

After a Tragedy
February 8, 2026

We must be:

1. A Praying Church

- ✓ 40 days of prayer for the Thompson family (Daniel, Holly, Aaron, Joshua, Lowell, Chuck, Joy) March 25 is 40 days from yesterday.
- ✓ Specific prayer for our young ones/youth
- ✓ Prayer for discernment

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. . .”
James 5:13

2. A Patient Church

God has a “direct will,” and a “permissive will” (He allows things to happen that are not in line with His direct will.) Patience is accepting His permissive will.

We humbly bow to the God who *can* allow anything to happen to us.

“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;
whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”
James 4:13,14

“Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,
“but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.”
James 1:9,10

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
James 4:10

Also, patience with the grieving family.

For *one year, please* do not ask them, “How are you doing?”

Five stages of grief:

1. Denial
2. Anger
3. Bargaining
4. Depression
5. Acceptance

(from *On Death and Dying*, 1969, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross)

3. A Persevering Church

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial. . .”
James 1:12, NASB

Will this trial make us or break us? If yesterday’s service is any indication, then we will survive this trial and even grow stronger through it.

“But we have this treasure [the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ] in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

“we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

“persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

“always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”
2 Corinthians 4:7-10