

Let's remember that elective abortion is different than those that happen naturally (like a miscarriage or where a mother's life is threatened for medical reasons). Killing without just cause has always been wrong (Gen. 9:6; Exo. 20:13; Matt. 5:21-22; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8). A child conceived in rape or incest is not less human. A person's value is not determined by the circumstances of his/her conception (Gen. 1:26-27). Rape and incest are wrong. Period. We must all agree on this. But we must all agree too that the wrong of rape or incest does not justify the wrong of abortion (Isa. 5:20).

Keeping in mind that the child in the womb is a person, there is a very real sense in which that person is also a victim. When abortion is considered, the victim of rape is now taking out her pain and anger over the crime on the innocent child. Abortion will not erase the memory of what happened. It will simply make that child a victim twice: first from the manner in which he/she was conceived and the second in having his/her life terminated. The child becomes the innocent victim of two separate transgressions.

We are not saying that these are easy situations. They are not. These are life-altering tragedies. But we cannot become the monster we condemn. We cannot descend to murder because another injustice was committed. In this, we are trying to advocate for both victims.

Perhaps we should pause here and talk more about the role of the church. It is easy to condemn darkness without lighting a candle. We must do both. We simply cannot speak against abortion without offering alternatives. Education is important but what are we willing to do as God's representatives to dissuade abortion. What solutions are we offering? James wrote, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (Jas. 1:27). James calls us not simply to avoid evil but also to practice righteousness. How often do the Scriptures call for God's people to protect the innocent? Are we not called to defend the defenseless? Jesus valued the lives of children (Matt. 19:14), and that should be reflected in both our advocacy and our actions. Could some among us offer adoption as an option? Could we plead that there is an alternative to murder and that the church of Christ is offering it? As the church, we need to be clear that we are for all life. We want people to know that the child is loved regardless of how he/she was conceived. We also want mothers to know they are loved too, regardless of how they got pregnant. The church must be better at presenting both the goodness and severity of God. Our Maker is against murder and is also forgiving and loving and gracious.

Please stay tuned. We will conclude our thoughts in the next article....

North Hamilton Church of Christ

8310 Dayton Pike/PO Box 517 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384
(423) 842-1044
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Schedule of Services: Sunday 10:30 AM, 5:00 PM; Wednesday 7:00 PM

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon



November 1, 2020

"The church and abortion (Pt. 3 of 4)" David B. Smith

3. We also want people to know that two wrongs do not make a right. There are times when pregnancies occur as the result of violence, like in cases of rape or incest. These are tragic situations that leave the victims scarred for life—emotionally, physically, psychologically and socially. Perpetrators of these crimes should be punished harshly (Rom. 13:1-6), though they often are not. But it raises the question of what to do with the baby. The pregnancy was forced on the victim and some argue this justifies the abortion of the child. Would an abortion in this circumstance be Biblical? Should Christians accept that these are justified exceptions to elective abortions? The answer is no to both.

Continued on back....

Elders:

Willard Elsea
240-9539
Art Greer
902-6295
Joel Laney
322-7828

Deacons:

Joe Anderson
Keith Herron
Brad Jones
Tommy Qualls
Chris Randolph
Curt Stewart
Justin Tripp
Toby Ward

Preacher:

David B. Smith
667-1987

Prayer List - Members

Nancy Birch	Bobby Wilson	Susie Hargis
Jenny Partin	Loretta Leffew	Judy Lusk
Tommy Grandfield	Barbara Castleberry	Kathy Castleberry

Prayer List - Friends and Family

Mike Bouldin	Fred Hafley	Tina Brown
Tony Miller	Steve Gaines	Steve Higginbotham
Tim Randolph	Bill Greer	Juanita Johnson
Janice Smith	Grayson Ledbetter	Bessie Smithson
Diane Stacy	Becky Eustice	John Webster
Ruth Fuller	Terry Driver	Jan Burton
Tammy Hudson	Kathy Hamilton	Carol Dodd
Clinton Miller	Kenlie Carr	Willie Langley

(See additional information on each of these on the bulletin board at either hallway.)

Sick and Recovering

Barbara Castleberry is at home now and her granddaughter Katie is staying with her. **Kathy Castleberry** has improved and will be transferring to rehab soon. **Aubrey Laster** tested positive for Covid 19 last week. Please keep the entire family in your prayers.

Last week we noted in the bulletin that Soddy had lost two of their members. Regretfully, another member, **Frank Harris**, passed away earlier this week. Please keep the Soddy congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: No birthdays this week.

Anniversaries: Today – Chris & Brittny Bell.

Today is another important anniversary. November 1, 2009, 11 years ago, **David B. Smith** began his work at North Hamilton. We are all blessed by his dedication, knowledge, and ability to speak the truth. Thank You, David!

Participating in Worship Service – November 1, 2020

There will NO in-person worship today. Please tune in to U-Tube for David's lessons at 10:30 AM and at 5:00 PM.

Sermon Topics .

- **AM:** "Things the Election Will Not Change" – 1 Peter 2:13-17
- **PM:** TBA
- Please worship virtually this week using U-Tube. David's sermon will be presented at 10:30 AM Sunday morning and 5:00 PM Sunday evening. NO IN-PERSON SERVICES TODAY.

Attendance: Sunday 10/18 AM – 123; PM – 91; Wednesday 10/14 – 0

Ladies Bible Class – There will be no Ladies Bible Class this week, November 3.

Important Dates for Your Calendar

- **November 1-4 – Gospel Meeting at East Side in Cleveland** with Hiram Kemp speaking. Sunday services will be at 9:30 and 10:30 AM, 6:00 PM and Monday through Wednesday at 7:00 PM.
- **Wednesday, November 4, 2020 – Tennessee Children's Home** will be here to pick up our contributions. If you want to contribute any items for the Children's Home, please place those items in the foyer of the building. Monetary contributions may be given to Justin Tripp.
- **November 8-12 – Gospel Meeting at Sequatchie Valley** with Jeff Archey speaking. Services will be at 7:00 PM nightly.
- **Thursday, November 26 – 61st Annual Thanksgiving Day Service** at Central Church of Christ with David Schonhoff speaking. Service at 9:00 AM.

Congregational Information

- **REMINDER:** Today is the day the elders have designated for our contribution to go directly to the Fellowship Building Fund. Since we are not having an in-person worship today, mail-in contributions will be put toward the fund. In addition, if you want to do two checks next week, just indicate in the memo line that the check is for the building fund.



DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK 1 HOUR ON SUNDAY!!

November Birthdays/Anniversaries:

Birthdays:

9 – James Groves, Kelsey Battles
10 – Terry Curvin, Tim Smith
11 – Caleb Qualls
16 – Stephen Jackson
17 – Kenzi Harvey
18 – Pat Billingsley
21 – Travis Fridell
23 – John Germ, Lucas Bellamy
25 – Jaxon Grant
26 – Clyde Harvey

Anniversaries:

1 – Chris & Brittny Bell
8 – Curtis & Melinda Horn
10 – Doug & Vickie Rector
11 – Grady & Jimmie Cash
22 – Jesse & Ashley Ellison

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.” Psalms 1