

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

1. The Resurrection validated Jesus' claim to be God in the flesh. As magnificent as the life of Jesus was, it wasn't His life alone that made Him so special. His resurrection from the grave validated His unique claim to be God. If Jesus hadn't risen from the grave, history would have dismissed Him as a dangerous egomaniac who was sadly self-deluded.

Jesus made some self-assertions that were outlandish if they had not been true. *"If you've seen me, you've seen the Father."* *"I and the Father are one."* *"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me."* *"No one comes to the Father*

except through me." *"Before Abraham was, I am."*

When on trial for His life, Jesus was asked by the High Priest, *"Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"* *"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."* That's a blasphemous claim... unless it is true.

On several occasions, Jesus predicted that He was going to be crucified but then be raised from the dead on the third day. Baseball pitcher Dizzy Dean once said, "It

ain't braggin' if you do it." Jesus did exactly what He said He would do. When He came out of the tomb on Easter Sunday, it validated everything Jesus claimed about Himself. Indeed, God had visited earth in the form of Jesus of Nazareth.

2. The resurrection conquered man's most vicious and relentless enemy. Physicians and scientists have worked feverishly for centuries trying to defy death, which the Bible calls, "the last enemy to be defeated." In spite of all the medical and technological advances, the death rate is still 100%. But Jesus Christ con-

May Issue

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quered death! In doing so, He crushed the head of Satan and shattered the enemy's most dreaded weapon. Since Jesus' tomb is emp-

What is a Healthy Church?

What is a healthy church? Here are 10 indicators of solid, spiritual health:

1. Obedience - **Obedience to the Lord** is more important than the exercise of religious ceremony. It doesn't matter how we feel about our church or our worship if we are not obeying the Lord.
2. Humility - A healthy church isn't wrapped up in preoccupation over its merit or worthiness. It is

filled with members who willingly serve the Lord and one another.

3. Love - **Biblical love** is not an emotion; it is an act of sacrifice. Love is meeting needs of others.
4. A Servant's Heart - From the earliest days of the local church, there have been opportunities to serve others. (See Acts 6.) Sometimes people new to a church look at all that is already taking place

and think that they are not needed. The truth is that every church has needs and that when God adds someone to the church, He is fitting them into a body that He knows needs them. When each member cultivates their **spiritual gifts** and grows in service, they add to the health of the church body.

5. Joy - Joy is our

response to God's work in our heart, soul and mind. We all deal with heartache and suffering, but God desires to give us His ongoing, **continual joy**.

6. Gratitude - Talk about a sign of health—giving thanks is a powerful and healing decision. A church full of people who give thanks to God for who He is, what He has given, and how He is working is a healthy church.

Serving in May

Greeters:

- 5—Dean & Sue Smethurst
- 12—Bettie Finken
- 19—Vincent & Nola Girardot
- 26—Scott Bard

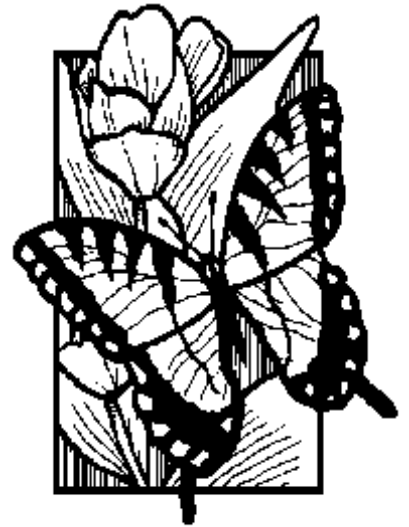
Communion Ministry:

- 5—Larry Snavely
- 12—Jim & Pat McPeak
- 19—Brock Rohrer
- 26—Adam Perry

Prayer Warriors:

Jane Runyan & Erica McNamara

“A real friend is one who walks in, when the rest of the world **walks out.**” —Walter Winchell



Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Linda Hill
- 3 Gail Wyrick
- 4 Dean Smethurst
- 6 Jon List, Jane Perry
- 8 Dick Kuszmaul
- 10 Ron Brown, Brienne Hetrick
- 12 Kortney Hartman, Norma Lorentz
- 14 Megan Grimm
- 15 Troy Hug, Leo Thomas
- 16 Pressley Tonneas
- 20 David Cunningham, Kayla Sanders, Kim Snavely
- 22 Jeremy Lohse, Mary Pinckley

- 23 McKenzie Reasor
- 26 Scott Hartman
- 28 Tanya Barnes
- 29 Janet Leppelmeier



- 15 Doug & Vickie Grimm (26)
- 16 Jacob & MaKenzie Manges (4)
- 21 Joe & LuAnn Jerger (31)
- 25 Steve & Connie Tressler (51); Harm & Brienne Hetrick (17)

Shoebox Item of the Month

During the month of May, we will be collecting hair brushes (large & small), combs (boys or girls), and hair picks. 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.



Welcome to the Family!
The church family welcomes Bobby Woodart, Anna & Levi Trubey who were all baptized last month.



Family News

Correction









We rejoice in the promise that our loved ones are with our heavenly Father, and we will see them again. But we mourn with those who mourn. My apologies for the incorrect wording last month.

Thank you! We thank our church family for the cards, pray-

ers, phone calls and visits. We really appreciate you and miss everyone. Ken & Flo Idle

“The best inheritance a mother can leave her children is a Christian example.”

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Men's & Ladies' Bible Studies 	2 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers 	3	4
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Snavelly Life Group 	6	7	8 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Men's & Ladies' Bible Studies	9 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	10	11
12 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 	13	14	15 6:30 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner @ Jaycee Pavilion	16 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers 10:30 Day Trip to Shipshewana	17	18 
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Snavelly Life Group	20	21 12:45 Visitation Ministry	22	23 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	24	25
26 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	27 Church Offices Closed 	28 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Sweetwater Chophouse, Defiance	29	30 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	31	



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples



Connect with us!

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

Facts & Figures

April 7	
Attendance SS 38	Worship 48/128
Offering	\$6,621.00
April 14	
Attendance SS 38	Worship 48/128
Offering	\$6,621.21
April 21	
Attendance SS Breakfast	Worship 73/179
Offering	\$5,055.00
April 28	
Attendance SS 27	Worship 56/98
Offering	\$3,689.00
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, Shirley Bard, Joshua
Taylor, Keely Strouse, Joy

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





ty, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54).

3. The resurrection proves there is also life after death for us. Life beyond the grave is not mere speculation; it's an undeniable demonstration. Jesus promised, "Because I live, you shall live also." The Bible assures us, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Romans 8:11).

Because of Easter, we have the assurance that the best is yet to be. Eternity awaits us. There will be ecstatic reunions, unspeakable joy, and endless praise. "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun."

Destined to win,
Larry Snavelly

7. **Accountability** - In a healthy church, members are concerned for one another. They recognize that the church is a *body* and that God designed us to be accountable, not only to Him, but also to one another for spiritual growth, health and help in times of struggle.

8. **Forgiveness** - The church cannot survive without forgiveness. Why? Because we are not perfect people, and relationships are messy. There are no real relationships without both the need for and the giving of forgiveness.

9. **Vision** - A healthy church maintains an attitude of hope for the future. Indeed, death comes when memories of the past supersede vision for the future. We need a sense of vision for our own growth in grace and for the growth of our church outreach.

10. **Sacrifice** - When it comes to fulfilling the mission of the church, the question is not, "How much does it cost?" but, "Who can we reach with the Gospel?" A godly vision is worthy of sacrifice.

Continually Overcoming,
Tim Calvin

