

# E-Messenger

## First Church of Christ

I hope you find this as challenging as I did.

Almost everywhere we go these days we are being videotaped. Cameras on red lights monitor traffic, cameras in department stores scan for shoplifters, policemen with body cams track their daily encounters. Many businesses and residences are equipped with cameras both inside and out to dissuade thieves or to guard children at play. Bystanders with iPhones are quick to record any event that's out of the ordinary.

Jesus warned that on Judgment Day we will all give an account for our every action and thought. "There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the

inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs" (Luke 12:2-3).

In one of her devotionals, Ethel Sutton related the story of a British soldier who was blinded in battle. The young man was a talented pianist so after his injury, he often played for the wounded who were sent to a London hospital near his home. He would hear the tramping of feet through the corridors as visitors came and went but he tried not to be distracted. He was determined to play his best each time, hoping his music would comfort his fellow soldiers who were struggling with painful injuries.

One day as he paused between a couple of songs he heard a bystander clapping heartily.

Turning his sightless eyes in that direction, the pianist smiled and asked, "Who are you?" "I am your king," was the astonishing reply. Without realizing it, he had been using his talent to entertain the king of England who had come to boost and cheer the wounded.

Though we don't see Him, the King of kings is listening, observing, and evaluating our efforts. Others may be served or encouraged along the way, but His assessment is really the only one that matters. It's good to know that He is eager to approve our efforts and proclaim, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

March Issue

Volume 5, Issue 4

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Destined to win,  
Larry Snavely

## Easter Mystery

Spring is here which means that Easter is right around the corner, the most holy and exciting celebration of the Christian faith. We look around us and we see the grass getting green, leaves beginning to appear, flowers blooming, and, as Christians, it should all make us think of a life reborn when Christ is received as Savior. However, while this season is exciting and joyous, there is also an element of mystery.

Last weekend both Brock and Larry deliv-

ered messages dealing with one of those elements. The sermon series, focusing on the final seven things Christ spoke from the cross, specifically as He said, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" How exactly did God the Father separate Himself from God the Son so as not to look on the sins of the world that had been laid upon Jesus at that time? To me, that's a mystery. Not that I don't believe it took place

because I know that my sins have been forgiven because of what Jesus did on the cross. It was a plan that was established before the beginning of time and I was on Jesus' mind and heart as He hung on that cross.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 says: *As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.* Many things of our God can

be mysterious. They are simply beyond what our minds can comprehend. That's a problem for many people who try to "humanize" God by making Him a buddy next door instead of a Holy God. Jesus was fully man, while at the same time being fully God, giving up His royal place of heaven to create a path of salvation for all. That's another mystery we could look at another time.

## Serving in April

### Greeters:

2—Ron & Ellen Walker (A)  
9—Dean & Sue Smethurst (A)  
16—Tom & Cindy Horton (A)  
23—Todd & Teresa Gambler (A)  
30—Vincent & Nola Girardot (A)

### Communion Ministry:

2—Adam Perry

9—Bob & Mary Lloyd

16—Dean & Sue Smethurst

23—Larry Snively

30—Jim & Pat McPeak

### Prayer Warriors:

Pam Hartman & Angie Murphy

### Welcome Center:

2—John & Nora Altman (9);

Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)

9—Lesley Shirkey (9)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Dan Nixon  
4 Luci Mangen, Nolan Slesman  
5 Emillee Snively  
6 Shane Nartker

9 Julia Hull  
10 Dale Puff  
12 Julie Garmenn  
14 Bob Lloyd  
17 Anna Dunlap, Brock Rhodes  
19 Curt Bennett, Todd Karnes  
21 Josh Suffel  
23 Aaron Nartker  
24 Lesley Shirkey  
26 Barbara Alpaugh, Noah Rohrer, Dan Yahraus  
27 Titus Rohrer

## Family News

The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ The family of Vivian Holdsworth.
- ♥ Gary & Teresa Brown and family on the death of **Teresa's step**-mother, Rita Wuebben.
- ♥ Jim & Becky Wuebben

29 Shirley Kinnan  
30 Joe Jerger



13 Ron & Linda Lewis (49)  
15 Shawn & Marcia Gambler (5)  
19 Rich & Sherry Trubey (31)  
21 Paul & Annie Engel (10)  
24 Josh & Emily Tonneas (8)



and family on the loss of **Becky's mother.**

Congratulations!!

- ♥ The church family rejoices with Lester & Holly Sprow on the safe arrival of Maxton Steven who was born February 14th. He weighed in at 7# 7 oz. **and 21" long. He joins big sister, Lydia.** Maternal grandmother is Charlene Gambler.

Welcome!

- ♥ The church family welcomes Brenda Dauber who was baptized Monday, March 6th.





**Sun**

**Mon**







**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

|  |           |   |  |   |  |   |
|--|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|
|    |           |   |  |   |  | <p>1</p> <p>5:00 <i>The Current</i></p>   |
| <p>2</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>  | <p>3</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>10:00 Craft Group (Bring scissors)</p> | <p>5</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Adult Bible Studies</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>   | <p>7</p>   | <p>8</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:00 <i>The Current</i></p>                   |
| <p>9</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>  | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> <p>9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p>  | <p>12</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Adult Bible Studies</p> | <p>13</p> <p>10:00 Pre-Easter Breakfast &amp; Program</p> <p>7:00 Communion Service</p> | <p>14</p>  | <p>15</p> <p>5:00 <i>The Current</i></p>  |
| <p>16</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>     | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>12:45 Visitation Ministry</p>         | <p>19</p> <p>6:30 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner</p>  | <p>20</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>  | <p>21</p>  | <p>22</p> <p>5:00 <i>The Current</i></p>  |
| <p>23</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>   | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> <p>9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>11:45 Lunch Bunch</p>                 | <p>26</p>  | <p>27</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>  | <p>28</p>  | <p>29</p> <p>5:00 <i>The Current</i></p>  |
| <p>30</p> <p>Unity Sunday</p> <p>9:00 Worship</p>                            |           |   |  |   |  |  |



## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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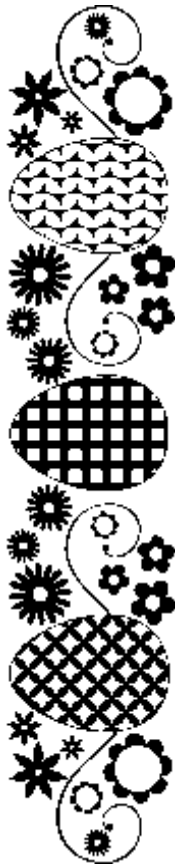
Love All, Worship One,  
Make Disciples

[Bryanfcc.org](http://Bryanfcc.org)



Connect with us!

Office Hours: Monday-  
Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00  
PM



### Facts & Figures

March 4 & 5

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Attendance SS 34 | Worship 43/47/111 |
| Offering         | \$7,122.00        |

March 11 & 12

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Attendance SS 32 | Worship 48/31/92 |
| Offering         | \$4,970.00       |

March 18 & 19

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Attendance SS 27 | Worship 31/44/98 |
| Offering         | \$4,775.00       |

March 25 & 26

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Attendance SS | Worship /36/95 |
| Offering      | \$3,243.00     |

Needed for Budget \$5,828.86

## Love All

*Our Service Personnel:* Lindsey Kaiser, Stewart Martin (NC), Josh Severs (Afghanistan), Josh Tonneas (MA)

*Cancer:* Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Patrick Bailey, Chuck Barnes, Arlene Boyer, Randy Boltinghouse, Brent, Tim Bright, Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie Case, Chuck, Weston DuBois, Carrie H., Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Norma Kuster, Tim Mavis, Aaron Narker, Connie Pence, Mary Pinckley, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue, Kathy Rittenhouse, Bob & Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Lyle Snavely, Ron Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy Tobin, Jaime Trevino, Tam-

my, Joe Vaccaro, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman, Al West, Gloria Wright. *Other Concerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Brianna Lloyd, Amy Boyd, Trevor Bailey, Dale & Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Geri Cox, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Paul Newcomb, Asher Cravens, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Madelon Salisbury, Esther Krill, Janet McCarthy, Mary Jane Sweebe, Cheryl Towers, Cunningham Family, Porter Family, Brenda Dauber, Keller Garner, Hamlin Family, Marie Hug, Gene Nash, Reasor Family, Ginny Suffel, Marilyn Lundy; *Shut Ins:* Hillside: Floyd Puffen-

barger, Home: Linda Lewis Fairlawn Haven: Gerald Wetmore, Genesis: Geri Cox, The Lakes of Monclova: Roger Ellis, The Commons of Providence Road: Barbara Hake.



## The Current

The Current is a movement that has begun in Bryan and will take place each Saturday evening 5-6 PM in our worship center. This service will feature meaningful worship and practical biblical conversations with a laid-back vibe. All are welcome.



DO YOU REMEMBER? Have you ever wondered what happened to some of our prior pastors who had ministered to the Bryan Church? Recently, a Bryan Times obituary for Mary Agnes Mason piqued my curiosity about her parents. First of all, Mary, daughter of Herbert V. and Margarete Ruthada Johnson, grew up in Bryan. Her obituary said she was a skilled organist and pianist and played bassoon in the Bryan High School Orchestra. She was also active in Girl Scouts. She first married (?) McGowen, but then later married Stuart Mason in Burlington, Indiana, in 1981. Besides her husband, she is survived by son, Vince (Gina) McGowen; grandchildren, Isabella, Sophie and Gus McGowen, of Farmington, Utah; daughters, Marissa McGowen, Kokomo, and Macey Mason, Kokomo, and two sisters, Sherry (Mike) Penrod, Columbus, and Debbie (Denny) Williams, West Frankfort, Illinois. She was a member of the Chapel Hill Christian Church, Kokomo, Indiana. She passed away on March 11, 2017.

Mary's mother, Ruthada, met Herbert while both attended Johnson Bible College, and they married on April 8, 1945 in Leipsic, Ohio, in the church where her father was minister. Ruthada was very active in our Bryan church, serving as a Girl Scout leader, a Sunday school teacher, and assisting in Herbert's ministry. She passed away on October 30, 2013 in Kokomo, Indiana, at the age of 87.

Herbert V. Johnson's ministry of more than 50 years of service, included churches in Bluff City, TN, Custer, OH, McComb, OH, here in the Bryan Church for a number of years, West Frankfort, IL, and Burlington, IN. In addition to his preaching ministry, he served the Boy Scouts, church camps, radio ministries community concerts, and ministerial organizations. He also gave his time serving women and children of the Howard County Children's Center, Chaplain of AA and hospitals, Elder and Sunday school teacher at Chapel Hill Christian Church in Kokomo, IN. He continued to minister to others into his 80s by conducting weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Bible studies. Herbert passed away September 3, 2014, in Kokomo, IN, at the age of 89.

Joanne Allison



What's not a mystery is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, he took them and was victorious over them. We are simply asked to accept what He did by accepting Jesus as Savior. Embrace the mysteries of God fully knowing that when our lives are seemingly spinning out of control, we're not. We are tightly held by the mighty, mysterious hand of God.

Continually overcoming,  
Tim Calvin