

<b>PRIVILEGED TO SERVE</b> <b>WEEK OF SUNDAY June 1, 2025</b>	
Announcements	Ron Brown

<b>SUNDAY DOOR GREETERS</b>	
North Side	Amy/ Levi/ Randi Swallows
South Side	Todd/ Jody Webb

<b>SUNDAY DOOR MONITOR</b>	
Ricky Davis	Jere Whitson

<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	
Adult Bible Class Prayer	Ricky Davis
Song Leader	Jonothan Whitson
First Prayer	Adam Swallows
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord’s Table	Todd Webb
Closing Prayer	Levi Whitson

<b>EVENING WORSHIP</b>	
Song Leader	Jay Whitson
First Prayer	Allen Cantrell
Sermon	John Chowning
Lord’s Table	Jere Whitson
Closing Prayer	David Allen

<b>Wednesday June 4, 2025</b>	
Song Leader	Jere Whitson
Scripture Reading	Gary Robinson
Devotional Talk	Levi Swallows
Closing Prayer	Jonothan Whitson

<b>Wednesday Door Monitor</b>	
Jere Whitson	

Jere Whitson is responsible for worship assignments. If you are going to be absent or need to request changes, please contact him.

Gospel Broadcast Supported

Preaching the Gospel, Sunday 7:30 A.M. – Ch. 11

Important News:

2025 THEME

Jesus Built His Church

Matthew 16:16-19

Verse 18 : And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

THIS WEEK’S TEXTS

AM class- - Jude 1-4

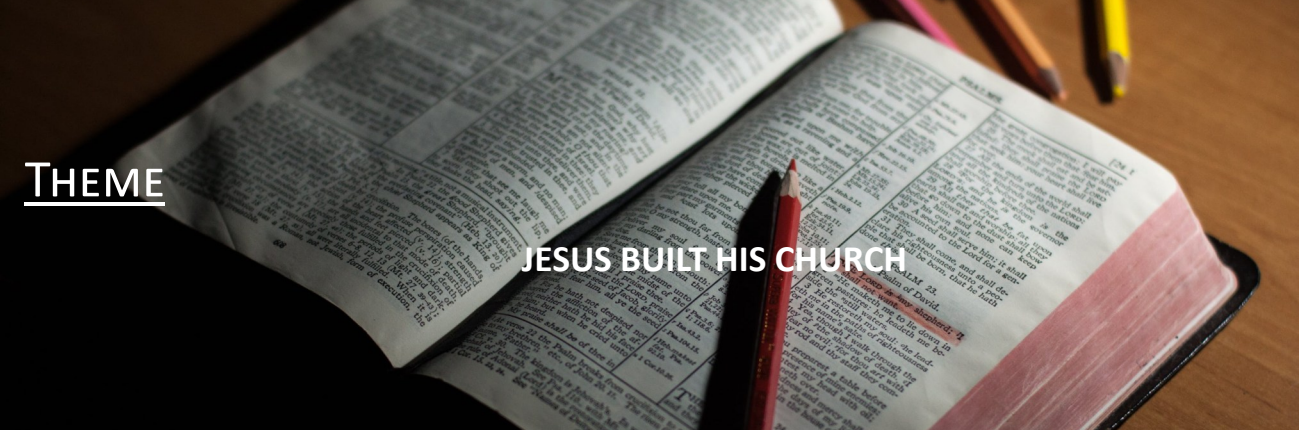
AM sermon- - Eph. 2:21-22

PM sermon--Eph. 4:4

CHRISTIAN MESSENGER  
(USPS 961-220)  
Published weekly by  
Algood Church of Christ  
395 West Main Street  
Algood, TN 38506-5391

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
Christian Messenger  
395 West Main Street  
Algood, TN 38506-5391

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
COOKEVILLE, TN  
38501



# CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

A publication of the ALGOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST located at  
395 West Main St. | Algood, TN 38506

SUNDAY

Bible Study .....9:00 AM

Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.

Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

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It Is Written

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Volume XLVI Thur. June 5, 2025 Number 22

What Do I Owe My Home Congregation

Ben F. Vick, Jr.

When one is baptized into Christ he is baptized into the universal church of Christ (Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Cor. 12:13); otherwise, every time one identified with a different local church of Christ he would have to be baptized again. As Paul and Barnabas returned to visit the churches they had established on their evangelistic journey, they did not have to be baptized again at each stop (Acts 14:21-23). When one becomes a Christian by believing the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4; John 8:24), repenting of one’s sins (Acts 17:30, 2:38), confessing Christ before men (Rom. 10:9-10), and being baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), the Lord adds him to the universal church (Acts 2:47); but he should also become identified with a local congregation.

Some members of the church universal feel no need to become identified with a local congregation. They evidently think that as long as they are members of the church universally they can just “float” around to different congregations as they see fit. Perhaps several factors have led to this practice. The mobility of our society makes it easy for one to just “visit” around from congregation to congregation. Such an one is always a visitor in the congregation

he is attending. Many congregations in a general area make this possible, though there are some congregations that are not loyal to the truth of God’s word. Traveling takes money. If money were not so readily available to us, there would be fewer trips away from our home congregation. If a depression were to hit us, our traveling would be curtailed. A failure to teach one’s duty to his home congregation may the cause for some to flit and float from congregation to congregation.

