

|                       | 4/23           | 4/30             |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Call To Worship       | Jonah Dawes    | David Gulledge   |
| Scripture Reading     | Carson Hopkins | Peyton Nash      |
| Song Leader           | Stan Mitchell  | Jimmy Garner     |
| Prayer                | Tom Durden     | Steve Hopkins    |
| Preside Lord's Supper | Dale Findley   | JD Branch        |
| Usher                 | Emmitt Libby   | Gayle Pelfrey    |
| Sermon                | David Gulledge | Dave Rogers      |
| Closing Prayer        | David Hopkins  | Jack Sorrell     |
| Evening Worship       |                |                  |
| Announcements         | Jonah Dawes    | David Gulledge   |
| Song Leader           | Stan Mitchell  | Jimmy Garner     |
| Prayer                | Curtis Hurt    | Hugh Kelley      |
| Sermon                | Singing Night  | Dave Rogers      |
| Lord's Supper         | Dale Findley   | JD Branch        |
| Prayer                | Andy Johnson   | Ethan Boelsterli |

Worship Assignment Coordinator for March: Jon Buckner



**APRIL 23-26** | Forest Park Church of Christ, Lake City, Georgia  
**MAY 12-14** | Freeport, Bahamas  
**OCTOBER 1-4** | Lakeside Church of Christ, Orange Park, Florida



Volume 29, Number 17 April 23rd, 2023

## Basic Facts from... (Part )

by Dave Rogers

Like the gospel record that he penned, John's first letter to Christians begins with a direct, fundamental statement about the nature and identity of Jesus (1 John 1:1-2). The purpose of this letter is stated plainly in verses 3-4: John is writing to enable those who read these words to share with him in the fellowship extended by both the Father and the Son. At verse 7, he will go on to emphasize that the fellowship Christians share *with one another* is based on each person's relationship with the **Father** ("fellowship" among Christians is therefore **not** based simply on our willingness to agree with one another).

The "announcement" John presents (his "message," vs. 5) concerns the essential nature of God, His fundamental moral character (in contrast to both Jewish and pagan ideas of what a "god" is like; *arbitrary, capricious, vindictive*, etc.). John uses the word **light** to represent all that is good, pure, and wholesome (cf. Paul's words in Galatians 5:22-23). John illustrates the contrast between human images of "gods" and the reality of THE God by stressing the fact that there is "not one single thing" in Him that is evil, cruel, or selfish (...*no darkness at all* – "**not even a little bit**," verse 5).

Verses 6-10 show the point of such a vivid comparison – it is not possible to share in fellowship with God if we either practice or refuse to repent of our own "dark" behaviors (sins), nor can we simply deny having participated in them (vs. 6). To share in fellowship with God we must "*walk in the light*" – conform our lives to the character of

God's own existence. In the event that we fail in this (by falling into or "stumbling" in sin), He offers forgiveness **IF** we are willing to admit our sins (vs. 9). Trying to **deny** that we have sinned, or trying to somehow "justify" sinning defies the truth of our condition (it's self-deception, vs. 8) and puts us in the position of accusing *God* of lying (vs. 10). It also demonstrates to fellow Christians that we have refused to allow His word to take root in our hearts and minds (cf. Colossians 3:16-17).

John summarizes his point about Christians needing to refrain from sin in order to have and maintain fellowship with God (and Christ, and one another) in the first paragraph of chapter two (vv. 1-6). Here, he reminds us that *even if we should fall into sin*, we do **not** "automatically" forfeit all hope of heaven because Jesus is ready, willing, and *qualified* to "stand" for us in the Father's presence as an advocate on our behalf (the word for *advocate* means a "helper," one who stands by our side – a "defense attorney"). Jesus is able to stand for us because He Himself is righteous (vs. 1, cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21 & 1 Peter 2:22) **AND** – because He offered Himself on the cross, Galatians 1:4 – He is the *propitiation*, the offering that "covers" our debt of sin (vs. 2). In verses 3-6, John's conclusion is that the lives those who claim to be Christians, who claim to share in the Father's fellowship, should measure up to their claim! The person who will not observe/do the things Jesus commands of His followers demonstrates that his **claim** to fellowship is a lie.

**Communion Preparation**  
 Available on the table in the foyer

**Nursery**  
 26 Crystin Gulledge  
 30 Katherine Hopkins

**Visitors' Center**  
 23 Allene Scoma/Theresa Green  
 30 Toni Stinson/Janis Libby  
 May 7 Carla Sorrell/Linda Johnson

**Care of Building**  
 16-30 Jonah Dawes/JD Branch  
 May 1-15 Jack Sorrell/Hugh Kelly  
 16-31 Steve Esler/Stan Mitchell

**Media Center**  
 23 David Hopkins  
**Streaming** Holden Cella  
**Projector Computer** Steve Esler  
**Training** Carson Hopkins

**30**  
**Sound Board** Carson Hopkins  
**Streaming** Steve Esler  
**Projector Computer** Dennis Graham  
**Training** David Hopkins

