

## Queen of Courage

Esther was swept up into events over which she had no control. As a young woman of God, she was rounded up as a candidate for queen to the pagan King Xerxes. She was chosen and though given this position of privilege her role was precarious. The whims of the king were absolute law and she was forbidden to come into his presence uninvited under penalty of death. Esther knew she needed to talk with the king when she learned of new laws passed, which were the result of a plot to destroy God's people, the Jews, who were still living in exile in Persia.

Esther had to speak up for God's people. It didn't matter that the tangle of Persian laws were arbitrary. It didn't matter that unjust laws had been crafted to target God's people. She would have to break the law in order to be heard by the king. She trembled at the thought of coming to King Xerxes uninvited.

This was her moment of truth. She asked God's people and her friends to fast in her behalf. She said, *"I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish"* (Esther 4:16). In faith, in trust of God's protection, she stepped forward. The king extended his scepter and welcomed her. He heard her plea. Esther had been used by God to save his people. Courage can be found in anyone. It is not as common on the battlefield as it is in the battlefield of everyday life. Esther had position but little power. She put everything in her life on the line for the sake of God's people. Mordecai, her adopted dad, told her, *"Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* (Esther 4:14).

As Christians, the things that make us different also make us a target. Jesus warned us that over time there will be persecutions. *"You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved"* (Matthew 10:22). Doesn't matter if you're afraid. The Lord knows your situation. God is with you. "Speak the truth even if your voice shakes."

Mark

## Next Saturday & Sunday

**"Thanksgiving Catch-Up Sunday" Collection is NEXT WEEK, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**AND "12-Hours of Prayer" is Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>:**  
**On the Saturday** right before our "Catch-up Sunday Collection," we link our *prayers* in *1-hour shifts* from 6AM to 6PM; you choose the time you want to come in to pray. If you truly believe in prayer, **sign up** on the bulletin board.

**AND "Bring Your Friend Sunday," Nov. 19**

**Our Condolences Go Out to Gerry Hogan:**  
and the Hogan family on the loss of Gerry's mother!

**"Sonshine Wednesday" Hosted 19 Kids!**  
**This experimental after-school program for children,** grades K to 5<sup>th</sup> continues ONE more Wednesday, **Nov. 15**. It starts at 3:15 PM and includes activities, dinner & then Bible Class. Parents pick-up at 7:15. Questions? See Karen.

**Note: 6:30 Wed PM time (1 week left)** To accommodate our "Sonshine Wednesday" kids.

**Youth Group Friday: Nov. 17** meet at the church building 7PM for "Nerf Battles."

**In Need of Prayers:** Please keep **Laura and her family** in your prayers. Laura's operation is on Tues. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. Also, health concerns of **Velma** Perdue, **Anne** Pollack, **Josephine** Young, Margaret's dad, **Richard**, Tate's mother, **Linda** the Gill's daughter, **Erin**.

**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. If you have a frozen turkey, ask Nelson the best time to bring it. Thanks!

**A New Address for Sandra, Joel, and Jeramiah**

59 Minnetanka Road, Hi Nella, NJ 08083. Congratulations!

**Save the Dates:**

1. **Gingerbread Houses** will be built on Sunday, December 3. Watch for the instructions and sign-ups.
2. **Our Christmas Party** is 6PM on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Our Church Retreat** will be June 8-10, 2018.

**Today's Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Dave Williams

**Welcome & Scripture:** Henry Duncan. (Psalm 68:17-20)

**Opening Prayer:** Carl Smith

**Lord's Supper:** Josh H., Bill Ceraso, Larry DeSimone, John Corbett

**Scripture Before Message:** Dave Cook (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

**Announcements & Closing Prayer:** Tony Ceraso Jr.

**Greeters:** Nelson Nuñez, Jack Swinehart, Elaine Firman, Sue Gill

**Nursery Marguerite & Brenda** Next Week: Stephanie & Norma

**Purple: Cleaning Team** Nov. 15-18 **Becky**

**OUTREACH/MINISTRY**

Mark Finn – Minister

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

**ELDERS:**

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

**Worship ..... 107**

Bible Class..... 50

Wednesday PM ..... 56

**Contribution ..... \$5,281**

Budget Goal ..... \$4,260

**15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 28**

# Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: [www.ccc123.org](http://www.ccc123.org)

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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)

