

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAY 17, 2026

**SYMPATHY:** **Orelia Ferguson** passed away early Thursday morning. She was 101 and a long-time beloved member of Independence! The visitation and funeral will be at 1 and 2 this afternoon, respectively, at Brantley in Olive Branch. We will be providing a meal for the family this afternoon at 3:30 here at the building.

**SICK:** **Kim** and **Kennadee Arrington** and **April Kinney** were sick this past week. **Karen Tuttle** has an oncology appointment on the 28th.

**PROTRACTED:** **Allene Baldwin**—thyroid; **Brandi Beavers**—fibromyalgia; **Scooter Birmingham** (friend of **Destiny Clayton**); **Suzanne Brown**—arthritis; **Shelly Cates**—fibromyalgia; **T.J. Clarke** (former instructor at MSOP)—spinal injury; **Janet Daniel** (sister of **Melinda Haas**)—lupus; **Martha Clayton** (**Tabatha Clayton**'s mother-in-law)—congestive heart failure; **Ella Cobb**, granddaughter of the **Houses**—seizures; **Elizabeth Ferguson** (wife of former preacher here)—dementia; **Jimmy Ferguson** (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; **Melinda Haas**—Lyme Disease; **Cody Hadley**—Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever; **Kaylie Hadley**—UCTD; **Shelby Hadley**—facing mitral valve prolapse surgery between eight months and two years from now; **Paula Harrison**—Meniere's Disease; **Scott Ingram** (of GBN); **Wanda Jackson**—a-fib; **Monica La Rock** (granddaughter of **Orelia Ferguson**); **Garrett Lentz** (son of a co-worker of **Cody Hadley**)—seizures; **Brandon McNeil** (son of **Karen Tuttle**)—alpha gal disease; **Betty Mayes** (mother of **Brittany Buchanan**)—aneurisms and kidney problems; **Becky Munns** (**Tabatha Clayton**'s aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; **Shelby Peyton**—knee; **Mary Ray**—dizziness; **Brett Rutherford** (**Dan Cates**' friend)—MS; **Francis Wallace** (friend of **Mary Ray**); **Stephanie Vick**—Lyme Disease; and **Jerry Worthington** (neighbor of **Carl Hounshell**)—physical and emotional difficulties.

**CANCER:** **Alicia Busby** (from the community); **Hugh Brewer** (**Bill Burford**'s nephew)—bladder; **Andy Cates** (**Dan Cates**' brother)—CLL leukemia; **Tish Clarke** (wife of the MSOP director)—melanoma; **Jill Curry** (**Carl Hounshell**'s grandson, **Adam Carlson**'s mother-in-law)—uterine; **Gary Darnell** (**Patricia McClure**'s brother)—CLL leukemia as well as diabetes; **Robert Davis**—Stage 4 prostate; **Hans Harms** (step-father of **Karen Tuttle**)—kidney; **Jim Jackson** (elder at Coldwater)—colon; **David Jones** (**Shelly Cates**' father)—DPLL leukemia; **Sara Kiestler** (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; **Wade Loggins** (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); **Dorothy Mosher** (wife of an MSOP instructor); **Carol Oglesby** (family of the **Browns**)—stomach; **Priscilla Patterson** (mother of a friend of **Dan Cates**)—breast; **Tommy Pierce** (the **Browns**' friend); **Laykan Rutherford** (cousin of **Shelly Cates**); **Dale van der Wood** (neighbor of **Carl Hounshell**)—lymphoma; and **Tabby Waters** (**Tabatha Clayton**'s sister-in-law)—leukemia.

**SHUT-IN:** **Mary Ruth Brown** (home) and **Ruth House** (**Lawayne House**'s mother who is at home).

**SERVING:** **Cameron Hadley** (Marines), now stationed locally; and **Jason House** (Marines), deployed in an undisclosed location. Also, please continue to pray for **Kyle Embrey** (**Syble Embrey**'s grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live “quiet and peaceable” lives (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

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*Independence Church of Christ*  
8543 Highway 305  
Coldwater, MS 38618

# INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

[www.independencechurchofchrist.org](http://www.independencechurchofchrist.org)

**Services:** *Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.*

**Ministers:** *Every Christian*

**Elders:** *Dan Cates (662-560-8045)  
Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)*

**Evangelists:** *Dan Cates (662-560-8045; [dsmccates@yahoo.com](mailto:dsmccates@yahoo.com))  
Rafaele Barber (808-909-6109; [rafaele.m.barber@gmail.com](mailto:rafaele.m.barber@gmail.com))  
Tony Solaita (808-208-3814; [tsolaita39@gmail.com](mailto:tsolaita39@gmail.com))*

