

# E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

## THE SELFISH LIFE

As I was sitting here in front of the computer desk contemplating and asking the Lord what to write this morning, various and random thoughts emerged. The one consistent aspect of these unsystematic ideas that bounce around in my naturally spontaneous brain have in common is attached to my personal experiences and how those events affected me. Yet, at the core of my belief system is that the shortest path to a miserable life is to make it all about self. The best way to define selfishness would be to take a trip to the Dead Sea. There is no other body of water like the Dead Sea. Located about six miles southeast of Jerusalem this body of water is nearly 1400 feet below sea level and every life form it takes in dies. Because its elevation is so low it only takes and never gives. In contrast just seventy

miles north is the Sea of Galilee, which has for thousands of years provided a source of life for hundreds of generations of people. Yet the two seas share the same source of the water producing life.

Unlike these two geographically fixed bodies of water, we are able to choose the values, beliefs, actions and all responses to life by deciding to be a conduit through which blessings flow or the dam that ends the shared life's shared joys. Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give." It is a greater blessing to give than to receive." (My paraphrase) "For God so loved the world that He gave..." We could add dozens of verses to this short list and it would direct us to the same conclusion. Think

about it, something as beautiful as the awesome gift of life and love can never be fully appreciated unless it is shared joyfully.

Lord, help me/us to keep the channel open and to never close it trusting that you are faithful to supply us with more than we can ever give. Amen!!! Jim McPeak

Cut and pasted from Jim McPeak's Facebook page, I hope you find is as thought provoking as I did.

*Destined to Win,  
Larry Snavelly*

## LIVING EASY?

"No one ever said life would be easy." Have you heard that said before? Many times it appears to be very true. We have struggles at home with those we love and are closest to us, we have struggles at work with those we spend so much time with, struggles while shopping in public, and struggles with ourselves in private. That does not sound "easy".

Our struggles may be due to many different circumstances or situations where we find ourselves, but many times our struggles are due to the perception we hold for ourselves. As human beings we seek self-

gratification. We believe that in all situations we should be top dog, the king of the hill and are always right.

Of course this perception is wrong and will usually lead to a very humbling experience, but before it reaches that point, ask yourself these questions: What is forefront in my mind as I plan and proceed through life? Where do I attain wisdom? What is at the foundation of my life? As a thoughtful and spiritual self-examination takes place, hopefully it is found

that Christ is at the center of our plans, our wisdom, and our life's foundation. Jesus tells us in Mark 8:35 "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

God will provide us with all the wisdom we need to operate our lives and will give us the necessary foundation for our life in Christ. However, we need to give our life fully and totally to Him. Allow our thoughts, our actions, and our very life to be cap-

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tured and captivated by Christ. In this world it may seem folly to admit weakness and dependence on God, but to Christ's followers, dependence on God brings peace, joy, and His strength through the struggles of life.

**Continually overcoming,  
Tim Calvin**

## Serving in March

### Greeters:

- 2—Gary & Hollie Carroll (A)
- 9—Toby & Jane Runyan (A)
- 16—Scott & Pam Hartman (A)
- 23—Dean & Sue Smethurst (A)
- 30—Tom & Cindy Horton (A)

### Communion Ministry:

- 2—Mike & Sue Robson
- 9—Larry Snavelly
- 16—Ramon & Barbara Alpaugh

23—Jim & Pat McPeak

30—Jason Gregg

### Prayer Warriors:

Angie Murphy & Teresa Gambler

### Elevator/Lock Up:

Terry Hallett

### Welcome Center:

2—John/Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)

9—Lesley Shirkey (9); Kevin/Barb Gal-

agher (9:45)

16—Shawn/Stephanie Ramey (9); Jordan/Heather Day (9:45)

23— (9); (9:45)



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 Emilia Crider, Courtney Herendeen
- 2 Patty Crider, Tabitha Strouse
- 3 Amy Dominique
- 4 Hugh Perry
- 5 Gerry Wiyrick
- 8 Adam Riehle
- 10 Colton Sheline, Chase Wiese
- 12 Ana Allison
- 13 Mikel Burlew, Janet McCarthy, Phyllis Waldron
- 14 Zach McCarthy, Beth Yahrhaus
- 16 Wanda Hilton

- 17 Ramon Alpaugh, Ann Rittenhouse, Parker VonDeylen
- 18 Teresa Gambler, Bill McCarthy
- 19 Justin Armstead, Devin Poncsak, Dane Poncsak, Jeannie VonDeylen
- 21 Bernice Rickard, Zach Strouse
- 22 Preston Hull
- 23 Gary Brown
- 24 Kati Day
- 26 Dillon Smethurst, Ruth Thomas
- 27 Austin Bard

- 28 Dylan Dominique
- 29 Sue Smethurst
- 30 Beulah Hopkins



- 10 John & Mary Garver (51)
- 11 Dick & Joan Bauer (8)
- 19 Corey & Cherie Whitman (13)
- 29 Toby & Jane Runyan (6)

## Family News

### Sympathy:

- ♥ **Keith Robinson** and family on the passing of Kathryn.
- ♥ **Dan & Deb Nixon** and family on the passing of Dan's brother, Walt Nixon.

