

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

As we move into the first phase of “Reopening America” it is obvious churches will be limited by social distancing measures for weeks to come. Local governments are now tasked with the timeline for lifting those restrictions. That concerns me because, in some states, government officials have concluded that drive-in liquor stores are essential, but drive-in church services were not. Abortion clinics remain open while churches remain closed.

While it may require both creativity and courage to do so, church leaders should take initiative to meet together as soon as possible. In my opinion, church leaders would make a huge mistake to assume that online services are a satisfactory, long-term substitute for regular worship.

There are numerous Biblical reasons why regular worship services are vital for Christ-followers:

Obedience –

Corporate worship is a command, not an option. Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs us, “*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the*

more as you see the Day approaching.”

Sometimes when children don’t understand why their parents have issued a particular directive, they ask, “Why?” There is usually a solid reason for the instruction, but in the end, parents often respond, “Because I said so!” God is the ultimate authority in our lives; the fact that His word commands us to meet together regularly should be enough reason to obey. But there are good reasons why weekend assemblies are crucial for believers.

Fellowship – The First Century church: “*...devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*” (Acts 2:42).

From birth, we need interaction with others to be emotionally healthy. The same is true spiritually. Christians need meaningful relationships with other Christians. The most important lessons we learn are not in a classroom but from seeing faith lived out in the lives of others. Believers are told to weep with those who weep and rejoice

with those who rejoice. We need to feel the hugs, see the tears, join in the laughter, and hear the verbal responses of others. The Bible likens the church to a body where each part is essential in sustaining the other.

Encouragement – The Hebrew writer says we’re to meet together regularly to “*Encourage one another.*” When we’re isolated, it’s easy to yield to the alluring temptations or the infectious despair that surround us. We need the reinforcement that only comes from interaction with others who “have received a faith as precious as ours.”

The preaching of the gospel encourages us. The prayers of the saints encourage us. The reading of Scripture encourages us. Baptisms encourage us. Congregational singing encourages us. Ephesians 5:19 says one of the ways to be filled with the Spirit is to “*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.*”

In the past few weeks, I’ve participated in several online services with a handful of others. It’s my experience that much is lost

May Issue

Volume 9, Issue 5

Inside this issue:

May Servers 2

Birthdays & Anniversaries 2

Calendar 3

Facts & Figures 4

Love All 4

in small group singing, partly because very few in my groups are strong singers. It’s inspirational to hear hundreds sing together, and I need to be surrounded by a plethora of others for congregational singing to be encouraging!

Accountability – “*If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently*” (Galatians 6:1). Christians must hold one another accountable for loyalty to Jesus Christ. If we never meet, never interact, never deepen relationships, effective accountability becomes limited

Serving in May

Greeters:

3—No Service
10—No Service
17—Vince & Nola Girardot
24—Todd & Teresa Gambler
31—Tom & Cindy Horton
Communion Ministry:

3—None
10—None
17—None

24—None

31—None

Prayer Warriors:

Jane Runyan & Erica McNamara

Elder Schedule:

3—No Service
10—No Service
17—Jim McPeak
24—Mark Rhodes
31—Larry Snively

Nursery:

3—No Service
10—No Service
17—Jane Runyan
24—Volunteer Needed
31—Volunteer Needed

Children's Church:

3—No Service
10—No Service
17—Luc & Rachel Hesseschwardt
24—Tracy Rendleman
31—No Children's Church

Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Linda Hill
3 Gail Wyrick
4 Dean Smethurst
6 Jon List
8 Deb Hallett, Dick Kuszmaul
10 Ron Brown, Brienne Hetrick
12 Kortney Hartman, Norma Lorentz
14 Megan Grimm

15 Troy Hug, Leo Thomas
16 Presley Tonneas
20 Dave Cunningham, Kayla Sanders, Kim Snively
22 Mary Pinckley
26 Scott Hartman
28 Tanya Barnes
29 Janet Leppelmeier
31 Vickie Rhodes



15 Doug & Vickie Grimm (27)
16 Jacob & MaKenzie Manges (5)
21 Joe & LuAnn Jerger (32)
25 Steve & Connie Tressler (52), Harm & Brienne Hetrick(18)

Family News

SYMPATHY

The church family extends her sympathy to Eric & Angie Murphy and family at the passing of **Eric's grandmother**.



Volunteers are needed for the following ministry areas:

- ◆ Home Communion
- ◆ Nursery—1st Service
- ◆ Nursery—2nd Service
- ◆ Nursery Subs



may

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4	5  Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 HAPPY Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 10:00 Day Trip to Ship- shewana	15	16
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor- ship	18	19 12:45 Visita- tion Ministry	20	21	22	23
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor- ship	25  Memorial Day	26 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Cookies on Demand	27	28	29	30
31 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor- ship						



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

129 N. Walnut Street
Bryan, OH 43506

Phone: 419-636-3509
Fax: 419-633-7226
E-mail: firstcofc@cityofbryan.net

Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org



Connect with us!

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

Facts & Figures	
April 5	
Attendance SS	Worship
Offering	\$1510.00
April 12	
Attendance SS	Worship
Offering	\$7991.00
April 19	
Attendance SS	Worship
Offering	\$3742.00
April 26	
Attendance SS	Worship
Offering	\$3350.00
Needed for Budget	\$5,149.15

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Lindsey Carter (FL), Caleb Lloyd (Japan), Josh Severs (S. Korea), Braxton Singer (MS), Katie Sparks (PA), Jessie Stillman (OH), Josh Tonneas (TX)

Cancer: Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Joyce Bailey, 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 Narcker, Alan Ordway, Ruth Ord-

way, Mary Pinckley, Elaine Purdue, Steve Ringer, Bob & Sue Secoy, Elizabeth Shetler, Terry Shinaberry, Dean Smethurst, Lyle Snavely, Norma Stambaugh, Ron Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy Tobin, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman. *Other Concerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Trevor Bailey, Dale & Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Arlene Boyer, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Paul Newcomb, 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, Tracy Rendleman, Danny Hull; *Shut Ins:* SKLD: Gloria Wright; *Home:* Barb & Ramon Alpaugh, Annie Engel, Ken Idle, Linda Lewis, Marilyn Lundy, Edith Wagner; Ottawa Riverview: Barbara Hake, Hawthorn Glen: Roy Koerner.





The winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of
singing has come... Song of Solomon 2:11-12

to just a handful of believers who are often reluctant or incapable of confronting.

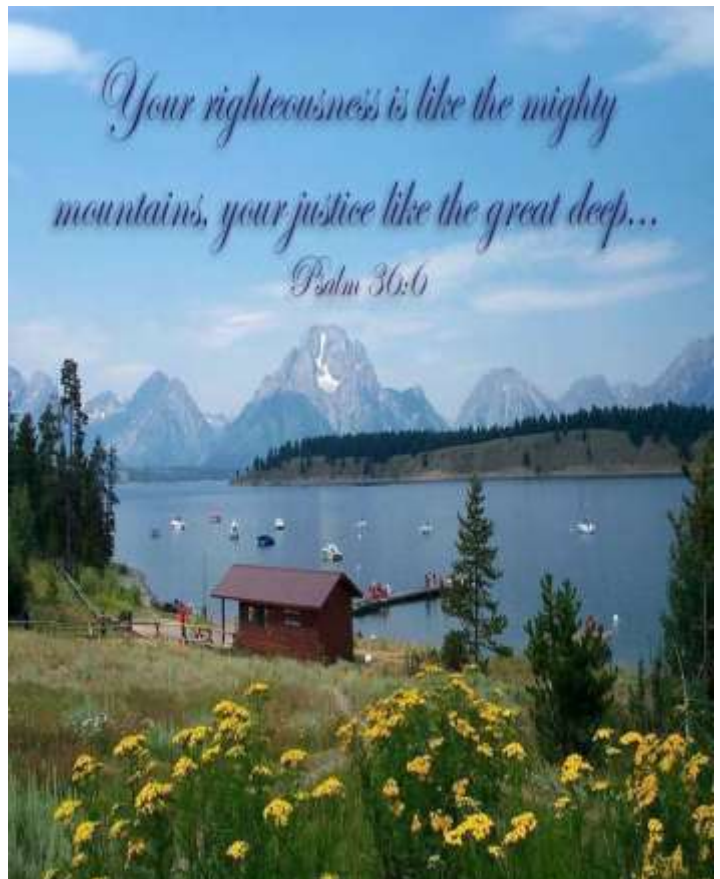
Hebrews 13:17 tells us to have confidence in our church leaders, "...and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account." When the congregation doesn't assemble, there is little to no spiritual oversight.

Testimony – The Apostle Paul instructed the church to take communion together. "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor. 11:26). When believers meet together, they proclaim their belief in Christ Jesus. One older man was asked why he went to his little country church even though the music was awful, and they had no preacher at the time. He said, "I just want the devil and my neighbors to know whose side I'm on!"

Destined to Win,
Larry Snavelly

**"A mother is she who can take
the place of all others but whose
place *no one else can take.*"**

—Cardinal Mermillod



Your righteousness is like the mighty
mountains, your justice like the great deep...
Psalms 36:6

"It's spring fever. That is what
the name of it is. And when
you've got it, you want—oh, you
don't quite know what it is you
do want, but it just fairly makes
your heart ache, you want it so!"

— Mark Twain