

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

From Bob Russell's Blog:

The winter of 1864 was the coldest on record for Greene County, Tennessee. Historian Tim Massey reports that during the Civil War, many of the Union forces near Greenville were so ill-equipped that some froze to death in the frigid weather. One of the Union officers who received permission from a local farmer to allow his troops to camp on the **farmer's property** also asked if his soldiers could burn the rail fence to stay warm in the freezing temperatures. Reluctantly, the farmer gave permission but demanded, **"You may only take the top rung of the fence off and use it for firewood."**

By the following morning, the fence was gone entirely. However, none of the troops had disobeyed their orders. Each watch of soldiers had done as they were told and only used the **fence's top rail**. Yet by morning, there was no fence. Without the fence **rails, the farmer's livestock** wandered off into

dangerous territory, causing the farmer to lose most of them.*

From the beginning of time, God established Biblical **"guardrails" to protect** His creation. Over the past several decades, those guardrails have slowly eroded away. Satan has cleverly manipulated each generation to remove the boundaries one rail at a time. We hardly discern the difference. So now, little remains to protect people from the consequences of total moral **freedom...broken** homes, drug and alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, violence, racial animosity, and national chaos.

Two lessons: We all need Godly boundaries, even though we intuitively resist them. It is our carnal nature to protest any restrictions. We demand total freedom! Yet life without any Biblical boundaries is not freedom. It is anarchy.

Like a train without a track or a kite with no string, we become free to ultimately crash and burn. We need Godly boundaries.

We have all seen the sign on the side of an interstate ramp that **reads: "No Bicycles, No Tractors, No Non-Motorized Vehicles; No Hitchhiking, No Pedestrian Traffic."** Indeed, the interstate highway has all sorts of **restrictions: "Speed Limit 70," "Keep Right Except to Pass," "Keep Off Median," and "No Stopping Ex-**



cept for Emergency." There are more regulations on an interstate than on most roadways. Yet the interstate highway is generally regarded as the safest, fastest, and the best route to a distant destination. In fact, it is often referred to as a **"Freeway."**

August Issue
Volume 11, Issue 8

Inside this issue:

August Servers	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Calendar	3
Facts & Figures	4
Love All	4

Imagine if all boundaries were removed and drivers were totally free to go any direction, at any speed, in any means of transport, and were permitted to stop for a picnic in the median if they chose to do so. The result would be chaotic and deadly. Yet, on the other hand, reasonable regulations make for the best and safest route to our destination.

Almighty God established His boundaries for our

Serving in August

Deaconesses:

Kim Snavelly & Teresa Gambler

Elder Schedule:

7—Jim McPeak
14—Mark Rhodes
21—Larry Snavelly
28—Dave Beerbower

Nursery:

7—1st—Angie & Eric Murphy
SS—Stacie Beerbower
2nd—Stacie Beerbower
14—1st—Ryan Beerbower
SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm
2nd—Stacie Beerbower & Jessica Arend
21—1st—Sandi Oberlin
SS—Barry & Kelly VonDeylen
2nd—Nathan & Ashley Knepper
28—1st—Eric & Angie Murphy

SS—Terence & Beth Clingman

2nd—Stacie Beerbower & Sharon Blinzler

Children's Church:

7—Ryan Beerbower
14—Ryan Beerbower
21—
28—Ryan Beerbower

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Connie Tressler
2 Andi Gienger
3 Sharon Blinzler
5 Barb Thomas
6 Blake Kuszmaul, Barry VonDeylen
7 Carol Beerbower, Larry Snavelly
10 Aiden Wonderly
12 Dave Beerbower, Doug Haase, Ron Lewis
13 Jim McPeak, Keely

Strouse

16 Case Hartman, Sue McElfresh
17 Nola Girardot
18 Tim Ryan
19 John Hill
21 Jonathan McCoy, Kolton Schooley
26 Dawn Sheline
27 Stacey Perry
29 Terry Oxender
30 Ryan Beerbower
31 Charlene Dean, Shawn Gambler, Judy Yahraus



12 Ron & Shellee Brown (18)
15 Larry & Marilyn Sanders (30)
17 Justin & Erica McNamara (9)
19 Larry & Kim Snavelly (33)

Family News

Sympathy:


The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ Vickey Sue Hicks on the sudden loss of her son, Jason.
- ♥ Gene & Ruth Ordway & family on the loss of Ruth's sister-in-law.

