



FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER 22, 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: No Evening Bible Study



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search:

Dec 29 – The Way

The Lord Jesus declared in John 14:6 that He is "the way." He is indeed the way we live, the way we treat others, and the only way to draw close to our Father in heaven. Living "my way" is not the same as following the one true way.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Psalms 131-132 & Revelation 13

Monday

Psalms 133-134 & Revelation 14

Tuesday

Psalms 135-136 & Revelation 15

Wednesday

Psalms 137-138 & Revelation 16

Thursday

Psalms 139-140 & Revelation 17

Friday

Psalms 141-142 & Revelation 18

Saturday

Psalms 143-144 & Revelation 19



THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS:
THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF
THE ONE TRUE ETERNAL LIVING GOD.
THE LORD GOD IS THE CREATOR OF
HEAVEN AND EARTH AND
OF ALL THINGS SEEN AND UNSEEN.
HE IS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
OUR KINSMEN REDEEMER;
OUR SAVIOR; OUR DELIVERER; OUR HEALER;
OUR PROTECTOR; OUR PROVIDER;
OUR COMFORTER; OUR ROCK; OUR REFUGE;
OUR SHELTER FROM THE STORM;
A FRIEND WHO STICKS CLOSER
THAN A BROTHER;
THE ROSE OF SHARON; THE LILY OF THE VALLEY;
THE ROOT AND OFFSPRING OF DAVID;
THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR;
THE ALPHA AND OMEGA; THE FIRST AND THE LAST;
THE BEGINNING AND THE END; THE WAY;
THE TRUTH; THE LIFE;
THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

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



*Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas!
From the Seminole Church of Christ staff:
Arpoika Daniels, Holli Daniels, Tim Smith and Lynn Grimes*

In Our Hearts:

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

Hugo Hays had surgery on Monday, December 16th, to remove his tonsils and adenoids. The surgery went well.

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*

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.

Invitation: All adults of the congregation are invited to a Christmas party at Ken and Debbie Crane's home on Saturday, the 22nd, at 6:00 PM. If you wish, you can bring a snack food; and if participating in the gift exchange, please bring a gift between \$10 - \$15.

Due to the Christmas holiday, the December 29th bulletin will be printed and emailed on December 23rd. The church office will be closed the remainder of the week.



ELF ON A SHELF?
NO!
JESUS WANTS EWE
IN A PEW!



Time With Tim

Words That Build Up

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Ephesians 4:29

Our words have power. They can either build someone up or tear them down. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:29 to avoid corrupt or harmful speech and instead focus on words that edify and encourage. As followers of Christ, our language should reflect His love and grace, not only in what we say but in how we say it.

James emphasizes the importance of controlling our tongue: *"The tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!"* (James 3:5). Careless words can cause lasting damage, but thoughtful words can be a source of healing and strength.

Proverbs 15:4 reminds us: *"A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."* When we choose to speak with gentleness and wisdom, we foster unity and peace, reflecting the spirit of Christ in our interactions.

Jesus Himself taught the significance of words in Matthew 12:36-37: *"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."* This sobering truth encourages us to weigh our words carefully and ensure they align with the principles of God's Word.

Let us commit to using our speech to encourage, uplift, and strengthen one another. Whether in conversations with family, coworkers, or strangers, our words should aim to glorify God and bring grace to all who hear.

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

Colossians 4:6

The Crutch of Self

We sometimes hear unbelievers argue that religion is a crutch (something on which we heavily rely) or that we believe in God and the Bible because it just makes us feel good and thereby gives a hope that is, to them, false. We are told that we believe because it's what we want to believe, and we then fall back on that crutch to give us some stability instead of relying on self. To be fair, we should acknowledge that we heavily rely on our belief structure. However, this is true of everyone, for all rely heavily on something for support. All have beliefs they fall back on to find some kind of foundation. Whether it be religion, philosophy, or self, we all lean on what we believe and practice to find meaning, purpose, and values in life. For Christians, however, "crutch" isn't the right term for this. Relying on God is not a crutch in times of need, but rather it is a full-featured support structure for all that we are and do. To call it a crutch (like a stick on which to lean when we are hurt) is to miss the point of what it is and make it appear weak and flimsy, easily kicked out from under us. We don't merely lean on God; we stand firm on Him as our foundation, live in Him, and are grounded in Him. The Lord is not a crutch, but a Rock, a foundation on whom our entire lives are built (cf. [Matt 7:24-27](#)). The Psalmist put it this way:

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
([Psalm 18:2](#))

Believing in God as our Rock means that we are not just doing what we like as some sort of selfish power move. We are to relinquish selfish power. Christians do not, or should not, hold to religion just because it's just what we want to believe. Indeed, there are some things we believe that most would probably rather not (just because you don't like something doesn't make it false). Personally, there are a few matters that I sometimes wish I didn't feel compelled to accept. Think, for example, about Jesus' statement of discipleship: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" ([Luke 9:23-25, ESV](#)) This is genuinely hard and, frankly, not fun. Taking up a cross means taking up suf-

fering for His cause, and it is often here where people turn from Christ. Recall that even Jesus, as He was about to go to the cross, was doing something He didn't like. He despised the shame of it ([Heb 12:2-3](#)).

The "I" part of me doesn't like self-denial because I keep getting in my own way of the following Christ. This passage, along with a host of others, is a moratorium against selfish desires and doing my own thing. I fight that. I don't want to give up self, and it is no crutch to do so. Contrarily, the crutch is when I affirm self and do whatever I want. Giving up self is uncomfortable, hard, and vulnerable, so I fall back on self, the real crutch that is easily kicked out from under me and leaves me without a solid foundation. Yet even knowing that, seeking my own desires is what gives immediate pleasure and makes me feel good in the moment. The crutch is not God (the Rock); the crutch is self, and I am frail.

Though the temptation to rely on self is strong, I am compelled to accept that Jesus is Lord, and in doing so I must let go of self, deny self, to affirm Him. In a world that stands so much against Him, that is not something that lends itself to immediate pleasure or fulfillment of selfish purposes. Yet this is the crossroads at which all Christians stand. We either deny self and affirm Him or we affirm self and deny Him. Jesus continued:

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels" ([Luke 9:24-26](#)).

The trust that this takes is great, for we must look beyond what we see to what we don't see ([2 Cor 4:16-18](#)). The pressure of this world makes it easier to be ashamed of Christ, but if we are convinced He is Lord, then we know that the real shame is the failure to deny self. Self is the crutch. God is the Rock. We need to choose which one we will serve.

- Doy Moyer

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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 22****In Charge:** Alan Morgan (405-481-6163)**Welcome AM:** Jack Mattingly**Song Leader:** Steve Johnson**Opening Prayer:** Andy Scott**Closing Prayer:** Nuben Barton**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Tim Smith**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** No Service**Scripture Reading:** Gil Turpin**Heritage House****Thursday, December 26**

Christmas
Holiday

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