

The effort to contact, to reach out, is not an attempt to eradicate the loss. There is not a way to undo the damage and the hurt. It is only a reminder that we don't move through crisis alone.

Feeling alone is one of the terrible things about troubles. When a child spends 3 days out of the past month out of the hospital, it is easy to feel like the only person experiencing the pressure. Sitting in the funeral home, answering the questions for an obituary while trying to figure out what just happened is a very isolating experience. The numbness of trauma makes a person feel alone.

Mary and Martha each mentioned to Jesus their need for his presence when Lazarus was dying. *If only you had been here, this would not have happened.* A very natural response.

A card, a call, a prayer, a note is a reminder not only of your presence but of your awareness of the pain, the fear, and the loss. Even those who experience the interruption of a hospital mourn the loss of "normal". Too often, we allow our knowledge that we can't "fix" it to make us think we are powerless.

Remember the 23rd Psalm, *Even though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, you are with me.* That is a statement about the importance of presence. We share in that role when we, as God's ambassadors, are present in crisis.

The friends I've mentioned here might never know you prayed for them. My mind is filled with many others who could be added to the list, a list of supportive prayer. But, with or without their knowledge you can be a part of a very important ministry. Let me encourage you to pray for those experiencing the feelings of being alone.

*Grace and Peace,
Carl*

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
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St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

October 23, 2016

Let me ask you to join me in praying this week. My friend, who I mentioned praying with a few weeks ago, will bury his wife next Saturday. He would benefit from your prayers.

Another friend has a young son being treated for cancer in Arkansas. His wife stays in the hospital with the sick son while he keeps the other two children at home a few hours away. Yesterday, as they were driving back home, he and the older children were hit by a drunk driver destroying their car. Everyone was uninjured, but the frustration of the accident and having to replace the car is just "one more thing" in an overwhelming situation.

It is the anniversary of the death of the sons of three of my friends, having died the same day a number of years apart. Such anniversaries are difficult, memories bittersweet and emotions very convoluted.

When people we love or care about are in pain, it is normal that we have concern. For me, praying has become a natural response to things I cannot repair. I might send a few dollars in an effort to address the financial burden of unexpected funerals, medical bills or financial setbacks, but I know my efforts don't "fix" things.

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR OCTOBER 23, 2016

SONG LEADER: Gary Hornbaker
GATHERING SONG: No. 266—Majesty
WELCOME: Richard Brensing
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 146 (Chase Mansel)
SONGS: No. 56—Lord, We Praise You
 No. 1—Praise Medley
 -No. 2—We Praise Thee, O God (vs 1, 2)
 -No. 3—Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (vs 1, 2)
 -No. 4—To God Be the Glory (vs 1, 3)
 No. 781—Thank You, Lord
PRAYER: Chris Mansel
SONG: No. 18—Faithful Love
COMMUNION: Stan Aldrich
 Teddy Gingrich
 Fred Johnson
 Orrin Feril
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 453—Love Lifted Me
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 915—Trust and Obey (vs 1)
PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again! Please stay for our potluck lunch today.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Shelly Brensing—Oct 24
Carl Feril—Oct 25

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
Doug & Barbara Austin—Oct 29

ABUNDANT LIVING MINI-RETREAT

The Eastwood Church of Christ is co-sponsoring a retreat with Abundant Living, an outreach of Church Relations at Harding University, on Saturday, Nov 5th, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. See flyer posted.

YOUTH GROUP

- Wednesdays @ Carl's house
- 7:30 pm
- 6th through 12th grades

SPECIAL COLLECTION

A big Thank You to all who contributed to the special collection last week for a motorized scooter for Julia.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ted Maple's grandson, Asher—recent accident
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother)-more cancer
Larry Berg (Tom's friend) - cancer; recent good report
Alex Garcia (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - improving health
Stan Aldrich—health concerns
Rod & Cris Seidel in Pratt (friends of Richard & Shelly) - health concerns
Ty Hewitt (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - Stem Cell Transplant for his leukemia
Laura Wyatt—now on hospice care; send her a card at: Kenwood Plaza, 607 E 1st, St John, KS 67576
Vic & Phyllis Staub (Kenwood Plaza)-health concerns
Landon Neidig (Teddy & Carol's great grandson) - heart procedures in the near future
Jill Mophew (Janet's sister-in-law) - cancer
Gladys Hornbaker—cancer
Annie Kent (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother)-in hospice care/his wife, Sheryl
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother) and his wife, Kathy
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rukan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Sharon Goode Ames—lung cancer
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Jonathan Batten – cancer
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – now on Hospice Care at Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Myron Brensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead

An invitation to the **50th Anniversary celebration** for Larry and Linda Hamm is posted. Date is Nov 26, from 2-5 pm at the Kingman Church of Christ.