

For the Lord's Day – Sunday, October 8, 2023

Groton Church of Christ – 1018 Route 12, Groton, 06340 – 860 445 7534

Meeting Times

Meeting at the building

9:30 AM Sunday – Bible Classes

10:30 AM Sunday – Worship

7:00 PM Wednesday – Bible Class

You may also join us online at:

<https://meet.google.com/www-hsdj-mqc>

or phone: 1 405 393 0129 pin: 598 146 632#

Order of Worship

Opening Prayer

Daniel H

♪ TBD

♪ TBD

♪ TBD

Lord's Supper

Neal G

Assist

Ron P

Assist

Mike J

Shepherd's Prayer

Jim C

AV

Guy C

Bible Study

Troy H



Elder Contact Information

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Forgiveness (and Where to Get It)

We've been discussing sin. But let's now consider the topic of forgiveness.

Let's suppose that you have seriously wronged someone. And suppose that afterward they come to you and say, "That's okay, I forgive you!" Those words of forgiveness might give you quite a feeling of relief. But suppose someone comes to you and says, "I forgive you for all the times, public and private, that you have ever wronged anyone!" Hmmm. . . . In this case your first thought might be, "Wait! Who on earth do you think you are? Who could grant that kind of forgiveness?"

This very issue came up in a certain New Testament incident. The account starts out this way: *"When Jesus came back to Capernaum a few days later, it was heard that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer space, not even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. And some people came, bringing to Him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four men. And when they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and after digging an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralyzed man was lying."* (Mark 2:2-4; see also Matt. 9:1-8)

Jesus witnessed these men's extraordinary efforts and He responded: *"And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralyzed man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'" (Mark 2:5).* Maybe you think of "justification by faith" as an idea that Paul's epistles would introduce later. But doesn't this incident, and the verse just quoted (from the earliest-written gospel) already suggest that general idea? In this verse faith doesn't mean a vague optimism that things will be ok (as possibly implied by the modern expression, "Keep the faith, baby"). And faith here seems to include more than a trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (even Jesus's critics would, in theory, affirm that). The faith that Jesus was *"seeing"* – revealed in the actions of the paralytic and his friends – seems to be specifically faith in Jesus of Nazareth.

When a message of good news is expressed, it seems there are always nay-sayers around. The story continues: *"But some of the scribes were sitting there and thinking it over in their hearts, 'Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God alone?' Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were thinking that way within themselves, said to them, 'Why are you thinking about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—He said to the paralyzed man, 'I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet, and go home.' And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!' (Mark 2:6-12).*

For a charlatan it would actually be easier to announce forgiveness of sins than to heal. But here in this incident something visible to all (Jesus's spectacular healing) is confirmation of an invisible spiritual reality (divine forgiveness). The huge issue that came up was the identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Was forgiveness really something that he had the authority to offer? We often turn to the fourth gospel when we want to learn about Jesus's divinity (*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* John 1:1). But Jesus's divinity already shines through loud and clear in the account that we're discussing. And because Jesus was shown to have the authority to forgive sins, faith in Him or lack thereof was a life and death matter for anyone that needed forgiveness – and it still is.

Prayer List

- Shirley T's friend Dan (Health issues)
- Kassie L. and Kids
- Michael L.
- Linda (personal concerns)
- Our missionaries, the Westerholms in Mozambique and the Martins in Brazil

Weekly Assignment Schedule

	<u>8-Oct</u>	<u>15-Oct</u>	<u>22-Oct</u>	<u>29-Oct</u>
Opening Prayer	Daniel H	Ron P	Mike T	Dave F
Lord's Supper	Neal G	Mike J	Levi B	Mike T
Assist	Ron P	Daniel H	Neal G	Mike J
Assist	Mike J	Levi B	Nathan C	Goy C
Shepherd's Prayer	Jim C	Troy H	Jim C	Troy H
AV	Guy C	Nathan C	Guy C	Nathan C

Special Days & Events

Donations for the Groton Food Locker

The church is supporting the Groton Food Locker with non-perishable food donations. The item we are collecting this week is **PASTA (and the item for next week, 10/15, is instant potatoes)**. There is a basket in the foyer for our donations. Thank you – Pat G.



SCAN ME



OCTOBER 14th 2023

Time: 10am - 2pm

Ages: Cradle - 12

**FREE EVENT!
REGISTER ONLINE**

www.KentCountyChurchOfChrist.org/Event-Registration

Kent County church of Christ - 42 Nooseneck Hill Rd. West Greenwich, RI

September

6 th	Betty Adams	Birthday
10 th	Jim Covington	Birthday
13 th	Neal Guilmette	Birthday
16 th	Melissa Hollingsworth	Birthday
20 th	Joshua Poirier	Birthday
20 th	Mike Thompson	Birthday
23 rd	Chris Smarra	Birthday

October

5 th	Deborah Fleet	Birthday
9 th	Nancy Johnston	Birthday
19 th	Wesley/Angela Howard	Anniversary
30 th	Wesley Howard	Birthday