

Why do people fall away?

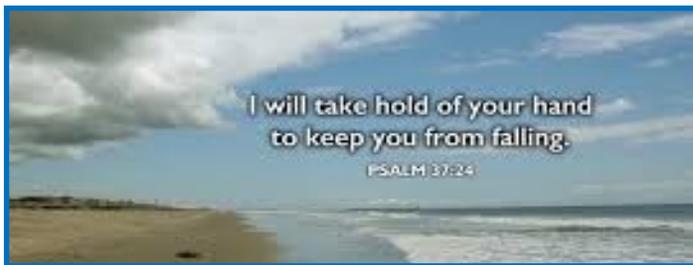
By Allen Webster

If we can determine why people fall away, perhaps we can head them off at the pass. Who among those currently attending will not be in their pew six months from now? A year? Five years?

One sister who was restored recently took the time to write the following letter which is typical for many:

"I have to thank you for your sermon last night. It was exactly what I needed. I have been struggling for a long time to come back to church. I had called [a sister] the night before and talked to her about the difficulties I was having in returning. I was filled with guilt and shame for having fallen away. I had allowed myself to become separated from God. It started in little ways, at first missing a service here and there but quickly grew to missing services weekly then monthly and the excuses not to attend came more often. The longer I stayed away the more difficult it became to return and the separation grew. My life had no direction and I soon became entangled in the worries of everyday life and lost hope. It may sound strange but I didn't know how to return. I didn't know exactly what I needed to do to be restored. I was disappointed in myself and feared that I had failed God and the church. Despite this I made up my mind to come last night. Your sermon revealed to me that I was risking my eternal soul. I must say as you continued your sermon, I felt worse! I became filled with the fear of being lost forever along with the knowledge of how much worse it is to receive Him and then turn away. That fear quickly pushed aside all other fears and worries I had. My main concern became how to come back into God's grace. When I came forward, at first I felt completely broken in spirit. After the prayer was said for me I felt the weight lift and the fear and shame leave me. It was replaced with a peace I can't describe.

My falling away has shown me how little things can cause separation and how important attending church is as well as fellowshiping with others in Christ and how I must grow in faith and become deeply rooted so when the time of trial or temptation comes I will not become discouraged and give up. I have also learned I don't have to handle the problems of this life alone. My restoration has shown me that I have love and support within the congregation and most of all from my Father."



Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Logan Hillhouse had an internal defibrillator installed last Monday. He will not have to wear the life vest anymore.
- ◆ Stetson Pleasant will have surgery on his feet December 19th.
- ◆ Lots of people with upper respiratory problems.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dale Strong, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins, Coe Hamm.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.

AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE
FOR YOU, I WILL COME BACK AND
WELCOME YOU INTO MY PRESENCE,
SO THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE WHERE

I AM.

- JOHN 14:3

Jesus is coming back -
it could even be today.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
12-6	Don Luna (80)	12-9	Bill and Lana Cockrum
12-9	Pat Kirkland	12-31	Don and Karin Reynolds
12-9	Jim Lane	Birthdays	
12-10	David Stevens	12-14	Joe Walrath
12-10	Kenneth Workman	12-15	Dana Crisp
12-13	Dale Strong	12-21	Kim Anderson
12-13	Hope Hillhouse	12-25	Jessica Smith
12-14	Corey Hillhouse	12-27	Granger Stevens

Nichole is serving tater tot casserole, veggies, rolls, and dessert for our Wednesday night fellowship supper before classes.

Christmas Play

Monday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.

We will sing Christmas carols during the play.

We need homemade cookies brought to eat after the play.

No supper or classes on Wed. Dec. 24.

December Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

12-7 John Abraham
12-14 Mark Lane
12-21 David Stevens
12-28 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

D. E. Pleasant
Dana Crisp
Matt Kyle
R. J. Moyers

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

December 14, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: *The Savior is Coming*

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us