this theological umbrella of denominationalism found a way to claim "unity", while staying divided. This is denominationalism.

On the surface it sounds great, but it is worldly wisdom to the core (see 1 Cor. 1:10-25). It is not the kind of unity that Jesus prayed for, being nothing more than a sad worldly union. Biblical unity reflects the unity enjoyed by the Father and Son (John 17:20-23), without doctrinal or moral differences. Any other definition of unity is—plainly put—"foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:10, 20).

Equally as sinful, denominationalism set the stage—it is the very foundation—for our current postmodern belief that truth doesn't really matter. This was not a huge leap for many religious groups, who had elevated their traditions, creeds, and theologies to the level of God-breathed truth. Therefore, as each religious group decided to "agree to disagree" on their "truth" for the sake of "unity", the whole idea that truth matters fell by the wayside. Ironically, denominationalism saw the valuing of truth as being the cause for divisions. So, truth was devalued and sacrificed on the altar of a false unity.

But what if we valued both truth and unity? What if, instead of valuing traditions, creeds, and theologies, we valued biblical truth alone? And what

if we valued real biblical unity? What if every believer in Jesus simply agreed that there really should be only one church, the one described in the pages of the New Testament? What if we made the Bible the sole source of authority for truth, for doctrine, for morality, for direction in worship, for organization of the church, and for definitions? What if we refused to accept denominationalism as unity or anything like it? What would you call that? Perhaps "undenominational".

The word "undenominational", using the prefix "un-", implies that it stands opposed to the concept of denominationalism and any division of Christianity. And to be "undenominational" has been the plea that the churches of Christ have continued to make to our religious neighbors: to abandon denominational names, creeds, doctrines, traditions, and divisions (Col. 2:8); to seek authority for all Christian faith and practice from the Bible alone (2 Tim. 3:16, 17); to aspire to be and diligently work at becoming the one united body (Eph. 4:3-6) found in the New Testament.

To be "non-denominational", on the other hand, simply means that the religious group in question has no alliances or identification with any of the named segments of Christendom—usually for the purposes of being able to appeal to a wide range of denominations. And while it is true that the Lord's church makes its appeal to a wide range of religious groups, we want to and need to say, "We are opposed to there even being either a Catholic or Protestant division." We want to and need to say to the religious world that the divisions themselves are sinful; that we need to turn to the Bible for all religious authority; and that we need to (1 Corinthians 1:10) "... all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."

The church of Christ (not a denominational name) is undenominational by God's design. In the pages of the New Testament you will never find any directions for a Catholic or Protestant church, none for a denomination of any kind. Instead, one finds strong commands against division of the Lord's church and against false teaching; and one finds strong commands for unity and for clinging to the truth.

Park Linscomb