

# E-Messenger

## First Church of Christ

God has entrusted us with the most outstanding nation in the history of the world. The freedom, technology, and wealth of the United States of America have provided the opportunity for the gospel to be disseminated throughout the world. For believers to have a cavalier attitude toward the moral freefall that threatens the future of our nation is not only spiritually naïve but is a terrible stewardship of the blessings that have been passed down to us.

Jesus warned His disciples that following Him would put them in conflict with the culture. *"If the world hates me, it will also hate you." "I did not come to bring peace but a sword." "I am sending you out as a sheep among wolves." "I will set father against son and... daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."*

That's why our forefathers used to sing songs that were battle cries: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God;" "Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war;" "Stand up, stand up for Jesus you soldiers of the cross." They understood that Jesus had not called them to a playground but a battlefield. They took seriously the admonition of Paul to, *"Put on the full armor*

*of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

In recent years, however, many churches have dropped all images of war in favor of a peace treaty with the world. We speak of Jesus as the healer and leader but not Lord and King. We shout grace and whisper repentance and make inordinate attempts to ingratiate ourselves with those who oppose us. We retreat into silence in the face of horrendous evil and hope it will all go away.

Do you suppose our children/grandchildren will one day ask us, "Where were you when America lost the cultural war? What did you do when the world approved cohabitation, same-sex marriage, the proliferation of pornography, abortion on demand, and the teaching of evolution as the source of life in public schools? Did you stand up and fight when the anti-God forces insisted on removing any reference to God and the Bible from the public arena?" How will we answer when those questions come?

Will we excuse our silence by saying, "We didn't feel like it was our role to clean up the marketplace"? If that were God's response in Jonah's day, He would not have insisted that Jonah go to the pagan city of Ninevah and warn them to repent or be destroyed. If Jeremiah had that philosophy, he would have been a popular prophet instead of winding up knee-deep in mud in a cistern.

Will we explain our failure to get involved by saying, "Our ultimate hope is to win people to Christ, so we focused on building up the church?" And, "We didn't want the church to have a negative image in the community, so we emphasized only what we're for"? If John the Baptist had that philosophy, he would never have confronted King Herod's immorality and got himself beheaded.

Will we try to explain our passivity by saying, "I believed in the separation of church and state. Christians should not get involved in political battles, so I remained neutral"? If that had been Jesus' philosophy, he would never have said, *"You are the*

October Issue

Volume 8, Issue 10

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*salt of the earth," or "blessed are you when men persecute you." If Dietrich Bonhoeffer had that philosophy, there would be no books hailing him as a courageous Christian martyr for opposing Adolph Hitler.*

Read the following passages of Scripture and ask yourself, "Am I standing for God's truth with boldness, or am I cowering because I fear opposition?"

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake*

## Serving in October

### Greeters:

6—Todd & Teresa Gambler

13—Scott Bard

20—Tom & Cindy Horton

27—Toby & Jane Runyan

### Communion Ministry:

6—Bob & Mary Lloyd

13—Dave & Melissa Beerbower

20—Larry Snavely

27—Jim & Pat McPeak

### Prayer Warriors:

Pam Hartman & Angie Murphy

### Elder Schedule:

6—Jim McPeak

13—Mark Rhodes

20—Larry Snavely

27—Dave Beerbower

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Millie Kolts

3 Jena Suffel

4 John

Garver, Barbara  
Hake

5 Zoei List, Sandi Oberlin

7 Jacob Karnes

9 MaKenzie Manges

11 Josh Tonneas

12 Jarrad Bard, Breck Hessel-  
schwardt

14 Garry Oberlin

18 Deb Rhodes

19 Derrick Nixon

21 Rachel Hesselshwardt, Lyd-  
ia Sprow

22 Nathan Gambler

23 Brandon Gambler, Doug

Grimm, Terry Karnes, Steve  
Tressler

24 Cindy Perry

26 Levi Trubey

28 Mary Garver, Gene Ordway

31 Tom Horton, Nancy Wag-  
ner



1 Dan & Dottie Yahraus (36)

3 Brian & Amber Rogers (21)

4 Todd & Cindy Karnes (33)

13 Ramon & Barbara Alpaugh

## Shoebox Item of the Month

During the month of October, we will be collecting pencil pouches and jump ropes. Please check the sign in the foyer for updated numbers needed for these items. No time to shop? Ask about our shopper option! Shoeboxes are available in the foyer for those who would like to pack their own box. Include a personal note, picture and \$9 for shipping. Make checks out to First Church of Christ. Return to the church by Sunday, November 3rd.

(62)

15 Mark & Char Brandt (25)

20 Bryan & Katrina Tonneas  
(35)

24 Tim & Angi Davis (11)



## Family News

Welcome!

Sam Stensland placed her membership with BFCC on Sunday, September 1. Sam is originally from Fishers, IN and is a graduate of Trine. She is working for CK Technologies.

SYMPATHY: The church family extends her sympathy to the family of Lena Luke who passed away Sunday 9/22.

**“Gentleness helps us make a point without making an enemy.”**



Trunk or Treat is coming up October 26, 5:00-6:30 PM. We

will be inside the church building this year, and the theme is “God is Wild about You!” Sign up today for your “door.”

Dress/decorate with a safari theme. Candy donations may be brought to the church from now until the event.

# OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	3 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 Senior Seekers	4  9:30-11:00 PM	5
6 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Snavelly Life Group 7:00 YW Life Group	7	8 10:00 Craft Group	9 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	10 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 Senior Seekers	11	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast @ Four Seasons
13 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 7:00 YW Life Group	14 	15 12:45 Visitation Ministry	16 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	17 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 Senior Seekers 10:00 Shipshe-wana Day Trip	18	19
20 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Snavelly Life Group 7:00 YW Life Group	21	22 11:45 Lunch Bunch	23 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	24 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 Senior Seekers	25  9:30-11:00 PM	26  5:00-6:30 PM
27 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 7:00 YW Life Group	28	29	30 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	31 9:15 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30 Senior Seekers		



# 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			
September 1			
Attendance SS	23	Worship	60/106
Offering			\$3,895.02
September 8			
Attendance SS	35	Worship	61/115
Offering			\$7,032.00
September 15			
Attendance SS	35	Worship	56/110
Offering			\$5,743.00
September 22			
Attendance SS	39	Worship	49/108
Offering			\$2,750.00
Needed for Budget			\$5,828.86

## Love All

*Our Service Personnel:*  
Lindsey Carter (FL), Caleb  
Lloyd (Japan), Josh Severs (S.  
Korea), Katie Sparks (TX),  
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, Mary Pinckley, Elaine  
Purdue, Steve Ringer, Kathy  
Rittenhouse, Bob & Sue Secoy,  
Elizabeth Shetler, Terry Shina-

berry, Dean Smethurst, Lyle  
Snively, Bernice Speiser, Ron  
Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy  
Tobin, Jaime Trevino, Linda  
Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew  
Wayman. *Other Concerns:*  
Jennifer 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, Marilyn  
Lundy, Kim Beek, Shirley  
Bard, Joshua Taylor, Keely  
Strouse, Ken Idle, Carson

Strouse, Annie Engel, Gene  
Crawford, youth ministry, Kim  
Snively, Ramon Alpaugh;  
*Shut Ins:* Genesis: Gloria  
Wright; Home: Linda Lewis;  
Ottawa Riverview: Barbara  
Hake, Hawthorn Glen: Roy  
Koerner.



AS IRON SHARPENS IRON,  
SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER.

— PROVERBS 27:17



you.” (Deut. 31:6)

“Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. (Ezekiel 2:6-8)

“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5:28-29)

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13)

Admittedly, it appears the cultural war is all but lost. Unless the Lord intervenes through His return or the outpouring of His Holy Spirit in a dramatic revival, our civilization is heading for moral collapse.

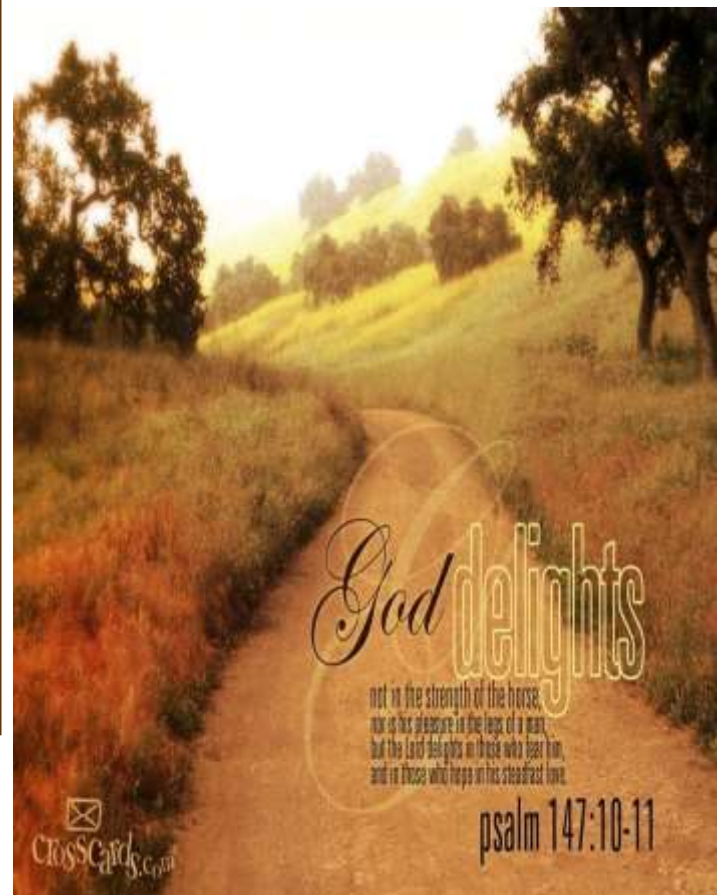
However, our calling is not to surrender to the forces of darkness but to stand firm in the faith. The rest is up to God – and with Him, all things are possible. Besides, I’d like for my grandchildren to know that I had enough perception to see what was coming their way and enough love for them to courageously fight the good fight of faith.

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Destined to Win,  
Larry Snavelly

**“Yesterday is a canceled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is the only cash we have—spend it**

**wisely!”** —Kay Lyons



God delights

not in the strength of the horse,  
nor in his pleasure in the legs of a man,  
but the Lord delights in those who fear him,  
and in those who hope in his steadfast love.

psalm 147:10-11

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