- ♥ Dave & Melissa Beerbower & family on the loss of my mother, Joyce Bailey.
- ♥ Jim Smith & family on the death of Jim's son, Chris.
- ♥ Todd & Teresa Gambler & family on the loss of Teresa's uncle, Ken Beck.

Attention Senior Saints: Given the current situation with COVID, we are still feeling cautious about Senior Saints Activities. We will do Lunch Bunch on 8/25 at 5:00 PM at Log Cabin Tavern. No transportation will be provided.

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 8:00 Friday Night Fire	6
7 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	8	9 4:00 Frisbee Golf & Eric's	10	11	12 8:00 Friday Night Fire	13
14 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 12:00 All Church Picnic @ Jaycee Pavilion	15	16	17	18	19 8:00 Friday Night Fire	20
21 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	22	23	24 5:45 Supper 6:30 Club 225/236 6:30 Adult Bible Study	25 5:00 Lunch Bunch @ Log Cabin Tavern	26 9:30 5th Quarter	27 10:00 MOPS Open House
28 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	29	30	31 5:45 Supper 6:30 Club 225/236 6:30 Adult Bible Study			



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		
July 3		
Attendance SS NC		Worship 43/70
Offering		\$4,531.68
July 10		
Attendance SS 28		Worship 50/69
Offering		\$4,257.79
July 17		
Attendance SS 28		Worship 46/80
Offering		\$5,204.70
July 24		
Attendance SS 26		Worship 57/65
Offering		\$3,006.93
Needed for Budget		\$5,091.46

Love All

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

Cancer: Gwen Acker-
Dickinson, Diane Altman, Na-
than Bailey, Marcia Baumgart-
ner, Sue Bever, Tim Bight,
Brent, Jennie Case, Andrew
Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H.,
Sheila Hartnett, Jim Henson,
Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck
Lees, Ron Lewis, Mark & Car-
rie, Tim Mavis, Chloe Merri-
let, Rexann McCrary, Crystal

Miller, Ruth Ordway, Mary
Pinckley, Anna Pitman, Elaine
Purdue, Sue Secoy, Elizabeth
Shetler, Terry Shinaberry, An-
nette Snavelly, Lyle Snavelly,
Amy Tobin, Linda Walker,
Kathy Walton, Drew Way-
man. *Other Concerns:* Jen-
nifer Mavis, Trevor Bailey,
Neighborhood, Arlene Boyer,
Danielle Strouse, Brenda Ridg-
way, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swish-
er, Cheryl Towers, Gene Nash,
Kim Beek, Joshua Taylor,
Keely Strouse, Carson Strouse,
Gene Crawford, children's min-
istry, Danny Hull, Cindy Web-
ber, Kevin Ayre, Kathy Moog,

Marsha Fisher; Marty, John
Fry, Jackson Wolph, Shawn
Roose, Jerry Hug; Fran Mavis,
Nathan Ray, Gene Johns, Ne-
hemiah Haase, Raymond Folk,
Holly Sprow, Shawn Gambler,
Mary Pinckley, Randy Fisher,
Sarah Snavelly, Nikki Gordon
& Family; *Shut Ins:* *Foun-
tain Park:* Esther Krill;
Hillside: Charlene Gambler;
Home: Barb & Ramon
Alpaugh, Annie Engel, Ron &
Linda Lewis, Marilyn Lundy,
Leona Puff, Edith Wagner
SKLD: Gloria Wright.





*I am the vine,
you are the branches*
*If you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit
apart from me you are nothing*

John 15:5



protection and well-being. Parents are to be respected. Sex is to be reserved for marriage. Money is to be earned honestly, spent wisely, and given generously. Speech is to be disciplined. One day a week is to be for rest. Tell the truth. Respect others' property. **Love your neighbors and treat strangers with kindness.**

While we intuitively resist restrictions, respecting **God's rules provides the best blueprint for a good life here.** Jesus said, *"If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."* Jesus came to free us from bondage to sin and death, not to free us from Godly boundaries or guidelines.

Lesson two will follow in September.

Destined to Win,
Larry Snavely



MOPS and MOPS Next will have one final gathering for the summer on Wednesday, August 3rd for a movie at the church building. Grab snacks and drinks at 5:45. The movie starts at 6. There will be an open house on Saturday, August 27, 10 AM-Noon. Regular MOPS meetings will resume the first week of September with meetings on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday nights (1st & 3rd). See Stacie Beerbower for questions or more information.

