

If This Article Is About Prayer, Will You Skip It?

Matthew 21:22 *"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

Jesus said this and we are always tempted to qualify it and explain it away because we are afraid it doesn't work. We have all prayed prayers that were not answered, or more specifically, not answered the way that we would have wanted. This is where FAITH comes in, because it is impossible to hold on to this promise without patience and trust in God's goodness and his greater plan.

My prayer list isn't all answered. How about yours? The stretch comes in believing that our Father in heaven knows what we need and knows how to give good gifts. The Lord's model prayer in Matthew 6 is grand in its scope and modest in its requests. The main point is God is above, we are below and we want his above to happen here below. Odds are God's will is going to differ from ours, and that's a good thing.

In America we have a lot. Jesus, who was poor, taught prayer to a society of desperately impoverished and under resourced people. He's either playing a cruel joke or he's helping connect them with the power of their Creator. One day he told them a story about a persistent widow who kept imploring an unjust judge. His point was that we must be persistent, AND that God is NOT like the unjust judge, but truly cares for us.

For you that might take a lot of faith to believe because you are struggling right now with something you've been praying about for a long time. Jesus' promise boldly hangs right out there. I don't have to apologize for it. But I will have to wrestle with it. Jesus certainly wrestled in his prayers! I will too. So I will keep on praying because I know he loves me.

Hope you didn't skip this article. If you read it, tell me.

Mark

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Special Scripture Readings for Mother's Day:

Jon-Jon Cook, Nicky Ceraso, Collin McEntire, Joel Lewis

COME JOIN US AT OUR CHURCH

RETREAT

Next Weekend, May 15-17

This is a fun time for our families to just relax, hike, talk, play games & eat great food at Camp Manatawny.

Sign-ups are on the bulletin board. There are still plenty of Bunks in the Retreat Center. Please check it out! Questions? Ask Karen about food or Tony Jr. other details. (we have a climate-controlled cabin available)

Money Card for Maggie & Vinod for Baby Von!

Sharlotte Swinehart is collecting money for a gift card from the Collingswood Church. She will collect until May 19th.

VBS Meeting: Our next VBS meeting will be Sunday, May 31st after worship.

VBS Sign-ups Are on the Bulletin Board:

VBS is July 12-15th. "*Camp Kilimanjaro*" is an expedition through the book of Proverbs. There are still openings for Teachers, Teen Volunteers, Crafts, Drama and Music. Please

help to spread God's Word through this Ministry! See Laura, Hoa or Carl.

Cook Out at the building on May 24th

Right after Worship. Sign-up to bring food items.

Hospitality Team 4 is in charge of set-up, serving & clean-up.

If You Are Working or Plan to Work with the Children or Teens, Background Checks need to be completed. Please see Donna Mansdoerfer.

Trailblazers Luncheon: Our Chinese Luncheon June 7th will be at 1PM at Peking Wok (Route 38 & Ark Road in Mount Laurel). The cost is \$14 each with plenty of food. Sign-up on the bulletin board. (EVERYONE IS INVITED!) *Questions? See Tony Sr.*

Cathedral Kitchen: The next date is Tuesday, May 26 to help serve the homeless at 1514 Federal Street, Camden, NJ 08105. We meet in the church parking lot at 3 and go from there. See Vivian.

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Chet Churchill (Psalm 108:1-6)

Opening Prayer: Scott Schoener

Lord's Supper: John Derricott, Dave C., Bret Goen, Ed Francoeur

Scripture Reading: Ed Francoeur Jr. (Psalm 139:13-15)

Announcements & Prayer: Rick Boyle

Nursery: Pam & Elaine Next Week- **Sarah P. & Lillian**
Yellow Cleaning Team: May 13-16 **Norma** coordinates

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 Total..... 100

Bible Class 58

Wed PM 45

L.I.F.E. Groups 26

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179 **Contribution \$3,111**
Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969 **Budget Goal.....\$4,260**

Daily Bible Readers: 22

Collingswood Church of
Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

Collingswood, NJ 08107

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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)