Placing membership or identifying with a local congregation is taught in the New Testament. Each congregation is autonomous, I.e., self-governing. The church at Antioch determined to send relief to the brethren in Judea (Acts 11:27-30). Jerusalem did not dictate to Antioch what they should do or how much they should send. Later, in the special contribution for the poor of Jerusalem, the church at Corinth determined a year in advance what they would do. Paul encouraged them to go ahead and keep their promise, or pledge (2 Cor. 8:10-11). It was Corinth that decided to give, not another church deciding for them. When a congregation determines to give or to refrain from giving to a work, it exercises its autonomy. Now, how could these local churches determine to give if the members had no obligation to their home congregation?

The very word “church” means assembly. The churches at Jerusalem, Antioch, Corinth, Rome, etc., were assemblies that met in these cities. If one claims membership with the church at Philippi but is regularly visiting other congregations, how can he be considered a member of the Philippi church? It seems he would be just a member at large.

Paul wrote, “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thes. 5:12-13). In another place we read, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that would be unprofitable to you” (Heb. 13:17). “Them that have the rule over you” is translated from three Greek words which Berry’s Interlinear translates as “your leaders”. The main Greek word in the phrase (hegoumenois) means “to be out front”. But how can leaders be out front if the congregation is scattered? Also, how can overseers, or rulers of the local congregation, watch after the souls under their charge if the members are scattered hither, thither, and yon?

This does not mean that it is wrong for members to take vacations, to care for sick loved ones in other places, or to have to be out of town due to work obligations. But if we are in town or can get back to our home congregation, we should try our very best to make it to the services where our membership is.

The local church as the duty to preach the gospel (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thes. 1:8). It needs to have the very best Bible classes possible in order that all will be edified (Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 20:32). As the local church preaches the gospel, it needs to remember the poor (Gal. 2:9-10, 6:10; James 1:27). If one brother has done another brother wrong and the former refuses to repent, ultimately the local church must discipline the impenitent brother (Mat. 18:15-17). How can the local church rebuke the brother if the members are constantly going elsewhere?

If I expect the local church to help me, why should not the local church expect my loyalty to it? Do I owe something to every member of that congregation? Does the local church have the right to expect my faithful attendance at all the services (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25)? If the church is going to accomplish the work it has promised to do, does it have the right to expect my financial support? If I go away for a weekend, do I leave my contribution? I owe my local congregation my financial support (1 Cor. 16:1-2) for it is counting on me. Would I pay someone else’s bills before I paid my own? Charity begins at home. One may leave a token contribution elsewhere, but his duty first is to his home congregation. The elders plan the work of the church based upon the contributions. But if I am not giving regularly to my home congregation, it cannot count on my financial support.

I owe my home congregation my prayers (Acts 2:42). Do I pray for each member (Acts 12:5)? Do I pray for the sick (James 5:16)? Do I pray for the shepherds of the local congregation? Do I pray for the preacher and the works we support?

If the church is going to grow spiritually and in numbers, each member must love and be loyal to the home congregation. Let each of us do his part to make this congregation the very best it can be in accordance to God’s will.

## IMPORTANT NEWS

- We rejoice with Ms. Reba Turner , as she came forward on Sunday morning, asking for forgiveness and prayers. She also made it known she would like to work with the congregation at Algood.

- Ms. Reba Turner’s address and phone number to add to your personal directory is as follows:

144 E. Stevens Street

Cookeville, TN 38501

(931) 854-2030 (cell)

- Elders ask to meet with all deacons and John Chowning following Wednesday night services on May 28th.

- “Studying the Seriousness of Sin” bible class will resume on Tuesday, May 27th, at 10 a.m. but this will be the last class until August 5th.

- Mark those calendars , Vacation Bible School will be June 16th –20th, classes for all ages.

- If any of the Christian men of the congregation are interested in writing an article for the next edition of “Light for the Path” The deadline is July 20th and John Chowning will serve as editor for this.

- Please remember Mike and Lucy Mitchell in your prayers as they prepare to move to an assisted living facility in Murfreesboro on June 5th or 6th.

## ILLNESSES

**Jean Robinson**, sister in law of Gary Robinson, has been diagnosed with a cancerous spot on her brain and will be meeting with a doctor soon for future treatment. She lives in the Manchester area.

### PANTRY ITEM:

*Temporary Hold on Items*

## SYMPATHY

**Cassie Seffron**, the 29 year old niece of Carolyn Mason and Bonnie Woody, passed away on Friday, May 16th. Please pray for the family and her 4 year old son.

**Garland Wheeler**, former deacon and member of Algood, who passed away on May 20th. Funeral was held last week.

## EXTENDED ILLNESS

Bonnie Stockton, Carol Meadows, Junior Bryant, Sue Ing, Mike and Lucy Mitchell, Earlene Qualls and Betty Barnes.

<u>PHONE</u>	<b>Deacons Cont’d</b>
<b>(931) 537-6221</b>	<b>Ricky Davis</b>
<u><b>ELDERS</b></u>	Ext. 802
<b>Bobby Rothfus</b>	<b>Joel Knight</b>
Ext. 701	Ext. 803
<b>Gary Loftis</b>	<b>Jondan Rothfus</b>
Ext. 702	Ext. 804
<b>Derek Crawford</b>	<b>Todd Webb</b>
Ext. 703	Ext. 805
<u><b>PREACHER</b></u>	<b>Jay Whitson</b>
<b>John Chowning</b>	Ext. 806
Ext. 700	<b>Jere Whitson</b>
<u><b>Deacons</b></u>	Ext. 807
<b>Ron Brown</b>	<b>Jonathan</b>
Ext. 801	<b>Whitson</b>
	Ext. 808