

Thorn in the Flesh

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

3. _____ WE MAY HAVE A THORN IN OUR FLESH

1. TO KEEP US FROM BEING _____

- Proverbs 16:18

How do we become selfless? _____ ourselves to God

- Philippians 2:3-4
- Mark 10:45
- James 4:6

Either we humble ourselves or _____ will!

2. GOD CAN BRING _____ OUT OF _____

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Romans 5:3-5

Our hope is not in what we _____, it's in what we _____

- 2 Corinthians 4:18

3. WE ARE MADE _____ IN OUR _____

- 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

When you put yourself in the hands of God, your weaknesses become _____!

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Richland Road CHURCH of CHRIST

December 14, 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

No Services



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wednesday, December 31

Fellowship from 6-8 PM

See the inside of this
bulletin for more
information



A Time to Mourn — and a Time to Hope

This week, we share in deep sorrow over the recent loss of a beloved member of our church. Grief is a painful and often disorienting passage, but as followers of Christ, we are not left to walk it alone. In the midst of sorrow, God invites us to lean on Him and on one another — giving space to mourn, while holding fast to hope.

- **Psalm 34:18** — “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” In our weakest moments, God is near, not distant.
- **John 11:25-26** — Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” Death does not have the final word for those who trust Him.
- **Revelation 21:4** — A day is coming when God “will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.” For the believer, eternity holds comfort beyond our grief — a promise to cling to.
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** — God is “the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,” who comforts us so that we can, in turn, comfort others in their troubles.

These Scriptures do not deny the sting of loss — they acknowledge sorrow and offer a hope that transcends it.

Healthy, Faith-Centered Ways to Grieve

When tragedy touches our lives, here are some ways we can respond — spiritually and practically:

1. **Allow yourself to feel grief.** The pain of loss is real and important. Trying to “be strong” too soon can suppress healing. Bring your sorrow before God in prayer, and let trusted believers weep with you.
2. **Lean on your church family.** Share memories, stories, and tears with fellow believers. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 reminds us that “two are better than one... if they fall down, one can help the other up.” Isolation deepens grief; community lightens the load.
3. **Pray — individually and corporately.** Bring your pain, anger, confusion, even doubts — honestly — before God. Pray for comfort, for peace, for trust to endure. Encourage others to do the same.
4. **Serve others in love.** Sometimes the best healing comes as we extend grace and care to those around us — especially to others who may be hurting. Doing good in honor of the one we lost can bring healing and hope.
5. **Hold on to hope.** While feeling sorrow is natural, believers have a firm hope beyond this life. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who conquered death — a hope that endures even when our hearts ache.

A Final Word of Church-Family Hope

The loss we mourn now is heavy. But we are not hopeless. We belong to a Savior who defeated death. We are part of a family — this congregation — that bears one another’s burdens. And we trust that, in time, God will bring healing, in His way and in His time.

I recently lost my Mother. The grief was real. And so was the encouragement and support from members of this body. At the same time, I was experiencing great sadness, but I felt great love from this church and from the Lord. You truly are a serving family.

Because He lives,
Mike

Bible Hour and Junior Worship are offered at the 2nd service.

FOR THE RECORD - December 7, 2025			
BIBLE CLASS.....	91	WEDNESDAY.....	n/a
SUNDAY AM.....	275	CONTRIBUTION.....	\$5,102.51...online not included
LIFE GROUPS.....	n/a	BUDGET.....	\$7,250.00

WE REJOICE with the angels in heaven that Reagan Isler was baptized into Christ last Sunday. Reagan is the daughter of Nathan and Alisha Isler and the granddaughter of Kathy Isler.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—Today, we will hold our year-end Congregational Meeting at 9:45 AM in the Auditorium. Copies of the meeting slides will be available in the foyer this Wednesday.

FOOD GIVEAWAY TICKETS—Appointment tickets for the Food Giveaway will be available to pick up tomorrow from 10:00 AM to Noon, Tuesday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, and Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. **Tickets are only available while they last.**

WOMEN OF PURPOSE—The Women of Purpose will meet this Wednesday, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal and gift exchange. Contact Terry Fawley for details.

FOOD GIVEAWAY VOLUNTEERS—Help unload and set up the food this Friday, at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

FOOD GIVEAWAY—The Food Giveaway will take place this Saturday. Volunteers, please arrive by 7:30 AM.

FAMILY MAILBOXES—Please check your family mailbox in the foyer. Along with holiday cards, people are now going to start placing birthday, anniversary, and other cards in the mailboxes instead of sending them by mail.

Pick up Power for Today in the Foyer!

CHRISTMAS
EVE



~HOLIDAY SCHEDULE~

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

WE WILL NOT MEET FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

ENJOY THIS TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

YEAR END
FELLOWSHIP



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

YEAR END FELLOWSHIP

FROM 6—8 PM

FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, GAMES!

Please bring finger foods, desserts, and games!

INVITATION LEADERS—Men or boys who are willing to give a 5 min. invitation talk in January, February, March or April, are asked to please sign up in the foyer.

THANK YOU—Words cannot express how grateful we are for the incredible kindness and love that have been expressed to us after the sudden passing of our dear loved one, Joseph. The church’s love and support have served as an anchor in a storm of grief. We appreciate all the food, phone calls, text messages, visits, gifts, and kindness expressed to us over the last several days. As a family, we have witnessed the outpouring of Christian love from the members of this congregation again and again! As we begin to move forward, please continue to keep us all in your prayers.

The Howard Family