

# Good News From Chardon Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave., Chardon, Oh 44024

April 19, 2026

Issue 16

## Schedule of Services

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Doug

Opening Hymn:

**162—I Love Thee So**

Opening Prayer: Dale

Hymn:

**195—Footsteps Of Jesus**

Scripture Reading: Darryl

John 17:20-26

Hymn:

**321—At The Cross**

Lord's Supper: Ryan

Hymn:

**664—On Zion's Glorious Summit**

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

**636—Only A Step**

Closing Hymn:

**83—Somebody Did A Golden Deed**

Closing Prayer: Dale

♪ Be with me Lord,  
I cannot live without Thee,  
I dare not try to take one step alone;  
I cannot bear the loads of life unaided,  
I need Thy strength to lean myself upon.  
Be with me, Lord,  
when loneliness o'er takes me,  
When I must weep amid the fires of pain,  
And when shall come  
the hour of "my departure"  
For "worlds unknown,"  
O Lord, be with me then. ♪

## CALENDAR

Apr 19—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am

Speaker: Mark

Apr 26—Bible Study 10 am, Worship 11 am

Speaker: Tom

Apr 27—(b) Sandy

Apr 27—(a) Tim & Tami

Apr 30—(b) Breana

## "Unity – No Matter What"

That's what the message was on a sign at a church building in our community. I've been thinking about that message ever since I saw it.

I cannot truly be loyal to Jesus if I'm not concerned about, praying for, and working toward unity. At the same time, I'm thinking that I cannot do all of those things no matter what.

Allow me to try to explain what I mean by that after I share with you a portion of the words that Jesus prayed to His Father very shortly before He went to the cross. As His thoughts transitioned from His apostles to "...them that believe on me through their word..." He prayed:

that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (John 17:20-21)

To be sure, unity was on the mind of Jesus as He prayed. It is also clear that He viewed a lack of unity as a hindrance to belief in Him. While those things are true, we don't need to overlook the connection between unity and the inspired message with which the apostles would be entrusted.

It might be helpful to remember that, not long after Jesus prayed the prayer recorded in John 17, He was on the cross. There was a strange and unusual combination of hatred, division, and unity that played a vital role in putting Him there.

One example of that has to do with two Jewish sects of that day. Pharisees and Sadducees were in opposition on a number of doctrines, but were united in their opposition to – and hatred of – Jesus. That "unity" was a factor in putting Jesus on the cross. Whatever else that could be said, it should be acknowledged that this arrangement was both temporary and artificial.

Another example can be found with regard to two officials of the government. As we read about the trials which led to the crucifixion of the Savior, we find these interesting and telling words: And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves (Luke 23:12). This is yet another example of a temporary and artificial unity that played a role in the death of the Lord.

We now live in a world in which the most ungodly lifestyles, philosophies, beliefs, religions, practices, etc. are accepted and promoted. Not only are they accepted and promoted, we are now being told that people who do not celebrate what the Bible condemns are unloving and even unChristian.

How did we get here? How did so many who claim to be following the One who prayed for unity become so divided and divisive? Why has it gotten to the point where people who preach and talk about love actually practice hate? What makes people who promote tolerance become so intolerant with those who disagree with them?

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## PRAYER LIST

**Mynda** as she travels. **Kenny's** health, **Celeste** had a healthy baby boy **Camden** Friday, **Aunt Donna** and family during a difficult time  
**Tom & Nina** health, her surgery recovery, She is home, Sister in law **Frances** health, niece **Tanya's** transfer to Tenn. Daughter **Jenny** and family  
**Mark** and **Debbie** as they travel. Mark's brother **Dale** health  
**Bonnie's** health, grandsons **Devin, Dakota, Dillon, Mick, Connor.** Daughters **Ronda** and **Renee.**  
**Wanda's** migraines; son **Allen.** Her sister **Joyce's** brother in law health  
**Mary, Carl and family,** Nephew **Seth & wife Liz**  
**Jim and Beverly G.** health issues. Jim is at VA hospital, Bev is in treatment  
**Wayne and Diane G.** with health issues  
**Kathy's** healing of foot surgery and health, she is at home, friends Channing, Jimmy & Howard, Kim, Rex, Edard Family, Nick & Emily Family, Sandi & John  
**Linda's** health, **Tiffany & family.** **Christian** seizures, son **John & wife Becky,**s health, great Grand daughter **Dahlia** health. **Ethan's** health  
**Belinda's** 5 year old son, **Kwabena,** in Ghana with fever convulsions.  
**Zarna** and her family  
**Juanita** health. Her family. Nurse's aid **Maddie's** health  
**Ray** and **Barbara** and their family.  
**Dale's** health issues, headaches, His family. 7 year old girl, **Lucie,** with Leukemia. Cousins, **Randal** physical & mental health, **Jalen's** mental health. Cousin Aleeka  
**Ray** health, his family. He is at Chardon Health Care room #203. **Steven and Asher.**  
**Robert & Sara,** as they travel, Son **Michael,** Daughter **Maddie,** Sara's father **Jeff's** health, her mother **Connie's** health  
**Brenda** heart issues surgery recovery, son **Mark's** heart issues, sister-in-law **Linda,** breast cancer, grand son **Jason** neck disc, granddaughter **Amanda.** brother **Jim** surgery recovery, Friend **Marge** cancer. Great nephew's back injury  
**Larry** as he travels

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For that matter, why would people whose stated intention is to follow Jesus produce creed books, catechisms, manuals, etc. that have the effect of dividing people? Why would any individual allow his or her opinions, preferences, or "comfort zones" to be of equal or greater importance than scripture?

I suppose that multiple volumes could be written to address questions like that, but I will suggest just one thing. It may not be all that profound, but I am hoping that you will give it some consideration.

It seems to me that the closer we get to Jesus and His Word, the closer we get to one another. That seems to me to be the answer to His prayer for true unity. A corollary to that might be that things which He condemns cannot be endorsed or practiced by those who are truly His followers.

Genuine unity includes a genuine connection to God's Word, submission to the will of Jesus, and true fellowship with His followers. People can form temporary unions, but unity is eternal.

So – count me in for "unity," but count me out for "no matter what."

Jim Faughn serves as an elder for the Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY.

### WHERE IS IT WRITTEN?

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

*Answer: 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

**John 17:20-26** 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

SUNDAY: Bible Study—10:00 am, Worship—11:00 am  
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