

The Chilling Tide of Death

John Jones

Deep into the winter, after the Christmas lights and trees have been taken down and boxed up, I really start to notice the cold. Up until this point, there are family gatherings to look forward to and pre-Christmas excitement. After New Years Day, however, it’s just cold (most of the time, but this is Tennessee, so you know...). Occasionally, when I’m considering how cold it is, I’ll remember seeing videos online of Siberian Christians cutting a hole in the ice so that they can baptize someone. Wow! What commitment!

I thought I’d do a little digging to learn a little bit more about what a baptism in an ice hole might be like. What I found was chilling, to say the least. In Siberia at this time of year, temperatures generally range from -4°F to -58°F (or lower) depending on the region. The water under the ice stays around 33°F, but the freezing air creates an intense shock for the individual who has just emerged from immersion. Just to break the ice to create a baptistry often involves chainsaws, ice saws, or axes to cut through ice that could be up to 3 feet thick!

Can you imagine the commitment that must be made to face these conditions? Why not wait until summer? I think we know the answer. When someone is convicted by the gospel, they realize that their sins need to be washed away (Acts 22:16). Until they do so, they know that they are separated from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) and to die in such a state equals eternal separation (2 Thessalonians 1:9). Baptism can’t wait!

Whenever I’ve heard of someone around here deciding to be baptized in the creek or river during the winter time, my first thought is always “We have a heated baptistry(!)”, but I’m quickly reminded that the icy cold water may be a helpful reminder of the chilling tide of death. Death is

cold and lifeless, just like the sinful lives we gave up in repentance when we went to the water. But, the “newness of life” we experience when we are “raised with Christ” is warmth and life and peace (Romans 6:4). We either make the decision to die to self and live for Christ now, or we will never know the warmth of our Father’s embrace.

The example of Siberian Christians, doing whatever it takes to obey the gospel, challenges me. Are there times when I have personally rejected God’s will for my life because it might be somewhat uncomfortable? Perhaps it was a difficult conversation that needed to take place, but I

avoided it due to potential awkwardness. Maybe there was an opportunity to serve that I considered below me or would cut into my time. There were times when the apostle Paul faced “cold and exposure” (2 Corinthians 11:27) for the sake of the gospel. What difficulties and discomforts am I willing to face to glorify God?

I imagine Paul’s words in Romans 8:18 have served as a reminder to Siberian Christians who brave the icy winters to baptize a willing soul: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” I pray that we can say the same when we face trials and challenges that ultimately will bring glory to God. Don’t let your cold, lifeless former self make a reappearance after you’ve buried him.

On Our Prayer List... *May we always be using God’s blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

