

December 2023



## *Nixa Church of Christ*

### *News and Notes*

Meeting Times:  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Location:  
313 N Main St

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1521  
Nixa, MO 65714

On the web at:  
[www.nixachurchofchrist.org](http://www.nixachurchofchrist.org)  
E-mail:  
[nixachurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:nixachurchofchrist@gmail.com)

“Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Philemon 1:1-3

- Thanks to Evangelist John Lee for being with us to speak on November 19th.
- We look forward to Evangelist Doug Twaddell being with us to speak during our morning service on December 17 when he will deliver two messages. We will also have a carry-in dinner at noon.
- Please pray for those with special needs including Barbara Hutchinson, Devin McCall (David and Pam Young’s grandson), Clayton Moore and Shannon Allen.
- Live streaming of our Sunday morning worship is available on YouTube. To watch simply go to YouTube and search for “Nixa Church of Christ.” If you subscribe to our channel, you will get an email when our services are going live or view later if you prefer.
- Our website at [www.nixachurchofchrist.org](http://www.nixachurchofchrist.org) offers a variety of resources including audio messages from our visiting evangelists and last years weekend meeting. There are also links to VBR (Video Bible Reading), The Gospel Message, and our newsletters.
- If you know of someone who would like to be added to our mailing list or have change of address. please let us know by email at [nixachurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:nixachurchofchrist@gmail.com) or our mailing address, PO Box 1521, Nixa, MO 65714.

## *Open Book Policy*

**2nd Peter 3:14-16** 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

There are lots of topics that could be unpacked from these three verses; especially the idea that Paul had a reputation for addressing very difficult topics. But one issue that is certainly implied, is that Peter's readers not only had access to a letter that Paul had written them; they also had access to other letters that Paul had written to other groups and individuals. The idea being that even at a very early stage in the development of the church; that the sharing of correspondence was already taking place within different groups; and with that we have the beginning of foundations for our New Testament text.

We also see something similar in the book of Philemon. Paul writes a very personal letter to Philemon, yet addresses it not only to him, but also to the church that was meeting there. And this very well may have been intentionally done by Paul, as he delivered an expertly crafted letter, designed to give Philemon few choices other than compliance. But in doing so, it gives us an example where a letter addressed to a single recipient carried the expectation of multiple readers. We also see this in:

**Colossians 4:16** 16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

Sadly, the letter to the church at Laodicea did not survive the ravages of time; but it would have been interesting to read for sure; and if we were meant to have it; we would. But even in its absence, the concept that we see presented is the sharing of letters between groups; and how this was being done even as the church was in its infancy. Bringing this forward to today, this becomes an important concept as different individuals attempt to exclude portions of the New Testament they do not agree with, on the basis that these were only letters; written at a different time to different people who are no longer with us. Therefore, these things do not apply to us today. At times like these I'm reminded of Paul's words in 2nd Timothy 3:16, that all scripture is inspired; and should be available for our use to scripturally equip us. I'm also reminded of James 5:16 where we are told to confess our faults to each other.

Beyond the example of exchanging letters, we have the reality that in doing so, that each of these congregations were essentially creating an open book policy with each other. No doubt, things written about and passed around potentially could have been embarrassing at times; but also had the potential to increase accountability; as groups understood that issues today might very well be documented and distributed in the future. But along with this, it also provided other groups with opportunities. One, to be encouraged when they read about other groups who were doing well and succeeding. And secondly, to receive warning not to fall victim to issues that other groups were struggling with. The larger concept should be apparent then to us, that we treat the things that we read in a similar manner. To not only receive doctrinal instruction; but to also learn from the successes and failures of others; so that in the end, we can have done the right things, and be considered faithful. And that only happens, when we take in the whole word of God.

Michael Allen

# Calendar Events

## Birthdays in December:

- December 8 - Dave Deason
- December 13 - Lisa Allen
- December 18 - Sandy Ingram
- December 19 - Alesia Carter
- December 23 - Debbie Krasser
- December 24 - Charles Waterworth



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”

2 Timothy 3:16

## Anniversaries in December:

- December 16 - Benny and Brenda Bogart
- December 24 - Gale and Deanna Maples

## Mark your Calendar for December:

- December 3 - Leaders Meeting 8:30am
- December 4 - Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm
- December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- December 17 - Doug Twaddell
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- January 1 - New Year’s Day

## Looking Ahead to 2024:

- February 18 - Dan Huff
- March 17 - Doug Twaddell
- March 31 - Wade Stanley
- April 21 - Louis Garbi

## Program Schedule for December 2023:

### - Sunday Morning -

Date	Songs	Read	Announcements	Table	Speaker
3	T. Allen	C. Allen	T. Allen	B. Young	C. Payne
10	M. Allen	K. Farthing	M. Allen	J. Bennett	C. Allen
17	J. Allen	B. Young	J. Allen	B. Lee	D. Twaddell
24	T. Allen	D. Carmichael	T. Allen	J. Allen	T. Dennis
31	D. Young	A. Carter	D. Young	M. Allen	T. Allen

Teacher for Adult Class in the Auditorium: Brownsberger (2 Timothy)

### - Wednesday Evening -

Date	Songs	Teacher
6	J. Allen	D. Young ( <i>Nicodemus - John 3:1-21</i> )
13	M. Allen	T. Dennis ( <i>I am the Vine - John 15:1-11</i> )
20	Mutual Edification - J. Allen ( <i>Theme: Gifts from God</i> )	
27	Brownsberger	M. Allen ( <i>Not discerning the times - Luke 12:54-59</i> )

# Contact Information

**Elders:**

Michael Allen

Tom Allen

Tom Dennis

**Deacons:**

Jeff Allen

David Carmichael

David Young

**Flowers for Ill or Bereaved:**

Lisa Allen

**Food for Ill or Bereaved:**

Karen Carmichael

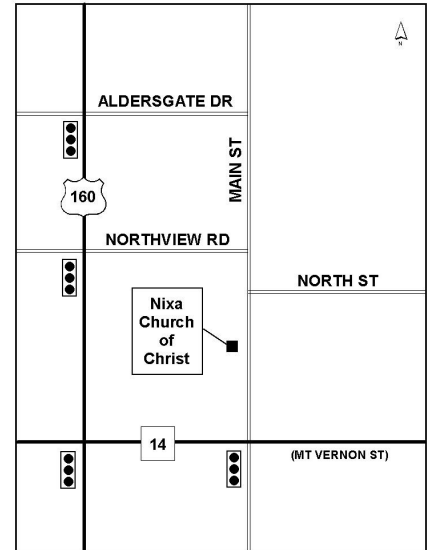
**Bulletin Information:**

David and Pam Young

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# Church of Christ

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