**May 7**  
**Sound Board** Carson Hopkins  
**Streaming** Dennis Graham  
**Projector Computer** Eric Hagin  
**Training** David Hopkins

**Wednesday Evening Devotionals**  
 Apr 26 — Greg Nash  
 May 3 — Tucker Hopkins  
 May 10 — David Gulledge

**Preachers:**  
 Dave Rogers — 361-649-6638  
 dave.rogers@fcoc.com  
 Jonah Dawes — 205 514-1489  
 (Youth and Family)  
 jonah.dawes@fcoc.com  
 David Gulledge — 731 227-9001  
 (Outreach and Involvement)  
 Dgulledge88@gmail.com

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[www.facebook.com/FCOCgeorgia](http://www.facebook.com/FCOCgeorgia)

**Attendance QR Code**  
 Use your phone and add your family

**Georgia School of Preaching-South Metro Campus**  
<http://gsoponline.org/>  
 gsop-fayetteville-campus  
 Rick Sharpe, Campus Director

**Our Mission Works**  
 Graham & Elizabeth McDonald, Scotland  
 Victor & Esperanza González-Geronimo, Mexico  
 Raintree Village Children's Home

**WATCH!**  
*The Fountain of Life*  
 With Larry Acuff  
 Saturdays at 7 am on channel 57

**In SEARCH of the Lord's Way**  
 With Phil Sanders  
 Sunday at 7:30am, Stations 69 or 45  
 April 30—Can A Christian Be Lost?

**Elders**  
 Tom Durden (770) 652-7389  
 Jim Garner (770) 461-3197  
 Greg Nash (404) 455-1546

**Deacons**

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| JD Branch     | Andy Johnson    |
| Steve Esler   | Stan Mitchell   |
| Dennis Graham | Charles Nash    |
| Eric Hagin    | David Poskevich |
| David Hopkins | Rick Sharpe     |
| Hugh Kelly    | Jack Sorrell    |

**Records You Made – April 16, 2023**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Bible Classes         | 50-16 Units Online  |
| 10 am Worship         | 159-14 Units Online |
| 5 pm Worship          | 69-5 Units Online   |
| Offering              | \$6,767.48          |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 71-3 Units Online   |

**Assembly Schedule:**  
**Sunday**  
 9:00 am Bible Classes  
 10:00 am Worship Service  
 5:00 pm Worship Service

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**  
 10:00 am  
 (Classes begins Sept 13 - May 16)  
**Wednesday Evening**  
 Bible Classes at 7pm

## Youth Calendar

**May 7** — Senior Dinner

**May 30** — White-water Rafting

**June 2** — FROG's Day

**June 5** — Guys'/Girls' Day

**June 8** — Movie Night at Firepit

**June 18** — VBS Decorating Day

**June 21-24** — VBS—MAROONED

**June 26** — "Make Me a Servant" Week

**July 1** — Six Flags Day

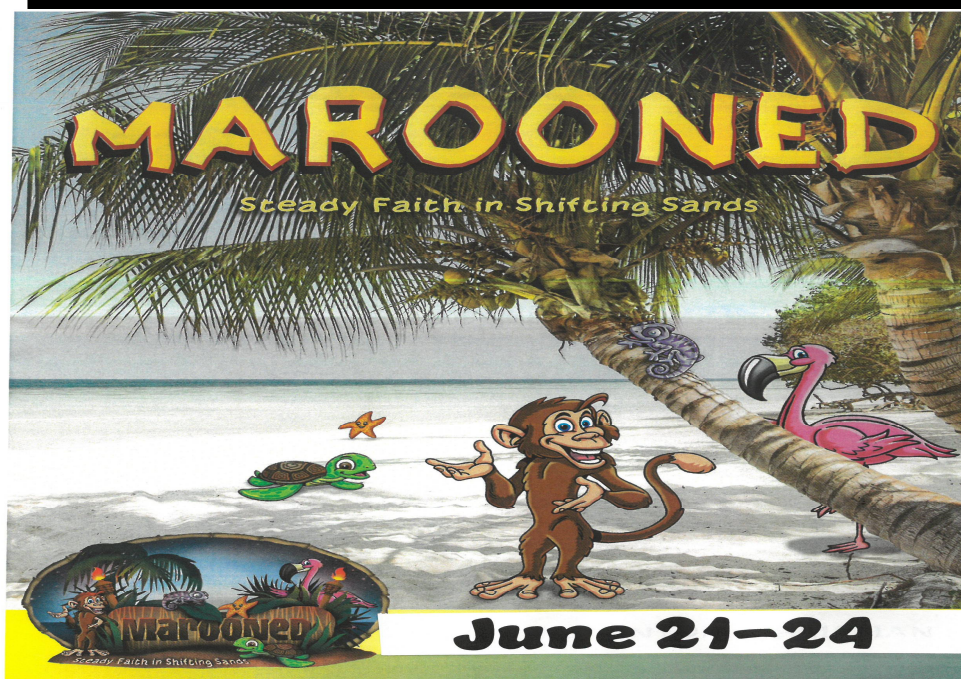
**July 7** — FROG's Day

**July 18** — Movie Night at the Firepit

**July 9-13** — VBS ... Mission trip to

Warrenton, GA.

