

# E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

From Bob Russell's blog:  
The Second Lesson:

**The gradual removal of godly boundaries seems inconsequential but is lethal.** Many Christians imagine it is harmless to lower the rails just slightly. So, they modulated the standards of morality, family, decency, ethics, temperance, reverence, entertainment, language, personal discipline, and even Biblical doctrines. Lowering the rails happens so gradually that they hardly notice. They suggest most of the adjustments were in the name of freedom and to provide an atmosphere of warmth against the frigid environment of Christian legalism.

Indeed, it is true that God's people should not be bound by ineffective traditions or extra-biblical rules. Jesus warned the Pharisees, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them" (Luke 11:46). Yet lately, I've wondered why rails are rarely replaced. Why are the standards rarely increased? Once the bar is lowered, it is seldom raised again—even a little.

Occasionally there should be times when we conclude we are without sufficient guardrails. Maybe we should provide more protection—and ultimately more freedom—by replacing some of the rails we cavalierly removed. I suspect anyone who would dare suggest such a thing would be quickly ridiculed and canceled.

Consider as an example the furious response to the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. The visceral reaction from those outraged at any effort to limit the freedom to kill unborn babies is evi-

September Issue

Volume 11, Issue 9

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dence of the objections that arise when attempts are made to restore previous boundaries. A youth leader once warned, "What parents accept in moderation, their children embrace in excess."

Jesus Christ offers us freedom from sin and death and hell. He said,

## Serving in September

### Deaconesses:

Marcia Gambler & Brienne  
Hetrick

### Elder Schedule:

4—Larry Snavelly  
11—Jim McPeak  
18—Doug Haase  
25—Mark Rhodes

### Nursery:

4—1st-Sandi Oberlin  
SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm  
2nd—Nathan & Ashley Knepper  
11—1st—Eric & Angie Murphy  
SS—Barry & Kelly VonDeylen  
2nd—Sharon Blinzler & Jessica

### Arend

18—1st-Ryan Beerbower  
SS-Stacie Beerbower  
2nd-Stacie Beerbower & Jessica

### Arend

25—1st—Ryan Beerbower  
SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm  
2nd—Nathan & Ashley Knepper

### Children's Church:

4—  
11—  
18—Ryan Beerbower  
25— Ryan Beerbower

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

13 Char Brandt  
14 Charlie Clingaman  
16 Sandy Partee  
18 Lola Beerbower  
20 Evelyn Murphy  
22 Claire Clingaman, Margie  
Olds  
23 Kaitlyn Hesselschwardt,  
Pat McPeak  
27 Bryan Tonneas  
30 Evelyn Deetz, Brigitte  
Kusmaul



7 Gil & Carole Cramer (54)  
11 Dan & Margie Olds (35)  
13 Luc & Rachel Hesselschwardt (19)  
15 Todd & Teresa Gambler  
(32), Mick & Sue McElfresh  
(10)  
24 Eric & Angie Murphy  
(28)  
27 Ryan & Stacie Beerbower  
(8)

## Family News

Janet McCarthy has some trees she needs cut up and removed from her property. The trees are already down. If you are interested in some of this wood, please contact Janet (419-769-5345).

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**“No farmer every plowed a field by turning it over in his mind.”** —George Woodbury

**“Knowledge of what is true and good and beautiful is a vital asset in such a time as this. Ignorance is a liability we cannot afford. ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with...all thy mind.’”** —Harold Blake Walker

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**“Those who love God never meet for the last time.”** Old

Union Church of Christ, Danville, IL

### Attention Senior Saints:

We will do Lunch Bunch on 9/27 at 11:45 AM at Applebees in Defiance. No transportation will be provided.

# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					9:00 5th Quarter	
4 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship	5 	6 9:00 MOPS 10:00 Craft Group	7 5:30 Supper 6:00 MOPS 6:00 Club 225/356 6:15 Adult Bible Study	8	9	10
11 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship 	12 9:30 Senior Seekers	13	14 9:15 La- dies Bible Study @ Sea- sons 5:30 Supper 6:15 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Club 225/356 6:15 Adult Bible Study	15	16	17
18 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship	19 9:30 Senior Seekers	20 9:00 MOPS	21 9:15 La- dies Bible Study @ Sea- sons 5:30 Supper 6:00 MOPS 6:00 Club 225/356 6:15 Adult Bible Study	22 	23 9:00 5th Quarter	24
25 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship	26 9:30 Senior Seekers	27 8:30 Bryan Area Prayer Breakfast 11:45 Lunch Bunch	28 9:15 La- dies Bible Study @ Sea- sons 5:30 Supper 6:15 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Club 225/356 6:15 Adult Bible Study	29	30 9:00 5th Quarter	



First Church of Christ

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Love All, Worship One,  
Make Disciples

[Bryanfcc.org](http://Bryanfcc.org)



Connect with us!

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

### Facts & Figures

August 7

Attendance SS 33      Worship 50/75  
Offering      \$5,586.21

August 14

Attendance SS NC      Worship 40/115  
Offering      \$6,911.69

August 21

Attendance SS 31      Worship 51/78  
Offering      \$

August 28

Attendance SS 32      Worship 47/85  
Offering      \$

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, Chloe Merrilet, Rexann  
McCrary, Crystal Miller, Ruth  
Ordway, Mary Pinckley, Anna

Pitman, Elaine Purdue, Sue  
Secoy, Elizabeth Shetler, Terry  
Shinaberry, Annette Snavelly,  
Lyle Snavelly, Amy Tobin, Lin-  
da Walker, Kathy Walton,  
Drew Wayman. *Other Con-*  
*cerns:* Jennifer Mavis, Trevor  
Bailey, Neighborhood, Arlene  
Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Bren-  
da Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach  
Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Gene  
Nash, Kim Beek, Joshua Tay-  
lor, Keely Strouse, Carson  
Strouse, Gene Crawford, chil-  
dren's ministry, **Danny Hull**,  
Cindy Webber, Kevin Ayre,  
Kathy Moog, Marsha Fisher;  
Marty, John Fry, Jackson

Wolph, Shawn Roose, Jerry  
Hug; Fran Mavis, Nathan  
Ray, Gene Johns, Nehemiah  
Haase, Raymond Folk, Holly  
Sprow, Shawn Gambler, Randy  
Fisher, Nikki Gordon & Fami-  
ly, Edith Wagner, John Lep-  
pelmeier, Braxton & Trish, An-  
nie Engel, Joanne Allison;  
*Shut Ins:* Fountain Park:  
Esther Krill;  
*Hillside:* Charlene Gambler;  
*Home:* Barb & Ramon  
Alpaugh, Annie Engel, Ron &  
Linda Lewis, Marilyn Lundy,  
Leona Puff, Edith Wagner  
*SKLD:* Gloria Wright.





# A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE.

PROVERBS 17:22

"And He shall be as the light of the morning,  
when the sun riseth, even  
a morning without clouds;  
as the tender grass  
springing out of  
the earth by  
clear shining  
after rain."

- Billy David



2 Samuel 23:4

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Yet Jesus does not offer us freedom from all restrictions or guidelines. In fact, He said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15 ESV). The fences established by God should never be lowered, and guidelines established by the righteous leaders of the past should only be moved cautiously, lest the sheep, without a shepherd, wander off and become lost.

Destined to Win,  
Larry Snavelly



MOPS

MOPS and MOPS  
Next resumes in September! Regular MOPS meetings will resume the first week of September. Tuesday (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) gatherings begin September 6th, 9-11 AM at the church. Wednesday night gatherings (1st & 3rd Wednesdays) begin September 7, 6-7:30 PM. Childcare will be provided. Contact Stacie Beerbower or Kim Snavelly for questions. Check out their Facebook page @ MOPSoftbryanfcc. You may also contact them via [mopsoftbryanfcc@gmail.com](mailto:mopsoftbryanfcc@gmail.com).

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL

JOY & PEACE

AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY

OVERFLOW

♥ ♥ ♥ WITH HOPE BY THE ➡

POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

ROMANS 15:13