

### TRUE JOY

During all of the hustle and bustle of the holiday shopping season, if you are out in the crowds of all the shoppers, you might notice something quite ironic. With all the people cutting line with arm loads of things and people fighting over the last game system or big screen TV, look for the decoration section and you will probably see one. It is not the most exciting decoration maybe, and it can be written in different fonts, but chances are you will see a table or mantle decoration that simply spells JOY. Now what makes this decoration ironic? Well with our society bent on the pursuit of pleasure rather than truth, much of the world has become completely lost to what true joy actually is. Even as New Testament Christians, we must be alert and ready to distinguish between joy and sinful indulgence. After all, we would not be tempted to sin if there was no pleasure in it. And, just like those stacks of toys and Christmas gifts, the pleasures of sin come at a high cost. **Romans 6:23** tells us that “the wages of sin is death,” and that fleeting enjoyment that we gain from committing it will soon be over.

As followers of Christ, we must make it our duty to avoid making worldly pleasure our purpose in life and instead learn to find joy in serving the Lord. The question is, do our lives give evidence of the presence of joy in Christian service? Do people see us as happy and joyful people? If not, this would easily explain our lack of effectively reaching out to others. After all, the Gospel of Christ is GOOD News!!! Paul also says in **Philippians 4:4-5**, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.” We even read in **Galatians 5:22** that the fruit of the Spirit includes joy. If there is no joy in Christ, then where is the fruitful growth?

What many do not seem to realize is that joy is actually a byproduct of our own relationship with Christ and we must spend more time in His presence in order to help it grow. **Psalm 16:11** says, “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” If the fullness of God’s joy is not being reflected in your life, then what does that say about your presence? Paul also says in **Ephesians 1:3**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ

with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.” The joy found as a Christian is a spiritual blessing, so one must be “in Christ” to experience true joy. If we simply stay on the outside, looking in, then true joy can never be attained.

Joy is the result of following God’s plan. It is a characteristic of life that pushes past our own interests and personal comfort zones and seeks out the needs of others. Paul said in **Philippians 2:2-4**, “complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” We are also reminded, over and over, by both Jesus’ teachings and examples that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (**Acts 20:35**) By following this plan set before us, we are able to see a true joy that we can only receive in Christ. And that joy begins to grow by the common unity of love we have for one another in Christ, which is secured by our hope of heaven, a place of eternal joy in the presence of our Heavenly Father. It is the hope of our names written in heaven in which we can truly rejoice, each and every day. (**Luke 10:17-20**)

When I think of what it means to put aside the pursuit of worldly pleasures and seek out true joy that can only be found in God, I am reminded of Solomon. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon explains how he worked and struggled in every which way to find the whole meaning of life. So many of those paths ended in vain. Solomon finally came to the conclusion in **Ecclesiastes 12:13**, “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” This is the ultimate key to finding joy in life, realizing that our purpose in life is to seek God and please Him. (**Acts 17:27**) Do you want true joy in life? Seek God first. Through His guidance, you will learn to tell the difference between sinful, selfish indulgence and true pleasure. Then get to work serving God and following what He has said. The gift of joy isn’t bought in a store. It was bought for us on the cross at Calvary.

Andrew Spivey

*The Church office will be closed on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> & Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for the holidays.*

## COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Hebrews 11  
Wednesday Read – Hebrews 12 - 13

### BIBLE STUDY

Questions for last week’s reading of;

#### **Hebrews 7-10.**

1. List as many ways as you can that Melchizedek was like Jesus.
2. How is Jesus’ priesthood different from the priesthood of Levi?
3. How is the new covenant different from the old covenant?
4. By what blood did Jesus enter into the Most Holy Place?
5. Why is there no longer a need for the daily sacrifice?

### LADS TO LEADERS

Lads to Leaders convention is at the Opryland Hotel on **April 6 - 9, 2023**. If you or your student are interested in participating in the Lads to Leaders program, please see Garrett Rowlett, Andrew Spivey or Tim Strickland before **February 5<sup>th</sup>** to participate in the 2023 convention. **We will begin meeting on a regular basis after the beginning of the year.**

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Matthew Arseneau** on graduating from Western Kentucky University on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Technology. Matthew is the husband of **Amanda Arseneau** and the son-in-law of **Ottis & Maxine Cothron**.