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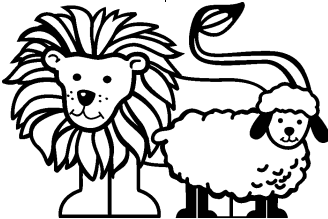
**Pancake & Sausage Supper**  
The 6th annual Pancake & Sausage

Supper, hosted by the Mission Team and Pancake & Sausage Committee, will be held Thursday, March 13, 5:00-7:00 PM. The free will offering will go toward the Spring Break "Dressed to Serve" local mission projects. Frozen 1 pound Jacoby's sausage patties will be available for purchase (\$3).



**Katie Beerbower** is about halfway through her semester in Lithuania. If you are interested in what she is doing and learning, check out her blog: [chasethelion.weebly.com](http://chasethelion.weebly.com). You can read her journal and view her pictures. You can also email or send encouraging comments.

# MARCH MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 12:00 Rohrer Group 6:00 Snavelly Group	3	4	5 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:15 Breaking Free 6:40 Adult Bible Study	6 9:30 Senior Seekers	7	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast
9 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 3:00 Lloyd Group	10	11	12 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:15 Breaking Free 6:40 Adult Bible Study	13 9:30 Senior Seekers 5:00 Pancake & Sausage Supper	14 6:00 Jr./Sr. High Game Night	15
16 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Board Meeting 12:00 Rohrer Group 6:00 Snavelly Group	17 7:00 Elders Meeting	18 12:30 Visitation Ministry	19 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:15 Breaking Free 6:40 Adult Bible Study	20 9:30 Senior Seekers	21	22 <b>Superstart</b>
23 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 3:00 Lloyd Group 3:45 Walleye Hockey Game	24	25 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ Grillie's	26 No Activities—Spring Break	27 9:30 Senior Seekers	28	29
<b>Dressed to Serve Mission Projects</b>						
30 Unity Sunday 9:00 Breakfast 10:15 Worship 12:00 Rohrer Group	31					

## First Church of Christ

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Love All, Worship One,  
Make Disciples

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

## Facts & Figures

February 2

Attendance S.S. 55    Worship 50/134  
Offering                \$ 6,101.00

February 9

Attendance S.S. Snow!    Worship No Count Recorded  
Offering                \$3,452.00

February 16

Attendance S. S. 46    Worship 47/143  
Offering                \$5,592.00

February 23

Attendance 43    Worship 48/120  
Offering                \$4,961.00

Needed weekly to meet budget                \$5,980.01

## Love All

**Our Service Personnel:** Kevin Bergman (GA), Jakob Buchanan (Korea), Jared Headley (CO), Randall Holmes (Afghanistan), Lindsey Kaiser, Nathan McCoy (Japan), Stewart Martin (NC), Jessie Stillman (OH), Josh Severs (NC), Ethan Shook (Afghanistan), Josh Tonneas (MA)

**Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nancy Altaffer, Marvin Bailey, Mary Brodbeck, Martin Collins, Amy Curry, Dennis Holthues, Dale Huffman, Jenny, Gene Johns, Molly Johnston, Pat Koerner, Doug McClure, Marilyn Opdycke, Gus Phillips, Debra Price, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue,

Kathy Rittenhouse, David Robinson, Devin Rummel, Bob Secoy, Sherry, Lyle Snavelly, Dinah Stiltner, Barry Sweet, Joe Vaccaro, Bob Wagner, Kathy Walton.  
Other Concerns: Ann Rittenhouse, Jennifer Mavis, Fred Tonneas, Evelyn Fox, Bill McCarthy, Pat Turnbull, Brianna Lloyd, Amy Boyd, Brittany Slesman, Jo Harman, Troy Hug, Trevor Bailey, Linda Piper, Mary Neidhardt, Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Geri Cox, Danny Allison, Sandy Gordon, Deb Nixon, Adaleigh Herendeen, Sarah DeGroff, LaVon Koerner, Brock Minor, Fred Brandt, Larry Mocherman, Fran Mavis, Gavin

Frye, Amy, Dale Boyer, Katie Beerbower, Donna Bailey, Evelyn Winegard, Danielle Strouse, Joan Riehle, James Morrison, Christen Turnbull, Adam Siebenaler, Georgianna Weaver, Judy Yahraus, Shelly Wilhelm, Barbara Bodner, Sharon Gurnek.

### **Shut Ins: Fountain Park:**

Roger Ellis, Bernice Rickard, Mildred Shannon, **Hillside:** Marguerite Siebenaler, **Home:** Marcena Bly, Linda Lewis, **Evergreen:** Frances Nyari **Fairlawn Haven:** Gerald Wetmore, **Bryan Care & Rehab:** Vivian Holdsworth, Cleota Johnson