

Praying for a Hedge of Thorns

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



Today, I read a memoir of a man who lived and died over 200 years ago. His name was John Carrol, and he died at the young age of twenty-two years. Instead of being bitter about his circumstances (e.g., the death of both his parents and his illnesses), he was somehow able to give thanks for his adversities. What shaped his way of thinking was a lesson he learned from a “hedge of thorns” near his house that had kept him from trouble as a young boy.

I was moved by this young man’s spiritual strength and even more moved when I read what God said through the prophet Hosea, *“I will hedge up your way with thorns, And wall her in so that she cannot find her paths”* ([Hosea 2:6](#)). In this passage, God was declaring what he would do to help keep the nation of Israel faithful to him. He said he would hedge them up with thorns! Not only would this hedge provide protection from the enemies of Israel, but it would also keep Israel from herself!

I’m sure all of us have walked through the woods and gotten tied up in thorns. These incidents may have torn our clothes and left us a little bloody, but they also probably caused us to backtrack our steps. You see, some paths just aren’t worth it. The thorns are too painful, so we reverse our course.

It’s for this reason, I believe we should be praying for God to give us a “Hedge of Thorns.” It’s a frightening prayer, but one that needs to be prayed by those who are truly seeking God. Are you willing to experience pain if it will keep you from sin and help you live a holy life? Are you willing to suffer if it will aid you in staying focused on Heaven? According to [Hosea 2:6](#), this is something God is willing to do for us.

I pray that God will make it too painful for...

- The church to abandon the doctrine of God for the doctrines of men.
- The church to eradicate gender-based role distinctions to appease a culture that can’t even define what a man and a woman are.
- The church to ignore hard commands but be content to obey the rest.
- Christians to abandon a life of holiness for a life of worldliness.
- Christians to seek the approval of men over the approval of God.

Personally, I pray that God will hedge me in with thorns so painful I would never want to leave his path. I also pray that God will hedge my children in with thorns that will convince them that a life of sin isn’t worth it. I want all of us to be reminded by the pain of the thorns, to walk with God, and never stray. I want to learn to appreciate the thorns of life for their protection from my enemies as well as the protection they provide me from myself. God, Hedge us in with thorns!

Steve Higginbotham
Via [preachinghelp.org](#)

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Don Deffenbaugh, Joe and Teresa Freund, Pete Griffin, Glen Honeycutt, Jean Kidwell, Wayne King, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Robyn Pearce, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Harold Speir, Edith Toney. Ken Tyler.

Glen Honeycutt is in the hospital but hopes to return home this week with some tests and treatment being planned.

 **every ONE counts!** **Every "One" Counts:** When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone in need, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is Tuesday mornings at 7:00 in the activities center. You are encouraged to be present for this morning devotional and fellowship and to bring your friends. 

If you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

The work on the **pews** will begin this week. Services will be in the activities center on Wednesday, next Sunday and the following Wednesday. The auditorium class will meet there as well. All other classes will be in their regular locations.

The devotional at **Gran Villas** is today at 1:30. Please come and encourage the residents.

Today's Sermons

A.M.: *Inherit the Kingdom of God*
(Danny Boggs)

P.M.: *Let's Read Paul's Letter to the Galatians*



Join **Mebyl Privett** and her family today for a birthday celebration immediately after morning services in the activities center.

Start reading the **fruit of the Spirit** book tomorrow. Read one page for each weekday. Come prepared to participate in your groups each Sunday evening. Discussion groups will begin next Sunday night. Large print versions and extra copies are available in the back. The list for the groups is posted on the bulletin board.

Ladies' Thursday morning Bible study begins Thursday with a study on *Jesus in His Own Words*.

MOVE Conference in Oklahoma City starts this Friday. The van leaves at 1:00. Make sure to eat before you come. If you haven't paid, you can pay Caleb or through our website. Let's pray for their safety and for a positive impact from the conference.

Senior Saints will meet Saturday at noon in the fellowship room for a pot luck lunch. Come and join your fellow Christians in some food, fellowship and fun.

Green Valley Week 2 Weekend is September 30 to October 2. Go to our website to register.

College and young adults are having a retreat October 7-9 at Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas. The theme will be "*I Will Rise*". See Caleb or Madelaine for details or to register by September 16.

All ladies are invited to a **sign painting party** this Thursday 6:00 pm in the activities center. Cost is \$25. Bring snacks to share and feel free to invite a friend. Sign up on the bulletin board, so we have enough supplies.

NCS is in need of **prepackaged snacks** for the after school program. Please drop off items at the ladies corner.

Autumnfest of the Ozark, sponsored by Neosho Christian Schools is September 24. See the bulletin board for more details.

Thanks you to everyone who has given us diapers, wipes and many other baby things. We appreciate your generosity in welcoming our baby girl.

Austin, April, Kasen and Lexi

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

AM Opening Prayer: Mike Kidwell
AM Closing Prayer: Wayne Douthitt
Communion Prayers: Jason Giebler
PM Opening Prayer: Pete Babb
PM Closing Prayer: Benny Haught

This Wednesday

Announcements: Darren Pierce
Singing: Alec Fehring
Invitation: Charlie Collinsworth
Opening Prayer: Jackson Collinsworth
Closing Prayer: Harold Speir

RECORDS

8-28-22

8-29-21

Bible Study	156	149
AM Worship	177	184
PM Worship	138	115
Wednesday	142	115
Contribution	\$8,603.64	\$8,750.41
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00