



# FAMILY NEWS

## DECEMBER 15, 2024

### Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott  
Teens: Arpoika Daniels  
4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner  
1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes  
Nursery: Miranda Hays

### Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels  
PM: Evening Bible Study - Jack Mattingly, Sr.



IN **SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

#### Next Sunday on Search:

##### Dec 22 – Because of Jesus

When Jesus came to this world, He brought peace and goodwill to all men. We can hardly number all the blessings Jesus brought to us by becoming flesh, forgiving our sins, and giving us eternal life with Him in heaven.

**If the devil can talk  
angels out of Heaven,  
he can talk you into  
hell.  
Be careful who you  
listen to.**

#### Daily Bible Reading

##### Sunday

Psalms 119:1-88 & Revelation 6

##### Monday

Psalms 119:89-176 & Revelation 7

##### Tuesday

Psalms 120-122 & Revelation 8

##### Wednesday

Psalms 123—124 & Revelation 9

##### Thursday

Psalms 125-126 & Revelation 10

##### Friday

Psalms 127-128 & Revelation 11

##### Saturday

Psalms 129-130 & Revelation 12

*<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.*

*Ephesians 5:6-7 (NIV)*



### Holiday Schedule



Sunday, December 22nd - No 5:00 Bible Study  
Wednesday, December 25th - No Midweek Bible Class  
Sunday, December 29th - No Potluck Luncheon  
Wednesday, January 1st - No Midweek Bible Class

# In Our Hearts:

*"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me." Psalm 120:1 (NIV)*

Please take some time and read through our long term prayer list. If you notice changes that need to be made please make the office aware of the needed updates.

Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin & Barbara McKinney, sisters of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones & Mary Ray, nieces of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell, Shirley Carson, the late Wayne Maxell's sister

**Let's remember our shut-ins:** *Peggy Jackson and Carolyn Self*

**5:00 Bible Study:** Meal Group 6 will be hosting the 5:00 Bible study on Sunday, December 15th.

**Annual Praise Service:** On Sunday, January 5th, the annual praise service hosted by the Shawnee and Tecumseh congregations will be held at 5:00 pm at the Highland Church of Christ in Tecumseh. The elders have cancelled our 5:00 Bible study that evening so our members can attend the service in Tecumseh.



Wednesday, December 18th, we will be meeting in the fellowship room at 6:00 pm for a holiday devotional. There will be no classes. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite holiday finger foods.

Brothers & Sisters,

Thank you so much for your wonderful kindness and generosity as you have so beautifully supported MAGI in 2024. These boxes are given to bless the children around the world and bring many smiles to their faces soon. Thank you!

- Clint



## Time With Tim

### The Importance of Our Church Family

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27*

The church is more than a building or a weekly gathering; it is a family united by faith in Christ. Our church family provides spiritual support, encouragement, and accountability that help us grow in our walk with God.

As members of the body of Christ, we each play a vital role. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 beautifully illustrates how the church functions like a body with many parts, all working together for a common purpose. Each member brings unique gifts and strengths, ensuring that no one is insignificant, and no one is alone.

The early church in Acts 2:42-47 shows the power of fellowship. They devoted themselves to teaching, breaking bread, and praying, sharing all they had so no one was in need. This model of love and unity inspires us today to care for one another, not only in times of celebration but also in seasons of struggle.

Our church family also helps us stay spiritually grounded. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another." The relationships we build in the church strengthen our faith and provide a source of comfort and wisdom.

As we journey through life, our church family reminds us that we are never alone. We walk alongside one another, bearing each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and rejoicing in each other's victories.

Let us treasure our church family as God's gift and strive to reflect His love in our relationships. Together, we can fulfill His mission and glorify His name.

*"So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding."  
Romans 14:19*

## Wrestling With God

The narrative of Jacob includes the intriguing account of Jacob wrestling with God ([Gen 32:22-32](#)). Jacob had been out of the land for a couple of decades and finally came back. The night before meeting Esau again, Jacob was left alone, and the text says, “a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.” The “man” was not prevailing, so he touched Jacob’s hip socket so that it was out of joint. Jacob persisted, however, and refused to let go until that man blessed him. The man then told Jacob that Jacob’s name from then on would be Israel, “for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” Then, “Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, ‘For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.’” Jacob would keep his limp from this wrestling match. We can be sure that this was a constant reminder to Jacob of his struggle.

