

May 15—May 21

15 Sunday	16 Monday College-age members meet at 6 p.m.	17 Tuesday	18 Wednesday Bible class tonight. 5:15-Eat 5:45-Study	19 Thursday	20 Friday	21 Saturday
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No birthdays and no anniversaries this week.

May 08, 2022
Contribution: \$1,035.00
Attendance: 33

Campus minister: **Caleb Hughes**
Minister: **Curtis Wubbena**

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Welcome to the Alpine church of Christ

May 15, 2022



Ordinary people serving an extraordinary God.



Honoring our Mothers last Sunday!



Honoring our mothers last Sunday meant a lot of behind the scenes work. The children painted the pots, Sean potted the flowers he grew, and Haile moved the gifts and organized distribution.



Game night still exists, but is now on Thursday nights at 6:30

A note from **Wissam** about current events:

The Nashville's *Hillsboro Church of Christ's* team graciously invited me to join their Turkey trip, the main purpose of which was to encourage a believing woman, married to a Muslim man, and her believing son, as well as visiting the Seven Churches of Asia that are mentioned in the book of Revelation. It is more difficult to be a Christian in Turkey than Iraq, as the secular country that was built on the ruins of the Ottoman empire has virtually no churches today. I drove the team's Peugeot minivan into the lawless, ancient winding streets of Constantinople and it is by God's grace that I have survived to write this update:

Our first stop was in Pergamum—an acropolis that takes a cable car to get to. We saw the ruins of Trajan's temple (see the attached pictures and read the description). Pergamum was a center of Rome's imperial cult, which may be the reason why it was called "where Satan's throne is" in Revelation 2:13. On our way to Smyrna (modern Izmir), we had a blowout, but that's a whole 'nother story.

The next day we visited the ruins of Ephesus—the seat of Dionysius (see Ephesians 5:18) and Artemis (5:22). Just outside the ruins of the ancient city is the basilica of St. John. It is believed that the apostle took Mary and lived there between A.D. 37 and 48 (John 19:26-27), was instrumental in sharing the gospel there before Paul arrived, was exiled to Patmos under Domitian in 81 before his release and return to Ephesus in 95. It is also believed that he wrote his gospel and was buried there upon his death. The church has a baptistery where full immersion was obviously practiced. In Ephesus, we had our first devotional at the very theater where Paul's travel companions were dragged, following the commotion instigated by Demetrius's guild (Acts 19:29-31).

We then visited Smyrna, where Polycarp was a bishop. The tour book says that this is the only location among the seven churches that is still a metropolis today and where believing Christians are still worshipping (Revelation 2:10).

Next we visited Sardis. The city was famous for being the capital of the Lydians centuries before Christ. Its kings included the lineage of Gyges (680-652 BCE—possibly Gog of Magog mentioned by his near-contemporary Ezekiel) all the way to Croesus that was defeated by Cyrus the Great. The city has a magnificent synagogue where we had [another devotional](#) and is close to another, very impressive temple of Artemis. The relationship between the Jewish, Christian and pagan communities there was so complex it may explain the defiled garments allusion in Revelation 3:4.

We finally visited Laodicea and heard every joke about its lukewarmness (3:15-16). The city was actually supplied by a source of hot water that becomes lukewarm by the time it entered the ancient city. We had [our last devotional](#) there and the picture shows me looking at the white deposits of Hierapolis's hot waters. Hierapolis also has the martyrium of Philip the apostle, who is believed to have been killed there in A.D. 87.