

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
6:30 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—26
Wednesday—

For meditation:
Ecclesiastes 11.7–8
Solomon encourages us to take full advantage of the time of youth when we live in the sunshine of health and strength. He isn't saying young people have no problems and old people have no joys, but life should be enjoyed to the fullest before the problems of old age start to reveal themselves.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

John Wedgewood

Many have heard of Wedgewood pottery, but not many know anything about John Wedgewood, the potter and founder of the famous ceramics firm.

One day when an English royal stopped by the Wedgewood factory to do some shopping. John asked a fifteen-year old boy who worked in the factory to give the nobleman a tour. John then overheard the nobleman telling the boy some off-color, embarrassing jokes. At first, the boy seemed shocked and uncomfortable, but eventually he began to laugh. All of which left Wedgewood indignant.

When the nobleman returned to the office to place his order, Mr. Wedgewood picked up a vase of rare workmanship the man was thinking of buying, pointed out its beauty and rare workmanship, and describing how carefully and wonderfully it had been made. When the nobleman decided he must have the vase, Wedgewood left it fall from his hand and shattered into a thousand pieces.

This left the nobleman stunned and angry, and he reproached Wedgewood for not being more careful in handling the piece.

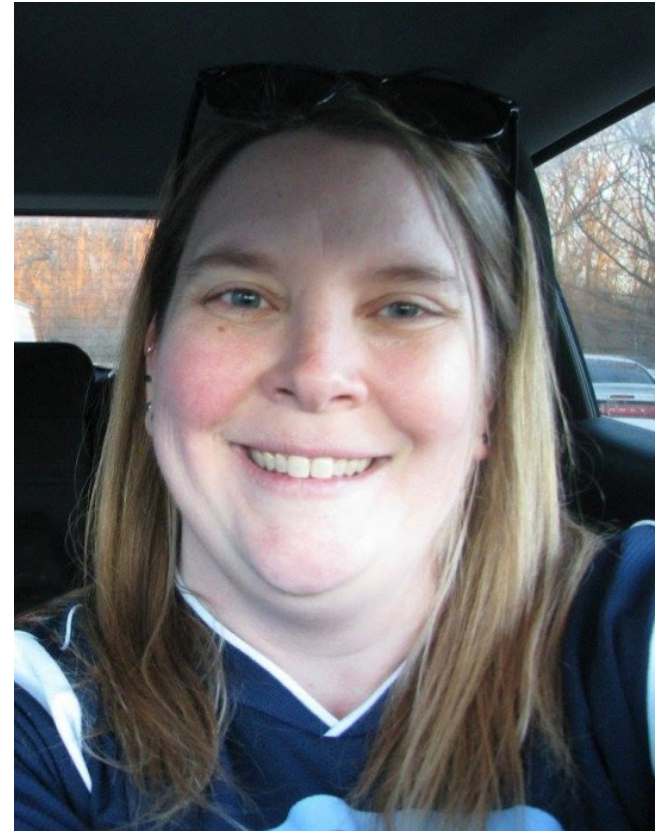
To this, Wedgewood replied, “My lord, there are things more precious than any vase—things which once ruined can never be restored. I can make another vase like this for you, but you can never give back to the boy the purity of heart which you have destroyed by making light of sacred things, and by using impure words.”

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(from the *Methodist Recorder*, 7.14.27)

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Rachel Barrett Lowery, 1980–2026

**Daughter of Reva Chumbley Woods
Mark & Lisa's niece**

Sermon: Matthew 6.1–4

Phony baloney religion

12 July 2026

“Children . . . repay [your] parents”

“Teach children,” Paul wrote to Timothy, “to repay their parents” (1 Tim. 5.4). The fifth commandment was that children *honor* their parents, and as Paul shows in 1 Timothy 5, one of the ways honor is rendered is through financial assistance (vv 3,4,17).

When I was a kid it was customary for aged parents to move in with one of their adult children. Rarely did a family have a “granny apartment”; more often, grandparents were somehow or other mainstreamed into the family.

Doing this required many adjustments, but these were just accepted as part of what families did. When Medicare and Medicaid were enacted in the 1960s, nursing and assisted-living homes proliferated, resulted in major changes in how we cared for our elderly. Families began putting grandparents in a “home” and the primary caregivers became employees who, in many cases, did just enough to get paid. This from a Google search summarizes the not surprising result: “Abuse and neglect in nursing homes are highly prevalent but notoriously underreported.”

God measures “pure/true religion” by how we care for the vulnerable (Jas. 1.27). His social security system for families goes something like this: **parents care for their child in the child’s infancy; children care for their parents in the parents’ infirmity.** Gospel preachers need to heed Paul’s words to Timothy and make sure the congregation hears this.

We’re born into a society we didn’t create. We had nothing to do with building, supplying, or staffing the hospital. We didn’t discover the vaccines that spared us whooping cough or measles. We didn’t build the roads or the cars our parents used to get to the hospital. We didn’t manufacture our diapers, build the crib, or formulate the Gerber mashed carrots that helped us get along. When we got older, someone else saw to it that we were schooled, entertained, recreated, etc. It was our parents and others who slaved for us and then cried over us when our ingratitude, and selfishness broke their hearts.

We’ve run up quite a debt to get to where we are today, and we ought to feel an obligation to repay it, at least in part, and the best way to start is by honoring our parents.

And don’t be surprised when it’s your turn to be sustained by your children if they do unto you just like they saw you do unto grandma and grandpa.

kenny

When the funerals begin to pile up

Lately, it seems like it’s been one funeral after another. About every other week it seems I get a call and learn some relative, Christian, or friend has died. There’s a time to die, the Bible says; but lately, at least for me, when it rains it has poured.

Funerals increasingly remind me of my own approaching funeral. Because I’m aware that the day of my death is not far off, I find myself increasingly thinking about some of the most unorthodox language in the Bible. Here’s an example of what I mean.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3.20). Paul says two things here that I think are noteworthy.

First, **our God is able.** Death is all about disability and inability, which makes it imperative that as life winds down we are connected to Him who can deliver us from it. God alone can do what no doctor, therapist, or biotech longevity researcher in China can do: give us eternal life, which includes sustaining us for as long as He exists. Now, He who spared not His own son from death will not spare us, but He promises us that when we pass through the waters/walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He’ll be with us (Ps. 23.4, Isa. 43.2). I’ve not heard any promise more promising than that.

Second, **God’s ability is beyond our comprehension.** In Ephesians 3, Paul strains Greek vocabulary, invents words, violates the rules of grammar, and heaps comparatives on top of superlatives to tell us we ain’t seen anything yet! Whatever goodness He has given us in life is not the limit of His ability but just the beginning. Beyond death awaits deeds never attempted, realms never explored, comforts never imagined, and victories never dreamed. The word in Ephesians 3.8 translated *unsearchable* by the NKJV, really means *incomprehensible*. God’s ways are *past finding out*, are “inscrutable” (ESV), “unfathomable” (NASB), “extravagant” (PETERSON), “impossible to understand” (NLT).

When the funerals start piling up for you and you’re spending a lot of time in the house of mourning, remember that for the godly, death is our ticket to a party like we’ve never imagined.

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