

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Pat Korodaj- Medical testing

Jeremy Korodaj- Fell off his bike, back problems

Donna Castleman- Heart attack, dementia

Bob Stroud family (Mooring)- Bob passed away

Brandy Womack (Sutherlin)- Health issues

Teen suicides

Connie Holley- Recovery, RM 113

Abby Rose (Larry McKesson)- Fibrous Dysplasia

Paula Dahlke- Glaucoma

Sailor Raymond (Renee Long)- 3 mos old, Heart surgery, Complications from surgery

Tara Van Ausdall (Jeanie Mooring)- Complications from Rheumatoid Arthritis

John Dicks (Virginia Roberts)- Cancer, Not faithful

Ukraine- family of Oksana (Debbie Sutherlin)

New Christians- growth

Health concerns- Jimmy Mooring, Rosa Lee Cundiff, Ruth Sutherlin, Koben Puckett

Workers for the "Harvest" (Elders, Teachers, Preachers)

Door for the Word

Additions: _____



August 6, 2023

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Feasting With Sinners

Luke 15 screams the joy God has when a person who has been lost in their sin is found again. It is the joy of relieved desperation. Something very precious has been lost and is, at last, returned again.

A national news program not long ago featured a story of a woman who lost her wedding ring while skiing on a mountain in Oregon. Wedding rings are naturally precious to us even if they are plain or made of ordinary materials. They symbolize the eternal commitment and love we hope to share throughout the marriage. This woman's ring was also a family heirloom; absolutely a unique piece of jewelry, which had been worn by multiple generations in her family. It was much more than a mere ring, and it was lost to her forever.

Somehow, it was found on that mountain and ended up with a jeweler in Alabama thirty years later. The jeweler noticed the engravings on the inside of the ring and took the trouble to find its rightful owner. When she returned the ring, someone was filming the event, and the woman's joy that the ring was back in her possession again was obvious.

(Continued inside)

The church of Christ in
Durango meets at:

2100 West 3rd
P.O. Box 633
Durango, CO 81302

(970) 247-0865

Worship & Studies

Sunday

Bible Study- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:20 a.m.

Afternoon Worship- 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study- 7 p.m.



Scripture Reading: Luke 7

News and Announcements

- **Mowing** sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. There are still some open slots for August. Thank you!
- **Mountain States Children’s Home** Change Cans are on the foyer table. Let your spare change Change-A-Life.

Luke 15:7

I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

Aug 7	Mon	Romans 9:1-15	Psalms 72-73
Aug 8	Tues	Romans 9:16-33	Psalms 74-76
Aug 9	Wed	Romans 10	Psalms 77-78
Aug 10	Thurs	Romans 11:1-18	Psalms 79-80
Aug 11	Fri	Romans 11:19-36	Psalms 81-83
Aug 12	Sat	Romans 12	Psalms 84-86
Aug 13	Sun	Romans 13	Psalms 87-88

Feasting With Sinners

(Continued from front)

When God created the human race, he made us to be able to live in fellowship with him. We could relate intimately with God, because God made humankind to be in his own spiritual image. When Adam and Eve sinned, the whole human race was lost to God.

People are different than rings. A person in the same room with us with whom the relationship has been broken—there is anger, resentment, jealousy, or simply indifference—can be more “distant” from us than that woman’s ring that wound up in Alabama. So, even though God can see every human being all the time, and even though God is present everywhere sustaining the existence of the entire universe (Col. 1:17; Acts 17:28), every human being still living in sin distances themselves from God.

In Luke 15, Jesus’s stories about the shepherd searching for the lost sheep until it is found and the woman searching for the lost coin until it is found emphasize the great joy God experiences whenever one of his human creatures turns from sin and is found again. That is, when we repent from sin, our hearts begin to return to God. At that point, we are found, and God rejoices.

The story of the lost son shows us that whenever the distance between us and God is removed by our repentance the joy of God is the joy expressed in a great feast. That is why, when the rejects of religious society came to Jesus, he celebrated their repentance, feasting with the joy of heaven. What the proud, self-righteous religious elites meant as a curse upon Jesus, we recognize as our Lord’s example for us to follow: “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them,’” (Luke 15:1, 2). Amen. Let us do likewise.

-Nathan Wheeler