

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

A read I hope you find encouraging to your faith,

In 1966 Time magazine ran a cover story asking: Is God Dead? Many have accepted the cultural narrative that he's obsolete—that as science progresses, there is less need for a "God" to explain the universe. Yet it turns out that the rumors of God's death were premature. More amazing is that the relatively recent case for his existence comes from a surprising place—science itself.

Here's the story: The same year Time featured the now-famous headline, the astronomer Carl Sagan announced that there were two important criteria for a planet to support life: The right kind of star, and a planet the right distance from that star. Given the roughly octillion—1 followed by 27 zeros—planets in the universe, there should have been about a septillion—1 followed by 24 zeros—planets capable of supporting life.

With such spectacular odds, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, a large, expensive collection of private and publicly funded projects launched in the 1960s, was sure to turn up something soon. Scientists listened with a vast radio telescopic network for signals that resembled coded intelligence and were not merely random. But as years passed, the silence from the rest of the universe was deafening. Congress

defunded SETI in 1993, but the search continues with private funds. As of 2014, researchers have discovered precisely bubkis—0 followed by nothing.

What happened? As our knowledge of the universe increased, it became clear that there were far more factors necessary for life than Sagan supposed. His two parameters grew to 10 and then 20 and then 50, and so the number of potentially life-supporting planets decreased accordingly. The number dropped to a few thousand planets and kept on plummeting.

Even SETI proponents acknowledged the problem. Peter Schenkel wrote in a 2006 piece for Skeptical Inquirer magazine: "In light of new findings and insights, it seems appropriate to put excessive euphoria to rest . . . We should quietly admit that the early estimates . . . may no longer be tenable."

As factors continued to be discovered, the number of possible planets hit zero, and kept going. In other words, the odds turned against any planet in the universe supporting life, including this one. Probability said that even we shouldn't be here.

Today there are more than 200 known parameters necessary for a planet to support life—every

single one of which must be perfectly met, or the whole thing falls apart. Without a massive planet like Jupiter nearby, whose gravity will draw away asteroids, a thousand times as many would hit Earth's surface. The odds against life in the universe are simply astonishing.

Yet here we are, not only existing, but talking about existing. What can account for it? Can every one of those many parameters have been perfect by accident? At what point is it fair to admit that science suggests that we cannot be the result of random forces? Doesn't assuming that an intelligence created these perfect conditions require far less faith than believing that a life-sustaining Earth just happened to beat the inconceivable odds to come into being?

There's more. The fine-tuning necessary for life to exist on a planet is nothing compared with the fine-tuning required for the universe to exist at all. For example, astrophysicists now know that the values of the four fundamental forces—gravity, the electromagnetic force, and the "strong" and "weak" nuclear forces—were determined less than one millionth of a second after the big bang. Alter any one value and the universe could not exist. For instance, if the ratio between the nuclear strong force and the electromagnetic force had been off

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by the tiniest fraction of the tiniest fraction—by even one part in 100,000,000,000,000,000,000—then no stars could have ever formed at all. Feel free to gulp.

Multiply that single parameter by all the other necessary conditions, and the odds against the universe existing are so heart-stoppingly astronomical that the notion that it all "just happened" defies common sense. It would be like tossing a coin and having it come up heads 10 quintillion times in a row. Really?

Fred Hoyle, the astronomer who coined the term "big bang," said that his atheism was "greatly shaken" at these de-

Serving in NOVEMBER

Prayer Warriors:

Jane Runyan & Cindy Horton

Elder Schedule:

7—Ryan Beerbower
14—Dan Gallagher
21—Jon List
28—Jim McPeak

Nursery:

7—1st—Angie & Eric Murphy
SS—Kelly & Barry Von Deylen
2nd—Stacie & Sharon Blinzler
14—1st—Sandi Oberlin
SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm
2nd—Stacie & Ellen Walker
21—1st—Ryan & Stacie Beerbower
SS—Stacie Beerbower
2nd—Stacie Beerbower
28—1st—Jon & Kristi List

SS—Beth & Terence Clingman

2nd—Nathan & Ashley Knepper

Children's Church:

7—Ryan Beerbower
14—Ryan Beerbower
21—Ryan Beerbower
28—Jon List

Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Sandy Gordon
3 Greg Hartman, Roy Koerner
6 Ashley Grimm, Traci Hartman, Marilyn Sanders
7 Karen Roose
9 Bryce Gambler, Lydia Snavelly
11 Chuck Salisbury
14 Tasha Karnes
16 Nick McCarthy, Mark Rhodes
17 Molly Gordon, Eric Mur-

phy
18 Charlene Gambler, Annabelle West
19 Dan Olds
21 Brian Rogers
25 Angie Murphy
29 Terry Hallett
30 Dan Gallagher, Sophie Hull



3 Vincent & Nola Girardot (70)
7 Derek & MaKayla Murphy (1)
15 Chuck & Madelon Salisbury (67)
16 Mark & Deb Rhodes (37)
18 Scott & Pam Hartman (21)

Little Word, Big Difference

In God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks for everything. You don't need to give thanks for that bad day. Or for that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks for the difficulties but rather in the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks in everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory.

—Tony Evans

Attention Senior Saints: Given the current situation with COVID, we are still feeling cautious about Senior Saints Activities. We will try Lunch Bunch on November 23rd at 11:45 AM. No transportation will be provided. We'll see how it goes after that.

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30 Senior Seekers	2 	3	4	5 6:30 Prayer Night	6
7 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 	8 9:30 Senior Seekers	9 10:00 Craft Group	10	11 	12	13
14 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	15 9:30 Senior Seekers	16	17	18	19	20
21 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	22 9:30 Senior Seekers	23 11:45 Lunch Bunch	24 No Wednesday Night Activities	25 11-1 Community Thanksgiving Dinner 	26	27
28 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	29 9:30 Senior Seekers	30				



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

October 3		
Attendance SS	28	Worship 45/45
Offering		\$12,189.47
October 10		
Attendance SS	NC	Worship 42/48
Offering		\$3,865.49
October 17		
Attendance SS	23	Worship 44/65
Offering		\$3,743.71
October 24		
Attendance SS	NC	Worship 45/71
Offering		\$12,160.66
Needed for Budget		\$5,008.77

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Love All

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

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, Rexann McCrary, Crystal Miller, Aaron Nartker, Ruth Ordway,

Mary Pinckley, Anna Pitman, Elaine Purdue, Steve Ringer, Ron Roose, Juanita Ruble, 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; Marty, John Fry, Jackson Wolph, Scott Sharp, Donna Sharp, Dan Yahraus, Jerry Hug, Lexi Rhodes; *Shut Ins: Fountain Park:* Esther Krill; *SKLD:* Gloria Wright; *Home:* Barb & Ramon Alpaugh, Shirley Bard, Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler, Ron & Linda Lewis, Marilyn Lundy, Leona Puff, Edith Wagner
Ottawa Riverview: Barbara Hake, Hawthorne Glen: Roy Koerner.





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 leads this group.

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

velopments. He later wrote that "a common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has monkeyed with the physics, as well as with chemistry and biology The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."

Theoretical physicist Paul Davies has said that "the appearance of design is overwhelming" and Oxford professor Dr. John Lennox has said "the more we get to know about our universe, the more the hypothesis that there is a Creator . . . gains in credibility as the best explanation of why we are here."

The greatest miracle of all time, without any close seconds, is the universe. It is the miracle of all miracles, one that ineluctably points with the combined brightness of every star to something—or Someone—beyond itself.

Mr. Metaxas is the author, most recently, of "Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life" (Dutton Adult, 2014).

Destined to Win, Larry Snavelly

