

Prayer a Weapon?

A trick question asked of police recruits is, "Of all the equipment an officer carries which weapon is most important?" The answer? His police radio. All other pieces of gear leave him standing alone. But the radio can call on great forces to help in dangerous situations where he is outnumbered. He must remember he is part of something much bigger. He is not the weapon, the fragile but essential rule of law is.

We misread our protection as well. I'll admit prayer can seem absurd to the untrained eye. We respect action and seldom question it. It rarely occurs to us that a lack of action or especially a lack of words can be best. In prayer, the Lord can prompt us either way. Without prayer we don't know which. We can and do make things worse. Without prayer we focus on our knowledge, will-power, resolutions, strategy. Prayer moves us to a level beyond all of these.

We are concerned about the unknown doing harm to us or our loved ones. The whispered truth of prayer reveals we in fact are the ones who tend to do the most harm to ourselves and our loved ones. That's humbling. Prayer makes you safe to be around. That in turn allows others to get close to you.

When you don't avail yourself of the weapon of prayer, you become the weapon. Look out!! Who gets hurt? Not enemies, but those we say we love. When Jesus said we are to love God and love our neighbor, there is a reason for the order of those two loves. Don't flip it.

Prayer is a weapon, a sanctifying weapon.

"Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Cor. 10:3-4)

Mark

PRAISE GOD! Elder Appointment & Fellowship Meal is NEXT Sunday Jan. 18th. Right after Worship Service we will share an Italian Dinner. Please **sign-up to bring food**. Group 2 is in charge of set-up, serving & clean-up.

Our Month of "Prayer and Fasting" is Here: and many spaces are filled but there are still several days that don't have that anonymous check mark from a faithful volunteer to Praying & Fast on that day.

Do You Belong to a L.I.F.E. Group Yet?

L.I.F.E. Groups: Love, Involvement, Fellowship, Evangelism
There are lists of the groups, who leads each one and where each one meets on the tables in the foyer.

New Visions- Lunch for Homeless, Jan. 17th from 11:00—1:00. NOTE the new location! 555 Atlantic Ave. Camden, NJ. Phone 856-379-6032.

Cathedral Kitchen Meals to Serve: We have dates posted on the bulletin board on which we can volunteer to serve meals at the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden. The next time is Tuesday, January 27th. ***See Vivian if you can help*** and meet at the church parking lot at 3 p.m. to go together.

A Ladies Tea at 1:00 PM Saturday, January 31st: for girls and grown-ups. We will meet here in the Fellowship Room downstairs. Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

NEW Thanksgiving Catch-Up Special Collection
TOTAL thus far is **\$38,502**. Praise God for his provision!

Ladies Brunch at Becky's On Saturday, January 24th, at 9:00 AM we will have a brunch at Becky Finn's home for all who are interested in helping organize the annual Spring Ladies Retreat. Please mark you calendars for our annual Spring Retreat on April 17-19 in beautiful Cape May.

Our Food Pantry for the Hungry is Getting Low:

This is kept for people who need food. There is a basket in the hallway to put non-perishable items. Some of our needs are beef stew, chunky soups, cereal, oatmeal, powdered milk, jelly, and peanut butter.

Today’s Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Welcome & Scripture: Tony Ceraso Jr. (Psalm 97:1-6,10-12)

Lord’s Supper: Nelson Nuñez, Bret Goen, Carl Smith, Logan McEntire

Scripture Reading: Jiony Colon (James 5:12-16)

Closing Prayer: Bret Goen **Announcements:** Rick Boyle.

“The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” – 2 Thess. 3:3

“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord. - Isaiah 54:17

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” - Psalm 34:18

“Weeping may remain for a night, but JOY comes in the morning” – Psalm 30:5

Nursery: Chris Ann & Sarah P. Next Week- Michelle & Norma
Pink Cleaning Team Jan. 14-17: Leaders: **Howard & Donna**

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Preacher
Church Office- (856) 854-0197

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876
Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276
Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Worship 112
Bible Class 53
Wed PM..... 37
L.I.F.E Groups 36

Contribution \$3,180
Budget Goal.....\$4.260

Daily Bible Readers: 32

Collingswood Church of Christ

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Prayer: The most powerful weapon against trials, the most effective medicine against sickness, AND the most valuable gift to someone you love.

Don’t pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.

- P** – Pour out your heart
- R** – Realize God will answer
- A** – Always Believe
- Y** – Yield to what God tells you

Prayer

The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but TREMBLES when we pray. –Samuel Chadwick

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God. Amen.

Lord, I come before you to praise your name and glorify you. Father, I rebuke, cancel and destroy every assignment and attack of the enemy. I cancel every curse and negative word that has ever been spoken over me, my life, family and future in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” – Eph. 6:18

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” – James 5:16