

Neighborly News

Brought to you by your friends at the Mt. Hebron Church of Christ.

A faithful prayer for patience

Heavenly Father,
 Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

“Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, showing patience, empathy and love.”

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those

whom are close to us, but to all humanity.

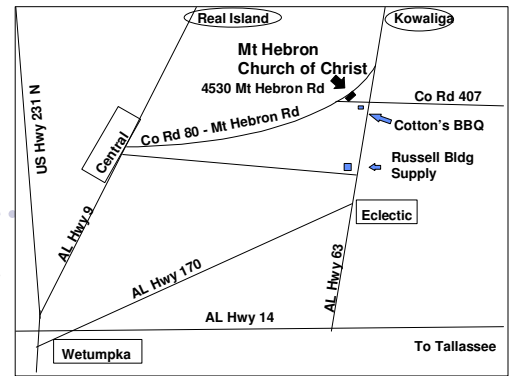
Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, showing patience, empathy and love.

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets,” (Matthew 7:12).



Why people go to church

Some go to church to laugh and talk. Some go there to smirk and balk. Some go there to meet a friend. Some go there with time to spend. Some go there to meet a bride. Some go there a fault to hide. Some go there for speculation. Some go there for observation. Some go there to doze and nod. The wise go there to worship God. “Worship God” —Revelation 22:9



Mt. Hebron Church of Christ
P.O. Box 240159
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.
Eclectic, Ala. 36024

Come and visit us

Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services 11:00 AM
& 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Thoreau's frog and our Lord

Henry David Thoreau once spent a whole day in Walden Pond up to his neck in the water. He wanted to experience the world as a frog sees it. He shared the experience, but not the reality. Thoreau did not become a frog!

Jesus did not swoop down and survey the human situation from a safe distance. He emptied Himself. He laid aside His celestial robes

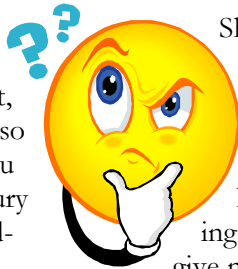


to put on the simple clothes of a man. Divinity clothed Himself with humanity.

The Word became flesh. "But made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross," (Philippians 2:7-8).

"Be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain." - Philippians 2:14-16

STEVEN (3) hugged and kissed his Mom goodnight, saying, "I love you so much that when you die, I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window."



BRITTANY (4) had an earache and wanted a pain-killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a childproof cap and she'd have to open it for her.

Shocked, the little girl asked, "How does it know it's me?" SUSAN (4) got the hiccups while drinking juice. "Please don't give me this juice again," she said. "It makes my teeth cough."

DIANA (4) stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked, "So, how much do I cost?"

MARC (4) observed a young couple hugging and

What happened to the flea?

kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad, "Why is he whispering in her mouth?"

JAMES (4) was listening to a Bible story. After his dad read, "Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt," James asked, "What happened to the flea?"

TAMMY (4) was with her

mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, "Why doesn't your skin fit your face?"

"All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast," (Proverbs 15:15).



Who is the great I AM?

He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is Creator of all and the keeper of Creation. He is the architect of the universe and the manager of all tunes. He always was, He always is and He always will be...unmoved, unchanged, undefeated but never undone.

He was bruised but brought healing. He was pierced but eases pain. He was bound but brought freedom. He was dead but brought life. He was buried but raises us.

He reigns and brings peace.

The world can't understand Him, armies can't defeat Him, schools can't fully explain Him and leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod couldn't kill him, the Pharisees couldn't confuse Him and the people couldn't hold Him. Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him, the New Age can't replace Him and talk show analysts can't explain Him away.

He is light, love, longevity and Lord. He is goodness, kindness, gentleness and God. He is holy, righteous, mighty, powerful and pure. His ways are right, His word is eternal, His will is unchanging and His mind is on me.

He is my Redeemer. He is my Savior. He is my guide. He is my peace. He is my joy. He is my comfort. He is my Lord. I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life. I follow Him because He is

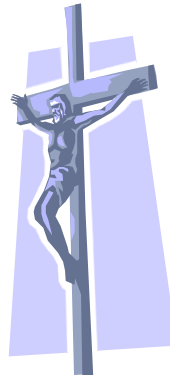
the wisdom of the wise, the power of the powerful, the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders and the sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.

If that seems impressive to you, think of this. His goal is a relationship with YOU! He will never leave you, never forsake you, never mislead you, never forget you, never overlook you, and never cancel your appointment.

When I fall, He lifts me up. When I fail, He forgives. When I am weak, He is strong. When I am lost, He is the way. When I am afraid, He is my courage. When I stumble, He steadies me. When I am hurt, He heals me. When I am broken, He mends me. When I am blind, He leads me. When I am hungry, He feeds me. When I face trials, He is with me. When I face persecution, He shields me. When I face problems, He comforts me. When I face loss, He provides for me. When I face death, He carries me home.

He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, and every way. He is God. He is faithful. I am His and He is Mine! —Author Unknown

"Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." (Genesis 15:1b).



Everyday Survival Kit

Items Needed:

Toothpick, Rubber band, Band aid, Pencil, Eraser, Chewing gum, Candy Kiss, Tea Bag

Here's why:

Toothpick - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others...Matthew 7:1

Rubber band - to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out...Romans 8:28

Band Aid - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's...Colossians 3:12-14

Pencil - To remind you to list your blessings everyday...Ephesians 1:3

Eraser - to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay...Gen. 50:15-21

Chewing gum - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything ...Philippians 4:13

Candy Kiss - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug everyday...1 John 4:7

Tea Bag - to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings...1 Thess. 5:18