

## Worship Servants:

**This week: 7/16/23**

Sermon: Matt J  
Preside: Barry S, Danny D  
Phillip E, John A  
Opening Prayer: David H  
Closing Prayer: Phillip E  
Singing AM: John S  
Singing PM: Alex H

**Next week: 7/23/23**

Sermon: Matt J  
Preside: James M, Don C,  
David H, Justin H  
Opening Prayer: Glenn E  
Closing Prayer: Barry S  
Singing AM: Doug M  
Singing PM: Bert S

## Special Announcement

East Tuscaloosa Area Wide  
*5th Sunday Fellowship*

Cottondale East Pointe Hillcrest Mercedes Drive

Sunday  
July 30, 2023  
5:00pm

PROGRAM LOCATION:  
17303 Highway 11 N  
Vance, AL 35490

PROGRAM LED BY:  
Mercedes Drive Congregation

**WE ARE PROVIDING TACOS AND THE  
TOPPINGS THAT GO WITH TACOS. PLEASE,  
GET WITH HEATHER / BETHANY ON WHAT  
TO BRING.**



MERCEDES DRIVE

# CHURCH of CHRIST

July 16, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 29

## Welcome

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** | July 20th, 6:30pm  
MDCOC Fellowship Hall  
Held monthly on the first Tuesday.

**SATURDAY SISTERS** | August 12, 9am  
Host -  
Teacher -

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** | July 11th, 6pm  
MDCOC Fellowship Hall  
Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

**TEENS IN THE WORD** | July 18th, 7pm  
At West Blocton VBS

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** | July 23rd @ 7:45am  
At the building.

**GIRLS FOR CHRIST** | will be canceled for this month

**LADIES REVELATION STUDY** | 2nd & 4th Sundays  
1PM at the building  
Taught by: Helen Mulaparthi

**Check the bulletin in the foyer for more  
announcements and upcoming events.**

### Service Times

#### Sunday:

Bible Class 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM  
Worship 6 PM

#### Wednesday:

Bible Class 6 PM

### Elders

Danny Dailey 205-799-0917  
David Harbin 205-292-3515

### Deacons

John Sloan  
James McDonald

### Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165  
EMAIL: matt65jones@gmail.com

### Church Contacts:

📞 205 - 553 - 6800

📍 17303 HWY 11 Vance, AL 35490

✉️ mdcoc17303@gmail.com

🌐 mdchurchofchrist.wordpress.com

📺 Mercedes Drive Church of Christ

📘 facebook.com/mdchurchofchrist

# Seeing People as "Loved Ones"

Tyler King

Two weeks ago, I was driving home from school and noticed a big orange sign in a construction zone where they were working on the road. The sign read, "Loved ones at work." For days (and I guess weeks at this point), that sign has been on my mind. The message was an effort to get people to slow down in construction zones and to consider that the laborers are loved ones – brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children, grandchildren, grandparents and friends. We have shamelessly objectified humanity to a point that we consider it a burden to slow down a mere 10mph less than the normal speed limit to warrant safety. We make memes and jokes about people dying in a submersible (regardless of their wealth), only moments after the tragedy. We fight and become gluttons of hatred because someone doesn't see politics or religion the way we see them. We have lost touch of viewing people as "loved ones," namely, those who are loved by God.

Many will gloss over the short 21-verse book of Obadiah, but its message addresses this very issue of correcting how we should see people. The book is a warning against the people of Edom, the neighbor and brother of Israel (Gen. 25). As Israel faces their judgment from God through the Babylonians, the Edomites take notice of an opportunity to capitalize on the chaos. Once they see the vulnerability of the Israelites, they pursue the city of Jerusalem and seek to benefit from their suffering. The self-proclaimed elitist nation of Edom ransacked, abused, and acted violently toward Israel (Ob. 2-10). The punishment for Edom would be God's justice "as you have done, it shall be done to you. Your deeds shall return on your head." Through selfish ambition of taking advantage of someone else's misfortune, Edom would suffer from their reckless actions.

Edom had become so distanced in their relation to Israel, they no longer saw them as family but as estranged neighbors. If we trace our heritage far enough, we all go back to Noah (and eventually Adam). We share in the uniqueness of bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:27). Furthermore, God proclaims, "All souls are mine" (Ez. 18:4). Those customer service reps on the phone, the person in the car in front of you in traffic, the restaurant worker, the clerk behind the counter are all precious souls seen by God. Your boss, your employee, your coworker, are irreplaceable souls seen by God. You can quote the rest, but consider the first few words of the most popular Bible verse in the world; "For God so loved." Every single person you see is a loved one. Substitute the tendency of being malicious with the determination of being selfless.

# WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **KEN RAMAY and all of his health struggles**
- **TODD PIERCE, Jay's neighbor, recovery from Knee surgery**
- **JESS, Ruth Edward's DIL, her recovery from surgery**
- **CONGRATULATIONS DALTON SLOAN! He put on Christ in baptism July, 4, 2023!!**
- **TAMMI JONES with her broken arm.**
- **MADDIE GRACE SELMAN and her recovery**
- **Peace and Comfort for Jack Adkins and Family**
- **MARK AND SHANA, members at Central, they were in bad car wreck**
- **TIM NOLAN, member at Hillcrest, and his recovery from surgery.**
- **CONGRATULATIONS BRAXTON! He put on Christ in Baptism June 30, 2023**
- **DAILEY FAMILY as they make preparations to move to Oklahoma**
- **DON CICERO and his recovery from surgery (doing better)**
- **WILKEY FAMILY and the lost of Lisa's mother.**
- **BRENDA, friend of Koli, and her health struggles (procedure went well)**
- **JACK ADKINS and his recovery from surgery**
- **FAMILY OF JOHN TAYLOR, Stephanie Mill's coworker, he passed away this week**
- **KENZI SWINDLE, 6 years old, is fighting cancer and broke her leg**
- **KEN AND BETTY RAMAY and health struggles (Good news about Ken)**
- **BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues**
- **ANDY CADDELL and his road to recovery**

## ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 73  
 Worship P.M. .... 43  
 Wed P.M. ....56

## CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$3,050.00  
**BUDGET**  
 Weekly.....\$3,000.00