{Recent Medical concerns/updates/}			{Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery/}		
<p>*Sarah Parnell-had to go to ER & then be monitored for possible TIA/Stroke? on 1/11</p> <p>*Jerry Martin-has specialist appts for his evaluated BP.</p> <p>*Diane Curtis-recent car accident-said ok just shaken up pretty good-prayers on her behalf.</p>			<p>Gary Davis-recovering from eye surgery</p>		
<p><u>{THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER/}</u></p> <p>*Jimmy Phy-CA</p> <p>*Lillian Childress-successful radiation treatment</p> <p>*Dale Street-(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA</p> <p>*Hudson Jones-(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC—Leukemia/}</p> <p>*Robert Gardner (friend of Bill Williams) CA</p> <p>*Alan Jones-esophageal CA-treatments</p> <p>*David Stokes-(Jordan Stokes& Carly Stone's dad)&Drew Swearns step-dad</p>			<p>*Houston Howell</p> <p>*Casey Vailes</p>		
			<p>*Brian Gill-CA-treatments</p> <p>*Mack Winstead-CA-continued prayers</p> <p>*Vicki Donegan-taking treatments-needs prayer</p> <p>*David Nowlin-CA treatments-WcoC elder</p> <p>*Jackie Borders-Lauren Stuart's mom</p> <p>*Maggie Wright -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA</p> <p>*Debbie Gafford-(friend of Diane Curtis)</p>		
<p><u>Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.</u></p>					
<p>*Betty Suddeath</p> <p>*Claude Hurt</p> <p>*Sue Edmission</p> <p>*Joshua James-now hm</p> <p>*Savannah Patrick-(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick's granddaughter-she loves cards) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN</p>	<p>*Hattie Tate</p> <p>*Carlene Davis</p> <p>*Alyssa Gold</p> <p>*Shane Cobb</p>	<p>*Al & Vicki Peek</p> <p>*Chase Lewis</p> <p>*Carolyn Wilson</p> <p>*Larry Fuqua</p>	<p>*Marvin England</p> <p>*Doug Simpson</p> <p>*Mike Gunn</p> <p>*Janie Brown</p>	<p>*Joe Wright</p> <p>*Josh Barnett</p> <p>*Scotty Palk</p> <p>*Thelma Davidson</p>	<p>*Betty James</p> <p>*Marcia Simpson</p> <p>*Margie Gunn</p> <p>*Warren(Johnny) Proctor</p>
<p><u>{Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab/}</u></p>					
<p><u>AHC Decatur County</u>-726 Kentucky Ave,Parsons,TN 38363</p> <p>Adams dad)</p> <p><u>NHC</u>-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055</p> <p><u>Humphreys County NH</u> 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly,TN 37185-</p> <p><u>Magnolia Place</u>- 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185-</p> <p><u>Waverly Hills Post Acute</u>-895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185-</p>			<p><u>Wyle Marshall</u>-(Rm 726) (Traci</p> <p>Jim & Jane Ridings-172 Indian Ck Rd</p> <p>Robert Bradford-347 Brown Mill Rd.</p> <p>Jimmy Mullinicks-56 Mike Street</p> <p>Bertha Bradford-rm 102A / Gary Pace</p>		

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS				
	Upcoming Bridal Shower for Thora Tomlinson on Sunday, Feb 8th from 2:00-3:30 PM in the Fellowship Room. Evan & Thora were married on Nov. 28th, 2025, so lets join in their celebration! They are registered @ Amazon. https://www.amazon.com/wedding/guest-view/3704BSBNLNUJZ		We want to rejoice with John & Sarah Potter on the birth of Lily Lorene she was born on January 6th, along with congrats to her awesome big brother James!	
	There's still time to sign up for the Great Smokey Mountain Marriage Retreat (February 11-15) for any of our couples interested. Info is on the back table in the auditorium & the church will be covering your tuition cost. See Keith if you would like to sign up.		Welcome Lily! We also want to rejoice with Donald Skipper who was baptized last Tuesday,	
		Ladies *The Ruffled Mango Scripture writing group will meet together, Sun, Jan 18th @ 5:15 PM. Also on Jan 18th, if you signed up to be in a Tapestry Group. We will meet quickly after morning services in Adult Classroom I.		Our sympathy & prayers to the families of JoAnn Haley (Kathy Martin's aunt) Jerry Stuart (Dwight Stuart & Connie Burns) cousin. Hs services were held on 1/13/26. & Mike Brown of this community.

IN.F.O.C.U.S.	Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation
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The kids have been back at school for a week after a much needed Christmas break. I know I can speak for mine, it took them a few days to get back in the swing of things. I had one that was sick for a couple of days, but she is better and back at it this morning.

We didn’t have any youth activities last week, but we are back at it this week with FLAME on Wednesday night @ 5:15 an our next devotional Sunday night. This week I will be posting youth activities for the next 3 months on our Facebook page. I will also have some copies set out in the church building for parents to grab. Please be sure to check out these upcoming events. If you have any questions about the schedule, please let me know.