We wonder how Jacob could prevail against God here but note that Jacob recognized his opponent’s superiority by asking for a blessing (as Scripture indicates, the lesser is blessed by the greater). The only way this could have happened like this is for God to allow it to happen when He could have, at any time, taken Jacob out. God must have deemed it good for Jacob to go through such a struggle, to persist in his fight, to hang on and thereby come out better for it. At this point, the sun, which had gone down, had now come up again in his life. He would be forever changed.

Others in Scripture wrestled with God in other ways — perhaps not literally — but they still struggled to understand and grasp God’s will and purposes in their lives. Abraham tried to bargain with God over the destruction of Sodom. Moses struggled to plead with God over whether He would destroy Israel. Job thought of God as his adversary and wished to have an audience with him to plead his case. We can see how the psalmists (like David) would wrestle with God to understand the suffering they had to endure or why God allowed enemies to apparently prosper (e.g., Psalm 73). Habakkuk struggled to understand how God could use the Babylonians to judge His people. There are many such examples throughout Scripture. People wrestled with God, and while they did not always understand why God did what He did, they did not lose faith in Him.

These examples show us that two ideas that may

seem at odds can both be true: 1) We can wrestle and struggle to understand God and His purposes in our lives, and 2) we need not lose faith in going through the struggle. These are not mutually exclusive ideas. For some, faith is fragile enough that they might think that if they must struggle with God in any way, their faith is gone. However, biblical cases demonstrate that faith can be strengthened through working out the difficulties. We may not understand at times, but never do we need to let go of our faith.

We think it odd, perhaps, that “wrestling with God” can be good for us. Perhaps, we think, if God really wanted us to serve Him, He would make it all easy. There would be no struggles, no difficulties, and no times at which we would need to put our trust in Him when we can’t see what the next step in life will be. We wrestle with doubts and fears, with anxieties and deep concerns. Why would God let this happen to us? Why must it be so difficult? We ask, with Job, where God is (see [Job 23:8-9](#)), and divine hiddenness seem incongruous with a God who wants us to find Him and take refuge in Him. Is there a purpose to this? Again, do these struggles necessitate giving up faith? Must we quit believing altogether when we have these uncertainties or a lack of answers? In all these examples, the answer is a resounding No! When we take our faith seriously, we will wrestle with God at times. We may even find ourselves with a permanent limp when it’s all over, but the struggle can strengthen our faith and resolve.

Faith is not always easy. The testing of faith may serve to weed out those who are not so serious about their commitment. Yet such difficulties can produce greater endurance, which leads to a more perfect faith (see [James 1:2-4](#)). That faith, once tested, can “result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” ([1 Pet 1:6-7](#)). Jacob knew that he had been delivered by God, even though he had prevailed. God will deliver us through the struggle, too, but we must be tenacious, holding on to the Lord through the process. The outcome of the struggle is a changed life, a stronger faith, and a blessing from the One who allowed us to prevail. By faith, and with steadfastness, we will be victorious in Jesus Christ.

- Doy Moyer

**Minister:**

Arpoika Daniels  
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**Associate Minister:**

Tim Smith  
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**Administrative:**

Lynn Grimes  
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**Elders:**

Jack Mattingly , Sr.  
(cell) 405-380-2510

Syd Morgan  
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(Home) 405-382-3404

Andy Scott  
(cell) 405-287-8580

**Deacons:**

Ken Crane  
Jim Grimes  
Steve Johnson  
Jerry Renner  
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study  
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

**Worship Workers**

**December 15**

**In Charge:** Alan Morgan (405-481-6163)

**Welcome AM:** Jack Mattingly

**Song Leader:** Tim Smith

**Opening Prayer:** Steve Johnson

**Closing Prayer:** Andy Scott

**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Paul Alexander

**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** Syd Morgan

**Scripture Reading:** Syd Morgan

**Heritage House**

**Thursday, December 19**

Jim & Donna  
Hardin

**December Nursery Attendants**

Dec 1 - Kay Lashley

Dec 8 - Ashley Noey

Dec 15 - Debbie Crane

Dec 22 - Ginger Posey

Dec 29 - Kay Lashley

**December Worship & Bible Class Greeters**

**North Doors:** Nuben & Ann Barton

**South Doors:** Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan