

## Committed for the Long Run

By Alan Smith

Unable to attend the funeral after his Uncle Charlie died, a man who lived far away called his brother and told him, "Do something nice for Uncle Charlie and send me the bill."

Later, he got a bill for \$200.00, which he paid. The next month, he got another bill for \$200.00, which he also paid, figuring it was some incidental expense.

But, when the bills for \$200.00 kept arriving every month, he finally called his brother again to find out what was going on.

"Well," said the other brother, "You said to do something nice for Uncle Charlie. So, I rented him a tuxedo."

That's not exactly the most appropriate gift for someone who has died! But the story made me think about how we are often willing to give, even to sacrifice great amounts, and we are happy to do so once or twice. But we don't want it to become something we have to do for the rest of our lives.

For example, we're happy to have friends or family stay in our homes for a short while, but we don't want it to go on for years and years. We will agree to teach a Bible class at church for a quarter or two, but we don't want to be stuck in the class for the rest of our life. We will take a mission trip and live in squalid conditions for a week or two but would never dream of moving there permanently.

And our hesitancy in situations like those is perhaps understandable. Unfortunately, we sometimes are tempted to have the same attitude when it comes to serving Christ. We are willing to give up everything for Christ -- at least, for a while. But for our whole lives? Always seeking to put others first? Always willing to forgive? Always willing to suffer and sacrifice for the cause of Christ?

We need to be reminded that Christianity is not a sprint, it's a long-distance marathon, and we must be willing to commit ourselves to run the race to the very end. Be forewarned -- it can be tiring. But "let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Gal. 6:9)

Have a great day!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

May 17, 2020

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon:** *Torn Clothes, Broken Hearts, and Happy Endings.*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

**[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org)** (Antioch Initiative)

Find us on Facebook

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Scripture Reading:** Joel 2:12-20

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: May 20<sup>th</sup>**, live streamed at 6:30. Check the **Valley Cities Church of Christ Facebook page** for information.
- **Next Potluck:** TBD
- **Horseheads Ladies' Day:** postponed until further notice.
- **Next Regional Singing: May 31<sup>st</sup> (if possible) @ Horseheads**
- **Sojourners-** July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 6<sup>th</sup>
- **VBS-** August 8<sup>th</sup>



### NEWS

- **Please let Sandy know if you would like some N95 masks.**
- Please remember those of our group who are not able to join us for worship online. Give them a call, drop them a card, etc. and help them to feel included.
- **The May Bible reading schedule is posted on the Valley Cities Facebook page.** People without computer access will receive copies in the mail.
- Please let Sandy know if you would like some homemade cloth face masks to wear outside during our social distancing period. They are good for wearing to the grocery store or for pick up.
- **Several of us met in the building for worship last Sunday! We still published our worship on livestream to allow the people who have been joining with us from all over the world to participate. God is good!**

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for all those who are suffering with the Coronavirus, and for the families of those who have died.** Pray for protection for the elderly and others who are vulnerable. Pray that these hard times will be brought to a fast end.
- **Thank God for all the doctors, nurses, medical staff and other caretakers who are putting their own lives on the line to care for and cure all the sick people.** Please keep them safe and protect them.
- **Gail Westerhold**, Jerry's friend, is suffering with bad back pain which affects one of her legs.
- Pray for **Ted** as he waits for the surgery on his Eustachian tubes to restore his hearing.
- Pray for **Chris Henson and Devon Wolcott** and their little son, **Jace**.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- Please pray for **Mark Elsbree**, who needs a kidney donor. Mark is near the top of the list now, for which we are grateful.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer. Lori is dealing with two brain tumors, for which she has undergone radiation therapy.
- Pray for **Chris Beiber and sons, Nick and Nate, that we can stay in contact** and encourage them to draw close to Jesus.
- Pray for **Jerry** as he's traveling and while he's staying with his son in Las Vegas. Pray for his time with his sons. Please pray that we can have some contact with him, as we don't have an address for him.
- We are **thankful that we have the technology** that allows us to gather in spirit to **worship on the Lord's Day**, and to attend class on Wednesday evening.
- Cora Rivera's best friend Sam, as well as her mother have come down with covid19.

If you have any **PRAYERS** or **NEWS** that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.