In Christ, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, January 18th 2026

WelcomeBarry Phy
Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
1st Prayer.....Wayne Berryman
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Keith Grigsby
Jimmy Suddeath Wayne Vaughn
Billy Buttrey Andrew Peyton
Brent Davis Mike Tyler

Closing Prayer.....Noah Stuart
Collect Cards.....Slate Berryman
& Colt Stanfill
Greeters.....Derek & Kelly Berryman
Nursery..... Not at this time
Collect Cups.....Youth
Security.....Team #5

Sunday 6PM January 18th 2026

Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
Prayer.....Wayne Coates
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Daniel Curtis
& John Hurt
Closing Prayer.....Ty Adams

Wednesday 6:30 PM, January 21st 2026

Lead Singing.....Jacen Robertson
Prayer.....Keith Grigsby
Adult Class.....John Jones

If you are unable to serve.....please contact
Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)

*If changes need to be made in scheduling please
contact Jimmy Phy.

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Return Service Requested



*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

The MESSENGER is online!
Visit the church website
to view!



OUR RECORDS for 1/11/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School	— — — — —	139
Sunday Morning Worship	— — — — —	185
Sunday Evening Worship	— — — — —	97
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	— — — — —	99
Sunday Contribution	— — — — —	\$9,313

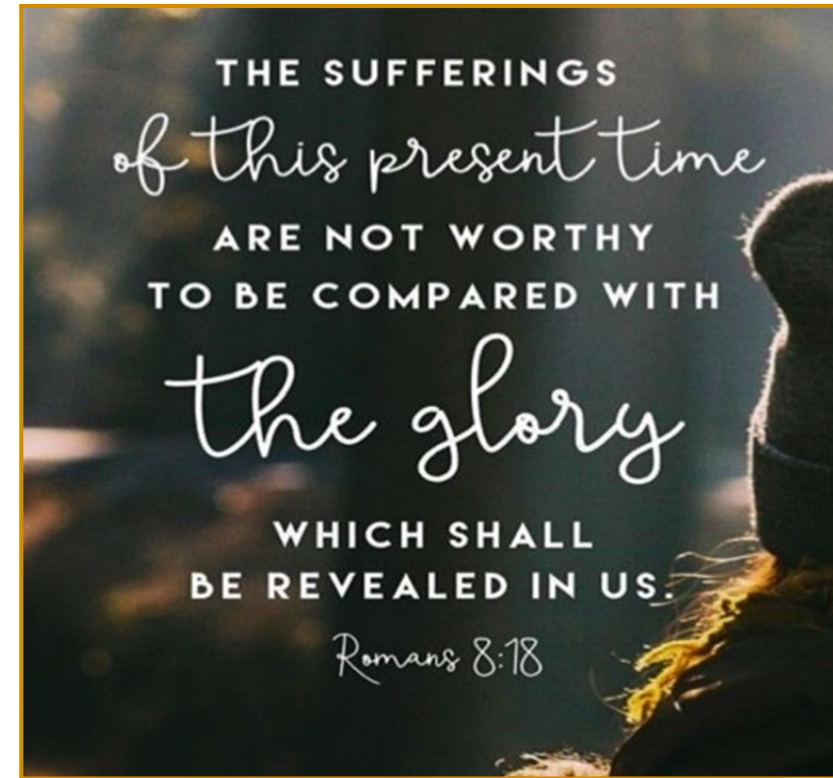


The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of January 11th 2026

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



Sunday Morning

"Upcoming Sermons"

Sunday Night

To Contact Us:

9704 Hwy 70 E

Mail us: P.O. Box 256

McEwen, TN 37101

Phone: 931-582-6130

E-mail: mcewencofc@gmail.com

Website: www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am
Worship.....10:00am
Evening.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study.....6:30pm

Elders:

Calvin Buckner

Billy Buttrey Bruce Mayfield
W.R. Long Mike Robertson

Deacons:

Derek Berryman Mike Burns
Wayne Coates Mark Forster
John Hurt Barry Phy
Robert Proctor James Ridings
Joe Smith Dwight Stuart
Ethan Tummins Wade Tummins
Ronnie Tyler

Staff:

Ministers ----- Every Member
Pulpit ----- John Jones
Youth ----- Keith Grigsby
Secretaries ----- Terri Tummins
Teresa Fleming

EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Continue to be:

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

(Team - 2 there may be cards to work on this Wednesday night.)