

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

We appreciate the values in America are under attack. A few weeks ago Lady Gaga called Vice President Pence: "...the worst representation of what it means to be a Christian." The reason for her harsh attack against the Vice President? Mike Pence's wife volunteers at a Christian School which does not endorse the LGBT agenda. He said nothing to deserve the ridicule and venom he's recently received from the press and social

media. It's just that his wife is a part of a Christian school that teaches Christian values. The prophet Hosea predicted, "*The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac*" (Hosea 9:7). The prophet Isaiah warned, "*Woe to*

those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness..." (Isaiah 5:20). I think your experience is the new normal. In the future, followers of Christ will need to toughen up and anticipate that many in the world will reject our beliefs. Those of us over the age of 50 have been spoiled by growing up in a country where Christian values were the norm. That

April Issue
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Inside this issue:

April Servers	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Calendar	3
Facts & Figures	4
Love All	4

is no longer the case. Jesus warned, "*If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me*

Mature in Christ

All the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, record the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on what we today call Palm Sunday. His followers acquired a colt of a donkey for him to ride and throngs of people were shouting praises to God while laying their cloaks and palm branches in the street so the young donkey would not have to step on the ground while carrying the King.

Jerusalem and her people had found their new King. No longer would God's chosen people suffer under the iron fist of the Roman Empire. They would be liberated, set free. Free to rule themselves, free to make their own national decisions, free to live as they had so desperately hoped for so many years. However, the Israelites were very temporal in the view.

They were sure Jesus was going to change everything for them immediately here on Earth and they grew rapidly discontent as they discovered this was not the case.

Within less than a week, the crowds had turned from singing praises and worshiping God for the sent Messiah to shouting at Jesus, spitting on him, and wanting him cruci-

fied.

In considering the actions of the Israelites, we think how could they have been so wrong, how could they have been so immature in their thinking? It's easy! As infants in Christ we are tossed back and forth from doctrine to suggestion and from solid rock to sinking sand. The only way to avoid this is to gain understanding and become mature in Christ.

Ephesians 4:13-15 says:

Serving in March

Greeters:

7—Vincent & Nola Girardot
(A)
14—Scott Bard (A)
21—Todd & Teresa Gambler (A)
28—Toby & Jane Runyan (A)
Communion Ministry:

7—Brock Rohrer
14—Adam Perry
21—Bob & Mary Lloyd

28—Dean & Sue Smethurst

Prayer Warriors:

Pam Hartman & Angie Murphy



Birthdays & Anniversaries



April
BIRTHDAYS

2 Dan
Nixon
4 Luci
Mangen

9 Julia Huff
10 Dale Puff
14 Bob Lloyd
17 Brock Rhodes
19 Curt Bennett, Todd Karnes
24 Lesley Shirkey
25 Barbara Alpaugh
26 Noah Rohrer, Dan Yahraus
27 Titus Rohrer
29 Shirley Kinnan
30 Joe Jerger



April
ANNIVERSARIES

13 Ron & Linda Lewis (51)
15 Shawn & Marcia Gambler
(4)
19 Rich & Sherry Trubey (33)
24 Josh & Emily Tonneas (10)

Shoebox Item of the Month

During the month of April, we will be collecting bar soap (3-4 oz.—no liquid), wash cloths (thicker), and toothbrushes (individually wrapped). See the samples and countdown in the foyer. These items will be used for the youth packing party. Their goal this year is to pack 200 boxes.

Family News

Congratulations!

The church family rejoices with Derek & Katie Stiverson on the safe arrival of Myla Christine who was born Friday, March 1, 2019. She weighed in at 6#14 oz **and was 20”**. Paternal grandparents are Tim & Angi Davis. Great-grandparents are Ramon

& Barbara Alpaugh. WELCOME, Jeff McCoy who placed his membership with FCC March 10th.

