

# E-Messenger

## First Church of Christ

EKKLESIA is the word from scripture that when translated becomes the church. The meaning goes back to being “called out.” If we would give it a sports feel, it would be to get off the side lines, and get in the game. As Christians we are called to put our lives in PLAY for the kingdom. A minister friend defines play as:

P..ersonality

L..earnings

A..ilities

Y..earnings

We are a combination of these God given qualities and the decision, if we will, put these abilities in play for the kingdom.

The quote is credited to

Theodore Roosevelt, “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause;

who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

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

February Issue

Volume 6, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

February Servers 2

Birthdays & Anniversaries 2

Calendar 3

Facts & Figures 4

Love All 4

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

## One Step at a Time

We are beginning a journey here at FCC. A journey beginning with ourselves and ending with many others potentially unknown to us at this time. Most of the details of this journey will be examined by Larry as we progress through this year; however, I simply want to take a look at a couple steps along the way to give us hope and encouragement.

A journey always begins with a single step. Our first step will be grace. Grace that is given by

God himself because of His love for us. Romans 5:8 says, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Christ is the perfect picture of grace. His very presence and purpose was to show us grace. Since we have received grace, we are also to extend grace. Being forgiven means that we are to forgive. It sounds easy to say, but accepting and of-

fering forgiveness is something that can only be accomplished through love; perfect love shown through grace by God in Jesus.

Once we begin moving along our journey, our goal will be to extend grace, to express the freedom we have found in Christ to others. Galatians 5:13-14 says, *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve*

*one another humbly in love.*<sup>14</sup> *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”* Our first human impulse will be to use our freedom in Christ to satisfy our sinful nature, to make ourselves feel good above all else. However, we are called to extend grace, not to use it so that we may sin more. How do we best extend grace? We are told to humbly serve one another in love because we are to love our neighbors as our-

## Serving in February

### Greeters:

- 4—Toby & Jane Runyan (A)
- 11—Charlene Dean (A)
- 18—John & Nora Altman (A)
- 25—Scott & Pam Hartman (A)

### Communion Ministry:

- 4—Dean & Sue Smethurst
- 11—Larry Snavelly
- 18—Jim & Pat McPeak
- 25—Brock Rohrer

### Prayer Warriors:

Jane Perry & Kim Snavelly

### Welcome Center:

- 4—John & Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)
- 11—Lesley Shirkey (9)



The great Chili Cook Off takes place Sunday, February 4th following 2nd service. Bring your chili and put it to the test. Maybe you can be chili champ of 2018!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Vincent Girardot
- 7 Jacob Manges, Brianna Moninger
- 9 Esther Rosendaul
- 12 Cassidy Hughart

- 13 Ben Riehle
- 14 Dean Krill
- 21 Nora Altman, Esther Krill
- 24 Kayla Stiverson, Edith Wagner
- 25 Melissa Beerbower, Katie Sparks
- 27 John Altman



- 4 Joe & Linda Roberts (23)
- 14 Tom & Cindy Horton (32)
- 18 Chris & Callie Wolpert (1)
- 26 Barry & Kelly VonDeylen (1)
- 28 Jim & Becky Wuebben (31)



Level 1: All services will proceed as scheduled.

Level 2 at 6:00 Sunday morning: All services will be cancelled.

Level 3: All services will be cancelled. Please check the following sources for church news: WBNO, WBCL, church website.

## Family News

### Sympathy

The church family extends her sympathy to:

- ♥ Mark & Char Brandt and Family on the passing of **Char's brother, Ken** Robarge.
  - ♥ The family of Roger Ellis Congratulations!
- The church family rejoices with:
- ♥ Alex & Kendra Anderson on

the safe arrival of their little beauty, Cora Jonell. Cora made her debut on Saturday, January 13, 2018. She weighed in at 8# 8 oz. and **20"**. **Maternal grandparents** are Joe & LuAnn Jerger.



The 10th annual Pancake & Sausage Supper, hosted by the Pancake & Sausage Committee and the Mission

Team, will be held Thursday, March 8, 4:30-6:30 PM. The free will offering will go toward the 2018 Mission Trip to the American Indian Christian Ministries in Show Low, Arizona. Frozen, one-pound yummy **Jacoby's** sausage patties and casing links will be available for purchase for \$4 each.

**F**  **FEBRUARY 2017**

**Sun**

**Mon**




**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

				<p>1</p> <p>9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>11:45 Chili Cook Off</p> <p>6:00 Super Bowl Party</p> <p>6:00 Larry's Life Group</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 Craft Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Bible Studies</p> <p>6:30 Visionary Marriage</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>✦ 14</p> <p>11:45 Valentine's Lunch</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Bible Studies</p> <p>6:30 Visionary Marriage</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>6:00 Larry's Life Group</p>	<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>12:45 Visitation Ministry</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Bible Studies</p> <p>6:30 Visionary Marriage</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p> <p>9:30 Senior Seekers</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:45 Lunch Bunch @ O'Bryan's</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Fusion</p> <p>6:30 Bible Studies</p> <p>6:30 Visionary Marriage</p>			



# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Love All, Worship One,  
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org



Connect with us!

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



## Facts & Figures

January 7	
Attendance SS 38	Worship 47/100
Offering	\$7,087.00
January 14	
Attendance SS 31	Worship 48/97
Offering	\$5,211.00
January 21	
Attendance SS 28	Worship 32/114
Offering	\$5,924.00
January 28	
Attendance SS 36	Worship 44/128
Offering	\$3,340.00
Needed for Budget	\$5,828.86

## Love All

*Our Service Personnel:* Brandon Herman (NC), Lindsey Kaiser, Josh Severs (Germany), Josh Tonneas (TX)

*Cancer:* Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Chuck Barnes, Arlene Boyer, Randy Boltinghouse, Brent, Tim Bight, Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie Case, Chuck, Andrew Dell, Carrie H., Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Tim Mavis, Aaron Nartker, Connie Pence, Mary Pinckley, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue, Kathy Rittenhouse, Sue Robson, Bob & Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Lyle Snavelly, Ron Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy Tobin, Jaime Trevino, Linda Walker, Kathy

Walton, Drew Wayman, Al West, Gloria Wright. *Other Concerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Brianna Lloyd, Trevor Bailey, Dale & Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Paul Newcomb, Asher Cravens, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Cunningham Family, Keller Gardner, Gene Nash, Ginny Sufel, Marilyn Lundy, Bob Lloyd, Josh Tonneas, Khloe Hartman, Dan Yahraus, Kim Beek, Mary Jane Sweebe, Norma Stambaugh, Puerto Rico, Jeff & Lisa McCoy, *Shut Ins:* Hillside: Floyd Puffenbarger, Home: Linda Lew-

is; The Commons of Providence Road: Barbara Hake.







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, 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!"

Destined to win,  
Larry Snavelly

selves.

Serving others and loving on people in the name of Jesus will be what we find in our journey. Let us all prepare ourselves for our journey. A journey that begins with self-recognition, transitions to a view of God's grace, and continues as service to others in Jesus name always. Enjoy your journey.

Continually overcoming,

Tim Calvin



The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is "no mild, tepid thing,"

writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe (Zondervan)*. "It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free.

**This love is extravagant."**

