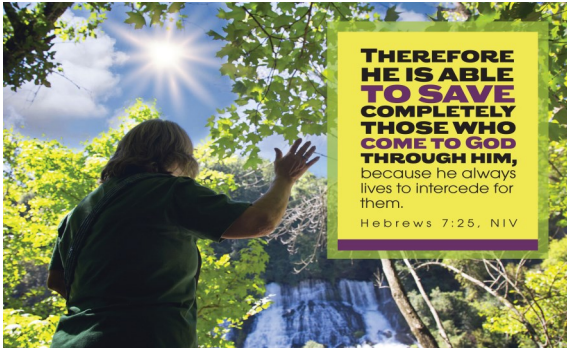




FIRST Church Of Christ

February 2024 NEWSLETTER



Recent news has focused on reveling celebrities involved with the convicted pedophile, Jeffrey Epstein. Discussions swirled, and media pundits gossiped about who traveled on Epstein's

plane to his private island in the Caribbean, infamous for the exploitation and abuse of teenage girls. The adage "Familiarity breeds contempt" doesn't always hold true. Often, familiarity leads to acceptance...and that eventually leads to endorsement. Tragically, our culture is creeping towards normalizing pedophilia. Talk of lowering the age of consent circulate, and naïve parents laugh at drag queen shows for kindergartners. Pedophiles are euphemistically termed as "minor-attracted persons." And since Epstein's death, Epstein Island began drawing many tourists, more intrigued with its infamy than disgusted about "Pedophile Island."

Fifty years ago, the American psychiatrist Dr. Karl Menninger released the bestseller "Whatever Became of Sin?" Menninger predicted a time when "sin" would vanish from our everyday language. He suggested that the definition of wrongdoing would shift to terms like illness, disorder, dysfunction, syndrome, etc., positing that crime might go unpunished and criminal acts excused as medical abnormalities, absolving personal responsibility. It seems Menninger's predictions are coming true. Sin is downplayed in our churches, and few sermons even use the term.

Last week a Christian podcaster interviewed a porn star and asked if she thought God was pleased with her occupation. Without hesitation, she responded, "I'm not concerned. After all, we're not hurting anyone. And I know God loves every." In contrast a young woman excited about her newfound Christianity, shared her story with me. "I visited the church several times and enjoyed it. At a pre-membership class, the pastor outlined the stance on cohabitation, and I was immediately convicted. My boyfriend and

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Office Hours:

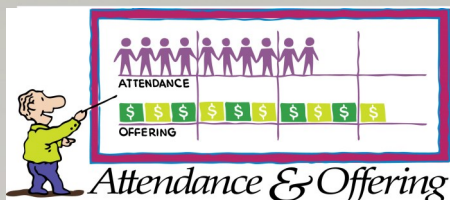
Monday—Thursday
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

www.bryanfcc.org

419-636-3509 (Office)

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firstcofc@cityofbryan.net



Attendance & Offering

January 7

Attendance 50/85

Offering \$3,760.16

January 14

Attendance 31/51

Offering \$5,382.96

January 21

Attendance 54/90

Offering \$6,967.92

January 28

Attendance 48/78

Offering \$

Needed for Budget:

\$4,967.69



February Servers

Deaconesses:

Margie Olds & Kim Snavelly

Elder Schedule:

4—Larry Snavelly

11—Dave Beerbower

18—Doug Haase

25—Mark Rhodes

Nursery:

4—1st—Ashley Knepper; SS—Barry & Kelly Von Deylen;
2nd—Deb Rhodes

11—1st—; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Kim Snavelly & Janet
McCarthy

18—1st—Ashley Knepper; SS—; 2nd—Cody & Ashley
Grimm

25—1st—; SS—Shaun & Jessica Arend; 2nd—Jessica Ar-
end & Julia Haase



Prayer Changes People

Prayer is not a matter of coming to God with our wish list and pleading with Him to give us what we ask for. Prayer is first and foremost the experience of being in the presence of God, whether or not we have our request granted, whether or not we get to take home anything as a result of the encounter, we are changed by having come into the presence of God. A person who has spent an hour or two in the presence of God will be a different person for some time afterward.