Sympathy


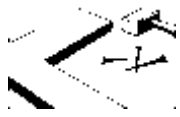

The church family rejoices with these families:

♥ Esther Krill, John & Janet Leppelmeier and family on

the passing of husband, father, grandfather, Dean.



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00 Craft Group	3 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Men's & Ladies' Bible Studies	4 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	5	6
7 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Snavelly Life Group	8	9	10 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Men's & Ladies' Bible Studies	11 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	12	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast
14 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	15	16 9:00 Shoebox Craft Day 12:45 Visitation Ministry	17 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Men's & Ladies' Bible Studies	18 9:30 Pre-Easter Breakfast & Program	19 GOOD Friday 	20
21 EASTER 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Snavelly Life Group	22	23 11:45 Lunch Bunch	24 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Men's & Ladies' Bible Studies	25 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	26	27
28 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	29	30				



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

March 3

Attendance SS 20 Worship 50/115
Offering \$4,641.00

March 10

Attendance SS 34 Worship 46/132
Offering \$4,009.68

March 17

Attendance SS 31 Worship 39/N/C
Offering \$5,184.00

March 24

Attendance SS 23 Worship 48/85
Offering \$4,516.00

Needed for Budget \$5,828.86

Love All

Our Service Personnel:
Lindsey Carter (FL), Caleb
Lloyd (Japan), Josh Severs
(Germany), Josh Tonneas (TX)

Cancer: Gwen Acker-
Dickinson, Nathan Bailey,
Sue Bever, Tim Bight, Brent,
Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie
Case, Chuck, Andrew Dell,
Adam Farger, Carrie H., Molly
Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees,
Ron Lewis, Tim Mavis, Aaron
Nartker, Connie Pence, Jane
Perry, Mary Pinckley, Elaine
Purdue, Steve Ringer, Kathy
Rittenhouse, Bob & Sue Secoy,
Elizabeth Shetler, Terry Shina-

berry, Lyle Snavelly, Bernice
Speiser, Ron Stark, Dinah Stilt-
ner, Amy Tobin, Jaime Trevi-
no, Linda Walker, Kathy
Walton, Drew Wayman, Al
West. *Other Concerns:* Jen-
nifer Mavis, Brianna Pitts-
Hill, Trevor Bailey, Dale &
Leona Puff, Neighborhood,
Arlene Boyer, Dale Boyer,
Danielle Strouse, Paul New-
comb, Asher Cravens, Brenda
Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach
Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Keller
Gardner, Gene Nash, Ginny
Suffel, Marilyn Lundy, Kim
Beek, Mary Jane Sweebe, Crys-
tal Sweebe, Shirley Bard, Josh-

ua Taylor, Keely Strouse, Joy
Reidt, Edgerton Community,
Dakota Kittle and family,
Mary Garver, Cindy Horton,
Ken Idle, Gary Spires, John
Altman, Wyse Family; *Shut
Ins:* *Genesis:* Gloria Wright;
Home: Linda Lewis, Lena
Luke; Ottawa Riverview:
Barbara Hake.



I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. – John 11:25,26 KJV



Therefore, brothers,
be the more diligent
to make your calling
and selection firm,
for doing these things you shall
by no means ever stumble.
2 Peter 1:10



13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Being immature in Christ is dangerous. We will be blown by any wind of change and get caught up in deceitful ways. The only way to avoid it is to do what is clearly stated in verse 13 above “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”.

Are you mature in Christ? How many souls have you set on the path to salvation in Christ? These are important questions. Ask God to show you the answers and be prepared to make changes in your life so “we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ”.

Continually Overcoming,
Tim Calvin

first. ”The fact that we are in the minority and falsely accused of hate and bigotry should not change how we respond. We are still to speak the truth in love. We are still to pray for our enemies. We are still to overcome evil with good. Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount are our best encouragement: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for, in the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12).

Destined to win,
Larry Snavelly

To everything
there is a season,
a time for every
purpose under
heaven...

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 NKJV