**Your help is needed!**



## Congratulations

**Duncan Fortson and his family**

Duncan is graduating from Riverside Preparatory Academy

Sent cards to:

Kelli Moon

Senior Letter—

Cadet Duncan Fortson

2001 Riverside Drive

Gainesville, GA 30501

## WELCOME, VISITORS!

We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us today. Please stay for a few minutes after worship so we can get acquainted with you, and you with us. **Please complete an Attendance Card**, located on the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate. We have an attended nursery and a training/cry room available.

*Today's sermon can be viewed online by going to [www.fcoc.com](http://www.fcoc.com) — click on "live broadcast."*

## Family Matters

**Sympathy** — We offer our heartfelt condolences to brother Coney Johnson and his family for the loss of his uncle, Marvin Cook last week. Keep this family in your family in your prayers.

### Keep in Prayer

Martha Vickery — Is recovering at home and doing well.

Emmett Libby — Will have back surgery this month.

Joyce Brown — Janine Esler's grandmother is hospitalized in Florida, and not doing well.

**Our brethren on both sides of the war in Ukraine.**

### Continue Prayers for:

Jim Pelfrey — Is continuing chemo & radiation treatment.

Jim O'Brien — Is continuing chemo treatments, and will begin immuno-therapy in August.

Burma Chapman — Hope Center Memory Care in Fayetteville, 355 Brandywine Blvd, Sunny Suite #10, Fayetteville, GA 30214. Visitors are welcome.

Shelby Killingsworth — (Keith's mother) Hope Center Memory Care in Fayetteville (Safe Harbor room 15).

Mary Lawrence — The Oaks at Fayetteville, 1294 Hwy 54 West, Room 107, Fayetteville, 30214. Visitors are welcome.

### Members With Health Issues:

Andrew Williams, Ron Biles, Jeanelle McNease, Tom & Christie Belk, David & Sue Riley, Doris Buckner, Paul & Decieta Lyons, Jim & Sharon O'Brien, Brian Harris, Rick & RuPearl Sharpe, Dennis & Marlene Etheridge

### Shut-ins:

Margie Fields, Una Fortson, Ruby Fowler, Harry & Mattie Williams and Estell Higginbotham,

### Our Missionaries and their families:

Graham & Beth McDonald; Victor & Esperanza González Geronimo; Scott & Rebecca Shanahan.

### Others With Health Problems:

Benson Smith (Harry's brother), Richard & Cathy Oliver (Brenda Mitchell's mother and stepfather), Eyvonne King (Annette Butler's cousin), Chris Lee (Cathy Harris' cousin), Aukse Harris (Linda Armstrong's adopted daughter), Myrtie Robinson (Sue Riley's sister), Jackie Couch (Ginny's husband), Xermonia Fortson, Ruth King (Melanie Boelsterli's aunt), Frankie Griffin (RuPearl Sharpe's sister), Lamar Elder, Carol Waites (Martha Vickery's daughter), Shirley Johnson (Andy's mother), Bob & Nancy Neff (Amy Nash's parents), Irving & Cornelia Rose (Larry's parents), Lil Cauthen (Poskevich family) and Joe & Judy Hand (Scoma family).

## Our Mexico Mission trip will be June 10-17, 2023

### We need YOUR support!

We have an opportunity to serve the Lord in June by helping our brethren in Villa Ocuilzapotlan, Tabasco, Mexico. We're planning a mission trip to support the church there, and to introduce others to the gospel for the first time.

The dates for this trip are **June 10-17, 2023**. We will have Bible classes each afternoon, and a gospel meeting in the evenings. We will also visit shut-ins. The members are interested in purchasing the land and building their currently worship in, but your help is needed. See Dennis Graham for information. **One reason to help other congregations like this is because it strengthens the church here!**

### April Birthdays

24  
Tim Tittle  
27  
Doris  
Buckner  
Jim Lindsey

## Calendar Events

**April 27** — LifeLine "Cardiovascular" Health Screening in the fellowship hall all day (register online)

**April 30** — 5th Sunday Lunch after the AM Services

**May 7** — Senior Dinner hosted by the Elders' Wives

**We need Bio's and Senior Pictures**

**May 19-21** — Fayette County Rose Show all day

**June 30, July 28 & Aug 25** — "Ladies' Night Light," a summer series for Women & Girls.

Join us for fellowship, bible study, and a fun activity!

## Area Events

**April 29** — Pike County Church of Christ Ladies' Day

**May 6** — Douglasville Church of Christ Ladies' Day

**May 20** — GSOP 18th Annual Bible Lectureship & Graduation, at Piedmont Rd./Marietta.

Pike County  
Church  
of Christ

**LADIES DAY**

*JOY: how to get it and how to keep it*

**Saturday, April 29th, 8:30-noon**