—Harold Kushner in
Who Needs God





2 Vincent Girardot, Sawyer Von Deylen

7 Aaliya Grimm, Jacob Manges

9 Carole Cramer, Esther Rosendaul

12 Cassidy Hankey

14 Tracy Brandeberry, Maxton Sprow

19 Stephanie Ramey

21 Julia Haase, Esther Krill

23 Tyler Beck, Sharon Brewer, Rilyn Perry

24 Miles Manges, Edith Wagner

25 Melissa Beerbower

27 John Altman



5 Ron & Karen Roose (52)

14 Tom & Cindy Horton (38)

26 Barry & Kelly Von Deylen (7)

Sympathy: The church family extends her sympathy to Shawn & Todd Gambler & families on the passing of their aunt, Marsha Fisher.

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Austin Brandeberry (HI), Josh Severs (AL), Braxton Singer (NC), Jordan Thornburg (GA), Katie Sparks (PA), Wesley Tressler (CO). **Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Marcia Baumgartner, Sue Bever, Tim Bight, Brent, Jennie Case, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H., Jim Henson, Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Mark & Carrie, Chloe Merrilet, Rexann McCrary, Crystal Miller, Ruth Ordway, Mary Pinckley, Anna Pitman, Elaine Purdue, Mike Roose, Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Denise Smith, Annette Snavelly, Amy Tobin, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman, Raegan Wonderly. **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, , children's ministry, Danny Hull, Cindy Webber, Kevin Ayre, Kathy Moog, Marsha Fisher; Marty, John Fry, Jackson Wolph, Shawn Roose, Fran Mavis, Nathan Ray, Nehemiah Haase, Raymond Folk, Randy Fisher, Annie Engel, Jason Gregg, Nikki Hull, Ryan Yahraus, Khloe Hartman, Joanne Allison, Martha Hardy, Tommy Morr, Sandy Partee, Dave Stutzman, Bill Brewer, John Leppelmeier, Ellen Walker, Grace Slagle, Stephanie Beerbower, Tootie Bowman, Jeff McCoy; **Shut Ins:** **Bryan Healthcare:** Esther Rosendaul; **Fairlawn Haven:** John Altman; **Fountain Park:** Esther Krill; **Hillside:** Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler; **Home:** Ron & Linda Lewis, Leona Puff, Edith Wagner



Upcoming EVENTS

Craft Group
2/6/2024

Chili Luncheon
2/11/2024

20° (Men's Leadership Training)
2/13/2024



Follow us on Facebook

Website:

www.bryanfcc.org



Level 1: All services will proceed as scheduled.

Level 2 at 6 AM Sunday:

All services will be cancelled.

Level 3: All services will be cancelled.

Wednesday Nights: If school is closed, we are closed or as we deem necessary.

Please check the church website or WBCL for weather updates.

SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 2/27 at 11:45 AM at Frankie's in Bryan. Please meet there.




I had been living together without much thought. That night I realized, "Wow! We are living in sin. We need to marry and be baptized." Kudos to that church for boldly defining sin and standing for righteousness!

Salvation starts with realizing we are sinners destined for Hell. The Bible warns that we are "*dead in [our] trespasses and sin*" (Eph. 2:1). Yet sin is so pervasive that we are no longer appalled or disgusted by it or feel guilty when we participate in it. The Bible warns of a fallen state so depraved that the conscience becomes "*seared as with a hot iron*" (1 Tim. 4:2). As a result, "*There is no fear of God before their eyes*" (Rom. 3:18). And the prophet Ezekiel warned the Israelite priests that they were complicit because they treated the people's sins as trivial. (See Ezek. 8:17)

The prophet Jeremiah decried Israel's spiritual insensitivity by asking, "Are they ashamed of their disgusting actions? Not at all—they don't even know how to blush!" (Jer. 16:5q). Let's not allow our righteous anger towards pedophilia to be diminished by the familiarity of the Epstein story or the influence of pundits and celebrities. Let's love what God loves and hate what God hates. All believers should rise in righteous anger against the shameful sin of sex trafficking and insist the perpetrators and those who enabled it to be held accountable regardless of their celebrity status.

Destined to Win, Larry

February

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