

Pray for Our President

(Note: This was written before knowing the outcome of the 2016 Election)

It's 6:00 AM, Wednesday morning, November 9, 2016. The TV is off, I'm offline, my phone is off, and the newspaper hasn't yet arrived. I shut off the TV at 9:00 last night, tired of all the politics. I'm pretty sure I know who won the presidential election. In all my years of ministry I've never told the church who to vote for and I never will. It's ultimately unimportant because I serve One who is the King of kings, Lord of lords, and President of presidents.

Lincoln is credited with saying "*a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand*," but he was actually quoting Jesus (Mark 3:24). Our nation is divided right now. No matter who won, most citizens are upset. Feelings are raw. We are very much caught up in the moment. Let's take a breath and get some perspective.

I vote and I encourage everyone to vote, but we will discover one day that our prayers counted much more than our votes. Christians even in times of persecution were told to "*Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority*" (1 Pet. 2:13). We are to "*pray for kings and all those in authority*" (1 Tim. 2:2). This is true for us whether our new president will be addressed as "Mr. President" or "Ms. President."

In the days of the early church none of the rulers were remotely Christian. That wasn't the point. Jesus said, "*My kingdom is not of this world*," yet the scriptures boldly assert that in some way we cannot comprehend, God's hand is moving history forward. Whether enlightened statesmanship and benevolence, or oppression and evil, all history is moving inexorably forward to God's ultimate purposes. In our times that seems incomprehensible. God has worked through good leaders as well as ruthless ones, such as Pharaoh and King Nebuchadnezzar.

Our hope hasn't changed. Our eternal destiny hasn't changed. Our role hasn't changed. In this divided nation we are still to be salt and light, to demonstrate love, to be unifiers. We are to

walk among people as Jesus would, speaking as he would speak. And that includes eloquent silence in the face of hateful words.

This morning we have a new president. I don't yet know who that is. She has, or he has a very difficult job ahead. Our new president has my sincere prayers. Our new president needs your prayers too.

Mark

TODAY: A FELLOWSHIP MEAL Right after Worship. "**Build-Your-Own**" Baked Potato (salad & desert too!). **Team 1** is doing set-up, & clean-up.

"12-Hours of Prayer" NEXT Saturday Nov 19th, on the day before our "*Thanksgiving Catch-up Sunday*." We will link our prayers in 1-hour shifts. You just sign-up for the hour you want to come in. If you really believe in prayer, sign-up is on the bulletin board.

"Thanksgiving Catch-Up Sunday" is Next Sunday! November 20th. This is our annual special collection to close the gap in our budget and put money aside for our Missionaries. Keep this in prayer.

Thanksgiving Dinners for Those in Need. We are ***gathering food and empty copier-paper boxes*** to put together our Thanksgiving dinners. Please bring in non-perishable Thanksgiving food items and place them in the basket in the lobby. If you want to donate cash, please give it to Nelson Nuñez, our Deacon of Benevolence. Thanks!

Operation Post Office: is a chance for our kids (ages 4 – 10) to get to know our older members. Just bring in your **Christmas Cards** for your fellow members here and place them in the box in the lobby. Our children will get them to our

members AND this will save your cost of postage! If you want to help, see Dave Williams.

Pray for Velma Purdue: Velma is very ill. She is Pam Goen's mother and a member here who for many years has been one of our shut-ins. She lives at the Voorhees Care Center on Evesham Road.

Sr. High Youth Lock-In, Friday Nov. 18th: Youth Group (9th to 12th grades) will be having a **lock in at the church building from 7 pm to 7 am.** This event will *need adult supervision*, snacks and breakfast. There are **signup sheets** on the back bulletin board. Please let Nawana (856-906-5076) know if your child can attend or if you can help. *For this to happen we need to have enough adult participation!*

Congratulations Jaela Jones and Logan McEntire who were inducted into the National Honor Society for their scholarly abilities!

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Gerry Hogan

Welcome & Scripture: Josh Henderson (Psalm 32:1-7)

Opening Prayer: Tim Jones

Lord's Supper: Tate Perazzelli, Jess Nitla, Kamal Wall, Ben Churchill

Scripture Before Message: Tony Sr. (Romans 8:9-13)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.

Greeters: Dave Cook, Jonathan Cook, Tiana Nuñez, Debbie Powers

Nursery: Marguerite & Elaine Next Week: April & Hannah
Green Cleaning Team Nov. 16-19 **Hardee** 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
Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179
Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Worship Total 123
Bible Class 62
Wed PM 35
L.I.F.E. Groups 41

Contribution **\$5,372**
Budget Goal \$4,260
Budget Shortfall **\$32,717**

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 24

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)

