

# E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

**I believe God answers prayer.** Jesus promised, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). We’ve experienced safe travels, paid bills, healthy babies, physical recovery, restored relationships, blessed decisions. Prayer is more than just preparing our hearts for what God has predetermined. Prayer changes things. “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16). Indeed, God answers prayer.

**I believe God answers prayer dramatically.** The Scriptures demonstrate that. King Hezekiah was healed of terminal illness and granted 15 additional years. Blind Bartimaeus was given sight instantly. Simon Peter was miraculously delivered from prison. We’ve witnessed dramatic answers to prayer in our day also.

**I believe God answers prayer dramatically but not always.** God sometimes intervenes miraculously

and heals the sick, parts the sea, or raises the dead. But not often. God more frequently heals naturally. He designed the human body with an awesome immune system, and sometimes prayer is answered through a prolonged, natural recovery. God sometimes heals medically. The Lord enabled keen minds who discovered Penicillin, Tylenol, Remdesivir, and a host of other effective medications. The Lord created brilliant physicians who learned to perform appendectomies, heart surgeries, and lung transplants. “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good...!” (Psalms 107:1).

**I believe there is a special power in unified prayer.** Jesus promised, “I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:19). When the en-

tire city of Nineveh repented of their sins and pleaded for the Lord’s forgiveness, God spared the city that Jonah prophesied would be destroyed in forty days. In the wake of the beheading of James, the Jerusalem church gathered in fervent prayer that the incarcerated Simon Peter’s life would be spared. That very night Peter was miraculously escorted out of prison by an angel. “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:20).

**I believe when prayers aren’t answered affirmatively, God is still good and worthy of our trust.**

Although it pains me to acknowledge it, there are times in Scripture when God has said “no” to sincere prayer requests. Rather than heal miraculously, naturally, or medically, God chose to heal eternally. For instance, David prayed for his infant to live, yet the baby died. Likewise,

September Issue

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Paul prayed for his thorn in the flesh to be removed, yet it wasn’t. Even Jesus prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me” (Matthew 26:39). Yet He had to drink its dregs. Only in heaven does God promise to “wipe every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21:4).

If God answered every prayer exactly as we requested, we would be in charge of the universe, and that would be a disas-

## Serving in September

### Prayer Warriors:

Marcia Gambler & Brienne Hetrick

### Elder Schedule:

5—Larry Snavely  
12—Dave Beerbower  
19—Ryan Beerbower  
26—Dan Gallagher

### Nursery:

5—1st—Angie & Eric Murphy  
SS—Deb Rhodes  
2nd—Nathan & Ashley Knepper  
12—1st—Sandi Oberlin  
SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm  
2nd—Stacie Beerbower  
19—1st—Ryan & Stacie Beerbower  
SS—Terence & Beth Clingaman  
2nd—Sharon Blinzler  
26—1st—Jon & Kristi List

SS—Deb Rhodes  
2nd—Nathan & Ashley Knepper  
2nd—Stacie Beerbower

### Children's Church:

5—Ryan Beerbower  
12—Ryan Beerbower  
19—Ryan Beerbower  
26—Jon List

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Gene Johns, Matt Nixon, Lydia Rogers  
3 Mick McElfresh  
4 Terence Clingaman  
5 Alec Blinzler  
6 Stacie Beerbower  
7 Carter Dominique, Emily Hetrick  
9 Drew Grimm, Luke Hill  
11 Gil Cramer  
12 Sabrina Ramey

13 Char Brandt  
14 Charlie Clingaman  
16 Sandi Partee  
18 Lola Beerbower  
22 Claire Clingaman, Margie Olds  
23 Kaitlyn Hesselschwardt, Pat McPeak  
27 Bryan Tonneas  
29 Steve Lundy  
30 Evelyn Deetz, Brigitte Kuzmaul



7 Gil & Carole Cramer (53)  
11 Dan & Margie Olds (34)  
13 Luc & Rachel Hesselschwardt (18)  
15 Todd & Teresa Gambler (31), Mick & Sue McElfresh (9)  
24 Eric & Angie Murphy (27)  
27 Ryan & Stacie Beerbower (7)

## Family News

### Sympathy

- ♥ **The church family grieves with Sue Smethurst & family on the loss of Dean.**
- ♥ **Tom & Cindy Horton & family on the death of Tom's brother, Roger.**

### *Congratulations*

- ♥ **Braxton Snavely & Trisha Conlan married June 26.**
- ♥ **Kortney Hartman & Adam Subasic married June 26.**

Attention Senior Saints: Given the current situation with COVID, we are still feeling cautious about Senior Saints Activities. We will try Lunch Bunch at The Pizza Barn on September 28th at 11:45 AM. No transportation will be provided. We'll see how it goes after that.

# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5:45 Supper 6:00 Adult Bible Study 6:15 MOPS 6:30 Club 226/356	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  6:30	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:45 Supper 6:00 Adult Bible Study 6:15 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 Club 226/356	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 
<b>12</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>13</b> 9:30 Senior Seekers	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:45 Supper 6:00 Adult Bible Study 6:15 MOPS 6:30 Club 226/356	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>20</b> 9:30 Senior Seekers	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:45 Supper 6:00 Adult Bible Study 6:15 Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 Club 226/356	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	<b>27</b> 9:30 Senior Seekers	<b>28</b> 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Pizza Barn	<b>29</b> 5:45 Supper 6:00 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Club 226/356	<b>30</b>		



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



Connect with us!

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

Facts & Figures		
August 1		
Attendance SS	NC	Worship 36/83
Offering		\$7,795.57
August 8		
Attendance SS	NC	Worship 42/78
Offering		\$4,439.62
August 15		
Attendance SS	29	Worship 44/75
Offering		\$4,972.72
August 22		
Attendance SS	30	Worship 52/71
Offering		\$4,406.06
Needed for Budget		\$5,008.77

## Love All

*Our Service Personnel:*  
Lindsey Carter (FL), Caleb Lloyd (Japan), Patrick Rendleman (GA), Josh Severs (AL), Braxton Singer (NC), Katie Sparks (PA), Jessie Stillman (OH), Josh Tonneas (TX)

*Cancer:* Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Joyce Bailey, Nathan Bailey, Brad Berg, Sue Bever, Tim Bight, Brent, Jennie Case, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H., Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Mark & Carrie, Tim Mavis, Chloe Merrilet, Crystal Miller, Aaron Nartker, Ruth

Ordway, Mary Pinckley, Anna Pitman, Elaine Purdue, Steve Ringer, Ron Roose, Juanita Ruble, Bob & Sue Secoy, Elizabeth Shetler, Terry Shinaberry, Lyle Snavelly, Amy Tobin, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman. *Other Concerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Trevor Bailey, Neighborhood, Arlene Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Gene Nash, Kim Beek, Joshua Taylor, Keely Strouse, Carson Strouse, Gene Crawford, children's ministry, Danny Hull, Cindy Webber, Kevin Ayre,

Ramon Alpaugh, Kathy Moog, Marsha Fisher, Allison Rhodes, Marty, Tim Mavis, MaKayla Murphy, John Fry, Jackson Wolph ; *Shut Ins:* SKLD: Gloria Wright; *Home:* Barb & Ramon Alpaugh, Shirley Bard, Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler, Ron & Linda Lewis, Marilyn Lundy, Leona Puff, Edith Wagner Ottawa River-view: Barbara Hake, Hawthorne Glen: Roy Koerner.



My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.  
**Psalm 73:26**



Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid  
or discouraged. For the Lord, your God is  
*with you* wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



Photo by Tami Theobald

www.melanieredd.com



MOPS

MOPS and MOPS Next is coming to FCC beginning Wednesday, September 1st. MOPS is an international organization for mothers with children of any age. The group will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 6:15-7:30 PM. A nursery will be available. All women in the community are welcome. Stacie Beerbower will lead this group.

A ladies' Bible study will be available on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Kim Snavelly will be leading a study on hope.

ter. No one would ever die and go to heaven. Instead, we would live forever in a sinful, chaotic, violent world that's rapidly getting worse. That's why we must pray as Jesus prayed, "Yet not as I will, but as you will."

From Bob Russell's blog

Destined to Win,  
Larry Snavelly