**Missions** [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

*Kakinada, India [Providing Bibles and Overseeing Funds]*

*Memphis School of Preaching (Rafaele Barber and Tony Solaita)*

*Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)*

*Tri-Cities School of Preaching (David B. Jones)*

*Four Seas Bible College, Singapore*

*Bear Valley Bible Institute (Denver, CO)*

*Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]*

*Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)*

*Tennessee Children's Home, West*

*Justin and Megan Evergarden (Japan, 2026)*

*Save Asian Souls (Providing physical and spiritual aid)*

*Other one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts*

# "WALK"

from *Meditations of My Heart*

*"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Colossians 1:10)*

Christianity is not a stationary religion. Scriptures frequently employ action verbs like "Go" "follow" "walk" when speaking of the life of a Christian. When we are told to "walk" the implication is that we are to be moving, and specifically moving forward, growing. How do we walk worthy? By being fruitful in every good work and by increasing in the knowledge of God. How do we do these things? By adding Christian virtues (2 Peter 1:5-8). Perhaps the simplest explanation is one of the briefest, "*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Growth requires daily attention. Growth requires time and growth requires effort. Those who put forth the effort demonstrate their worthiness in their walk.

*"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:14,15)*

## BIBLE QUESTION:

This week's question: Who was Abimelech's father?

Last week's question: What tribe was upset after the defeat of Oreb and Zeeb?

Last week's answer: Ephraim (Judges 7:25; 8:1)

**SERMONS:** A.M.: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," Part 56: "*If I Be Lifted Up from the Earth*" (John 12:27-35).

P.M.: *As in a Foreign Land*, Part 9: Judges.

## DAILY BIBLE READING (May 18-24):

|               | Mon.    | Tues.   | Wed. | Thur.   | Fri.    | Sat.    | Sun.    |
|---------------|---------|---------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Psalms</b> | 112-114 | 115-118 | 119  | 120-123 | 124-126 | 127-129 | 130-132 |

**READ SCRIPTURE (MAY): Tony Solaita (John 12:27-29)**

(JUNE): *Stu Tuttle*

**PRESIDE OVER LORD'S SUPPER (MAY): Ray Stanford**

(JUNE): *Lawayne House*

**ASSIST ON LORD'S SUPPER (MAY): Wesley Haas and Carson Kinney**

(JUNE): *Ali'i Barber and Levi Howell*

**CLEAN BUILDING (MAY): Reese Kinney**

(JUNE): *Tabatha Clayton*

**PREPARE COMMUNION (MAY): Kim Arrington**

(JUNE): *Melinda Haas and April Kinney*

## UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE:

May 17 Dan Cates May 24 Tony Solaita

May 31 Jacob Kennedy April 7 Cody Hadley

## UPCOMING SUNDAY A.M. & P.M. & WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING ROTATION:

Sun A: May 17 Dylan Cooper May 24 Tony Solaita

Sun P: May 17 Ray Stanford May 24 Dylan Cooper

Wed: May 20 Cody Hadley May 27 Dylan Cooper

**HOUSING NEED: Jacob Kennedy** is looking for a place to live when he starts working with us; if you know of rental property, please let him or Dan know.

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Canned goods.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

This evening (May 17)

**Youth Devotional** after evening services. All are invited to stay and celebrate and congratulate **Eryx Galeai, Levi Howell, and Reese Kinney** who graduated this semester.

Saturday (May 23)

**Young Adult Event** at New Albany from 5-8 P.M. Kids are welcome.

May 31

**5th Sunday Potluck** after evening services.

June 1-3

**VBS** at Forest Hill at 7:00 nightly. The theme is *Great Escapes: God Rescues His People*.

June 7-10

**Gospel meeting** with Kaleb Hall preaching. The theme is *He That Hath an Ear, Let Him Hear*. We will have a potluck between services and then will have an afternoon service rather than an evening one.

June 21

**MSOP graduation** at Forest Hill. We will not meet that evening so any who want can support **Rafaele Barber** (who will officially graduate mid-school year), **Jacob Kennedy**, **Tony Solaita**, and the other grads.

June 29-July 1

**Vacation Bible School** at Looxahoma at 6:00 on Monday and Tuesday nights. The theme is *All Aboard VBS*.

July 18

We will host our **Youth Day** on *The "I" in Modern Idolatry*.