

Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions. Luke 12:15  
Matthew 6:19–24

*READ:* Matthew 6:19-24

Kevin walked into the nursing facility after his dad passed away to pick up his belongings. The staff handed him two small boxes. He said he realized that day that it really didn't take an abundance of possessions to be happy.

His dad, Larry, had been carefree and always ready with a smile and an encouraging word for others. The reason for his happiness was another "possession" that didn't fit into a box: an unshakeable faith in his Redeemer, Jesus.

Jesus urges us to "store up . . . treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). He didn't say we couldn't own a home or buy a car or save for the future or have numerous possessions. But He urged us to examine the focus of our hearts. Where was Larry's focus? His heart was set on loving God by loving others. He would wander up and down the halls where he lived, greeting and encouraging those he met. If someone was in tears, he was there with a comforting word or listening ear or heartfelt prayer. His mind was focused on living for God's honor and the good of others.

We might want to ask ourselves if we could be happy with fewer things that clutter and distract us from the more important matters of loving God and others. "Where [our] treasure is, there [our] heart will be also" (v. 21). What we value is reflected in how we live.

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*REFLECT:* Are there ways in which your priorities are out of order? What changes do you think God might want you to make?

*PRAY:* I love You, dear God, and want You as my greatest love. Show me how I can become more like You. Amen.

### **PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:**

- As we approach the season of Lent, let's give thanks to God for the "seasons" in life: those in nature, those in our lives, and those in our church life. Lent is the season for reflection and repentance, a time to re-order our lives and priorities under the Holy Spirit's guidance. Pray for meaningful observations of the season of Lent in the lives of Christians everywhere.
- Pray for our church's Ash Wednesday service and for the Wednesday Lenten dinners, for opportunities to deepen our faith together.
- Pray for the Spring meeting of Central Florida Presbytery on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Pray for traveling safety for those who will attend, and for grace and wisdom in decisions.
- Pray God's blessings on the Society of St. Andrew, one of the ministries supported by our 5 Cents a Meal program in Central Florida Presbytery.

## CHURCH AT PRAYER

### Current Health Issues:

Joyce Anderson's daughter Cheryl & grand-daughter Kim  
Ben Ashton, & his aunt Minnie  
Ed Bachus  
Linda Banks' mother & friend Loretta Martin  
Jean (Les) Bell  
Karen Bowser's granddaughter, Laura  
Clark & Jean Brillhart's friend, Shirley  
Roger Carey's friend, Chris Z.  
Sally Clark  
George Chamberlin  
Diane Cooper's friends, Jamie B. & Ed F.  
Dawn Durling  
Barbara Eisenbach's friends, Mike K. & Rev. Richard Adams  
Carol Ernst's son, Robert  
Diane (Richard) Grant, her sister, Barbara, & brother-in-law, Herb  
Ray & Gayle Green's daughter, Samantha, & grandson Melvin  
Barbara Harding  
Mildred Hartman  
Rev. Sandy Hill  
Donna Jackson  
Ron Kelly  
Mary Keogh's sister, Calista  
Joan Kraftchak's neighbor, Chris  
Sharon Layman's friend, Bill, & sister, Robin DeRosa  
Juanita Leioatts' sister, Shirley, & friend, Teri  
Doreen Lynch's brother, Richard, friends; Jessica, Judy, Chris, & neighbors, Linda & Al  
Marshall (Patsy) McCammack  
Cornelia Mills' daughter, Dawn and son-in-law, Charles  
Kathy Morrison  
Dan Sharrow and his friend, Charlie  
Ralph Smith  
June Taylor's daughter, Cheri  
Norma (Al) Tebbs' friend, Esther  
Juanita & Bill Welsh  
Jane Wilson  
Carol Wise and her son, Jimmy  
Julie Wylie, and grandson, Austin

### Persistent/Chronic Illness:

Pam Carter  
Pat (John) Carroll  
Stan (Helga) LaVoque

### Homebound/Care facilities:

Patci Blackwood  
Ray Bratberg  
Dale Kuckenbecker

### Grieving:

Family and friends of Donna Jackson, on the loss of her mother (2025)  
Family and friends of Kim Hislop, on the death of her mother, Margaret (2/25/25)



### Team Members:

Joyce Anderson, Clark Brillhart, Jane Capo, Pat Carroll, Sally Clark, Barbara Eisenbach, Juanita Welsh (Rev. Jeff Wood)

**Pray with us:** Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m.  
To request prayer, contact the office or speak to a team member.

### Prayer Teaching:

4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.