

October 31, 2024

SILENCE & MEDITATION

I will never forget my first day in my fundamentals of music class at Freed-Hardeman. Our teacher opened with John Cage’s 1952 composition 4’33”. If you have never heard it is a wonderful piece of music that consists of four minutes and thirty-three seconds of...complete silence. The orchestra sits in a ready position, the conductor stands before them and turns the pages of blank sheet music. Then it ends, everyone cheers, and the musicians all bow. I was so lost watching this video on my first day of music class. But then my teacher pointed to the wall at a quote from Mozart. The quote was “Music is not in the notes but in the silence between.”

What a powerful lesson, but I think what made it so memorable to me was the awkwardness of silence in the class for so long. It comes as no surprise that most people do not like the quiet stillness of silence. I can remember when I was young and being home alone, I almost always needed background noise of some kind to even do my homework. Of course, there are times that we enjoy silence for a moment, but how long do you think you could go without talking or filling the empty space you are in with some kind of noise. There are so many things we do to keep from getting to that point where silence seems to overwhelm us. However, if we can get to the point of complete silence, it is in those moments we can begin to think on or meditate on things that the noise of everyday life does not allow us.

One of my favorite words in the Hebrew language demonstrates this very well. It is most often seen in the book of Psalms and is transliterated as Selah. Although this word is not fully understood, it is often translated as an instruction to pause, be still, or be silent. Although this word seems to be mostly used as a way for the nation of Israel to read music, it also introduces us to a powerful thought of how we are to meditate on God’s word. **Romans 10:17** tells us, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” We know that if we read our Bibles and pray every day that we can grow...grow...grow. However, do we simply read it, or do we pause and meditate on God’s word? Much too often we tend to read the Bible much like a textbook. We pack as much information as we can in our minds so that we can be able to recall it at a moment’s notice. Sometimes we might read the Bible just to get through it. We power through Leviticus with hardly any understanding of what we just read, just to say we did it. Of course, the Bible

includes many different types of literature, and they can be read in different ways, but have you ever thought about reading the Bible with more pauses?

Not the kind of pauses where you got distracted by what was on the tv or because someone came in the room, but purposeful and clear pauses. Moments set aside to be still, pause, or be silent. Notice what **Psalm 4:4** tells us, “Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds and be silent. Selah” Unfortunately, the aspect of meditation has become a lost practice when it comes to Bible study. Even the word meditation more likely brings up images of a monk in a monastery or a “free spirited” person living in the desert more than it brings up the image of a Christian diving into the living word of God. But consider what David wrote in **Psalm 1:1-2** “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night.”

I think one reason we often overlook meditating on God’s word is because it simply takes up so much time. In our busy schedules, we struggle to find enough time to do the things we need to do...but when was the last time you struggled to make time for the things you wanted to do? Consider this, reading the Bible with meditation is no more than taking the time to think on the scriptures that are read. To think on how they apply to you, or how it fits with God’s overall message. Meditating on God’s word is taking, or making the time to pause, Selah, and not only read God’s word but hear God speak to you. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” **Philippians 4:8**
Andrew Spivey

SYMPATHY

Our love and sympathy to the following families.

Melba Hill, a former member who passed away on October 16,2024. Her funeral was held in Fayetteville Tn.

John (Buddy) Parker, brother of **Bobbie Stephens** who passed away on October 22,2024. The funeral was held in Gallatin.

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Daniel 5

Wednesday Read – Daniel 6

Questions for last week's reading of;

Daniel 3-4

Questions:

1. What kind of food did Daniel ask to eat instead of the king’s food?
2. When the king questioned Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego after their period of training, what were their skills?
3. How much wiser were these men than the magicians and the astrologers?
4. What was King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and the interpretation of it?
5. How was Daniel rewarded for interpreting the king’s dream?

UPCOMING EVENTS

* 4:15 Singing class every Sunday*

Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm

Nov. 3rd – Time change-fall back 1 hour

Nov.10th – Fellowship Meal/after morning service

Nov.12th – TNT @ 6:00pm

Nov.12th – Ladies Bible class@ 6:30pm

Nov. 21st -Senior group@ 5:00pm.

Nov. 26th – Ladies Bible class will **not** meet

Nov. 26th -TNT @6:00pm

Nov. 28th - Happy Thanksgiving

(office closed 28th & 29th)

Dec 7th – Bible Trivia @ 5:00pm.

Dec 8th – Cookies with Santa @ 3:30pm

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for the sweet cards, your prayers and all the concern shown to us. In Christian Love,

Alta & Tommy Lanius

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the visits & flowers sent for my brother, John R. Parker, Jr., (AKA Buddy). Both are very much appreciated.
Bobbie Parker Stephens (Kenneth & Bobbie Stephens

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

November 3, 2024

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....Eric Stephenson
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Scripture Reading.....Mike Lyle
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson
Lord's Supper.....Charlie Seals
Servers.....J. Crawford, J. Sever, G. Messer
C. Suddarth, J. Johnson, Z. Tooley
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer..... Kevin Siler

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Song Leader.....Matt Ellis
Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Tim Strickland
Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith

WEDNESDAY

November 6, 2024

7:00 PM

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
Opening Prayer.....David Thompson
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Carl Newby
Ushers for November.....R. Buck/L. Clark
Communion Care for November.....B/M Smith
Door Greeters – West Door.....E/D Stephenson
East Door.....J/L Cherry
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

Nashville Road Church of Christ
 1883 Nashville Pike
 Gallatin, TN 37066
 Web Site: nashvilleroadcoc.org
 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

NEW ADDRESS
Hugh Fulford has a new address;
 100 Carrick Ct. rm#137, Mt. Juliet TN 37122
 He would love to hear from you.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Syble Johnson is now at NHC. James Spivey is in the hospital at Sumner Regional. Evelyn Harris is NHC Sumner Room 5060. Eva Petty has been diagnosed with COPD. Charles Williams is at Sumner Regional. Ida Lou Sherrill mother of Alex Sherrill, had hip surgery. Jean McCurdy, mother of Olivia Nelsen, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby has begun chemo treatments. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has cancer and has had surgery for tumors. He began chemo Oct. 30th.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton; James Spivey.

*We depend on families and friends to help us
 update this list. Please notify us of any changes.*



PRAYER LIST

Maddie Andrews; James & Mary Spivey; Charlie Cliburn; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Sara Hosman; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Charles & Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Scott Seals son of Charlie & Wanda Seals; Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; Jean McCurdy mother of Olivia Nelsen; Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Wade Kennedy father of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK	
Bible Study.....	106
Morning Worship.....	174
Sunday Evening.....	61
Wednesday Evening.....	83
Contribution.....	\$8,996.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$3,840.00

<u>Elders</u>		
Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560	
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149	
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084	
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935	
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621	
<u>Deacons</u>		
Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Adam Williamson	

Phone (615) 452-3431
 Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Web Site: www.nashvilleroad.org
 Email: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net

ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister