



We all get hurt and offended throughout our lives. But we have a choice: to hold on to the offense or choose to forgive. Forgiveness doesn't erase the hurt that was caused; it's a choice to break free from its grip and not let it run your life! Life is all about relationships with people and they will require a lot of work (Family, friendships, romance, workplace, community, etc.). Because people are complicated, relationships will experience complicated moments. Forgiveness is one of the most courageous acts a person can choose.

Luke 6:27-28: "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you." Forgiveness is the act of releasing someone from the debt of their offense, not because they deserve it, but because you have been forgiven by God.

Matthew 6:12: "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Forgiveness does not condone their actions. Forgiveness does not require reconciliation. Emotions can make forgiveness challenging because of the message they communicate.

Anger – I will get you back, Hurt – How could you do this to me, Betrayal – I can't trust you anymore, Bitterness – I won't ever let this go, Fear – you won't hurt me again, Pride – I can't let them know that they hurt me, Shame – I deserve this.

Colossians 3:13: "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." C.S. Lewis said - "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." Forgiveness will require a willingness to surrender that God can take care of my hurt better than I can. Godly people forgive others.

## In Our Prayers

Thomas Pruitt  
Zeb Carter  
Juanita (Abby's Mother)  
Tim Taylor  
Linda Fry  
Vernon Bartlett  
Pam Aldrich

Terry Nash  
Vance Wendelburg  
Dennis Rosenbaum  
Brenda Reno  
Marsha Dryden  
Hunter Marks  
Merry Lynn Weatherby

Jack Bailey  
Marvin Miller  
Gerry Hudson  
Lupe Hudson  
Nolan Adams  
Orvalee Aldrich  
Destiny Huffman

# Upcoming Events

## Youth Group [Tonight]

The Youth Group will NOT meet tonight.

## Ladies Bible Study [Tonight]

All ladies are invited to a Bible study, Tonight at 6:00 PM. A light supper will be served and a lesson from Chapter 6 of Jesus and Women.

## Potluck and Graduation Reception [Next Sunday]

We will have our monthly potluck fellowship meal next Sunday after worship services. Everyone is invited to a high school graduation reception for Dominic Rogers and Jorja Blakeslee right after potluck. Remember not to bring dessert that day, as refreshments will be served at the reception.

## Save the Date:

May 11 - Young Family Ministry (St. John)  
June 1-7 - SMC Early Session  
June 8 - Young Family Ministry (Stafford)  
July 6-12 - SMC First Session  
July 13 - Young Family Ministry (St. John)  
July 13-19 - SMC Second Session  
July 20-26 - SMC Third Session

## Birthdays

Tom Turner - April 27  
Jackson Whitaker - April 27

# Worship Order

Welcome Table & Greeters: Richard & Shelly Brensing

Song Leader: Stan Aldrich

Sound System: Orrin Feril

Gathering: #3 - Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Welcome: Chris Mansel

Scripture Reading: Gary Hornbaker (John 1:47-51)

Shepherd's Prayer: Richard Brensing

Song: #414 - Anywhere with Jesus

Song: #300 - Praise Him! Praise Him!

Communion: Tom Turner (Gatlin Reed, JW Like, Orrin Feril)

Song: #679 - Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Lesson: Zeb Carter

Song: #23 - Our God, He Is Alive (vs. 1)

Closing Prayer: Chris Stott



Giving Link

**Sundays:** Bible classes for all ages @ 10:00 am  
Worship service for everyone @ 11:00 am  
**Elders:** Tom Turner, Richard Brensing, Terry Sallee, Carl Feril  
**Deacons:** Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril, Zachary Marks  
**Minister:** Zeborah Carter