### POCKET DIRECTORY

We are preparing for the 2023 pocket directory. If you have a new address, phone number or email, please let the office know ASAP or send an email to [secnashroad@gmail.com](mailto:secnashroad@gmail.com) Thank You.

## ORDER OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

December 18, 2022

9:00 AM

### BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Jonathan Senn  
Opening Prayer.....Tim Strickland  
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

### 10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn  
Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Lord’s Supper.....Adam Williamson  
Closing Prayer.....Eric Stephenson

### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn  
Opening Prayer.....Rick Gallagher  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Lord’s Supper.....Ken Veale  
Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

## WEDNESDAY

December 21, 2022

7:00 PM

Welcome.....David Thompson  
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn  
Opening Prayer.....Jim Cherry  
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

Visitor’s Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

### IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ  
 1883 Nashville Pike  
 Gallatin, TN 37066  
 Web Site: [nashvilleroad.org](http://nashvilleroad.org)  
 E-mail: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

### SICK LIST

Mary Ann Reinhart has been diagnosed with cancer. She will begin radiation & chemo. **Andy Boner** had knee surgery on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. **Aza Topik**, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals, snowboarding accident in Utah with severe spinal injuries. **Elaine Reynolds**, friend of Christi Coleman, will have heart surgery soon. **Mike Martin**, friend of the Jennings & Cato families has been moved to the Select Specialty Hospital at St Thomas West. **Rob Spivey**, son of Keith & Lisha Spivey, is recovering from a broken leg. **Paul Norman**, nephew of Carolyn Vester and cousin to Valarie Senn & Wanda Sherrill, has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. **Ty Tyler**, son of Ann Tyler, is home now. **Becky Mears**, friend of Bob & Tarina Brown had a bone marrow transplant and is doing well. **Rachel Goode**, friend of Carl & Pam Newby is recovering at home from surgery she had on November 7<sup>th</sup> and is doing well. **April Cothran**, a good friend of Celena Marshall has been diagnosed with stage 4 adenocarcinoma of the pancreas. She is taking chemo treatments. **Bryan Grissom**, cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover, has been diagnosed with cancer. **Vycki Puckett**, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato has recovered from hip surgery but continues with health issues. She is at home now.



### PRAYER LIST

**Shelby Ross**; **Sandi Jones**; **Maxine Cothron**; **Gerald Miles**, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 305; **Frances Catron**; **Jean Deaton**; **Charlie Cibur**; **Larry Bailey** son of Tina Bailey; **Ricky Cantrell**; **Wade & Wanda Kennedy** parents of Diana Stephenson; **Ricky Cross**, friend of Betty Buttrey; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Lawrence Redding**, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Janice Haskins**, sister of Jim Cherry; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **John Gregory**, brother of Bob Gregory; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Betty Billingsley**, sister of Wanda Proctor; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill.

### SHUT-INS

**Marilee Frederick**, Gallatin Rehab, Room 220; **Joyce Savage**, NHC Place Sumner, room 322; **Jane Hughes**, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; **Melba Hill**; **Dorothy Sullivan**, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148.

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Bible Study.....         | 106        |
| Morning Worship.....     | 141        |
| Sunday Evening.....      | 55         |
| Wednesday Evening.....   | 66         |
| Contribution.....        | \$6,751.00 |
| Youth Group Account..... | \$6,000.53 |

### Elders

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Tony Butler.....    | 615-452-0560 |
| Jim Cherry.....     | 615-479-2149 |
| David Johnson.....  | 615-300-9084 |
| Alex Sherrill.....  | 615-289-9935 |
| David Thompson..... | 615-598-6621 |

### Deacons

|                 |               |                 |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Carl Newby      | Jonathan Senn | Brent Smith     |
| Eric Stephenson | Ken Veale     | Adam Williamson |



# Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

1883 Nashville Road  
 Gallatin, TN 37066

Phone (615) 452-3431  
 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30. p.m.

Web Site: [www.nashvilleroad.org](http://www.nashvilleroad.org)  
 Email: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

**ANDREW SPIVEY**, Pulpit and Family Minister  
**TIM STRICKLAND**, Associate Minister  
**GARRETT ROWLETT**, Youth Minister