



FIRST Church Of Christ

March 2024 NEWSLETTER

During the Super Bowl, an ad was run. At the end it said, "Jesus gets us." Here are some thoughts from Bob Russell regarding this ad....

The wealthy believers who invested millions of dollars in the "He Gets Us!" ad aired during the Super Bowl are to be commended. The first-rate commercial depicted compassionate Christians washing the feet of the marginalized and outcast. The ad received considerable attention, and the name of Jesus was exalted. That is good!

The phrase, "He Gets Us!" is true. Hebrews 4:15 reminds us, *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."* Since Jesus was "acquainted with sorrows and grief," He identifies with our hurts and understands our struggles.

Jesus repeatedly taught His followers to express compassion to others, especially those in distress. Jesus said, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40). And Jesus did wash the feet of His disciples (including Judas, who was about to betray Him), and said, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (Jn. 13:14).

So the basic message of the "He Gets Us!" ad was Biblical and meaningful. Jesus is not a hater. He cares for the drug addict, the climate change activist, and the woman who visits Planned Parenthood seeking an abortion. As should we. Jesus welcomes sinners and invites all to "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

The campaign about Jesus has been criticized by many—both Christian and non-Christian. Some Christians criticize the amount of money spent, while others lament the secular social justice tone of the message. Non-Christians, expectedly, criticize the effort to portray Jesus in a positive light. Many secular-

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Office Hours:

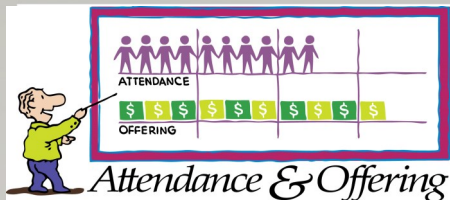
Monday—Thursday
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

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Attendance & Offering

February 4

Attendance 47/88

Offering \$5,390.06

February 11

Attendance 49/93

Offering \$4,486.16

February 18

Attendance 54/90

Offering \$5,633.43

February 25

Attendance 42/84

Offering \$337.43

Needed for Budget:

\$4,967.69

March Servers

Deaconesses:

Teresa Gambler & Brienne Hetrick

Elder Schedule:

- 3—Larry Snavelly
- 10—Dave Beerbower
- 17—Doug Haase
- 24—Mark Rhodes
- 31—Larry Snavelly



Nursery:

- 3—1st—Ashley Knepper; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Kim Snavelly & Sharon Blinzler
- 10—1st—; SS—**NEED VOLUNTEER!**; 2nd—Sharon Blinzler
- 17—1st—Ashley Knepper; SS—Shaun & Jessica Arend; 2nd—Julia Haase & Jessica Arend
- 24—1st—; SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm; 2nd—**NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**
- 31—1st—; SS—; 2nd—**NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

Easter

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen. It is not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg





3 Amy Dominique, Erica McNamara, Sherry Trubey
5 Gerry Wiyrick
13 Janet McCarthy, Phyllis Waldron
14 Beth Clingaman
17 Ramon Alpaugh, Parker Von Deylen
18 Teresa Gambler
19 Samantha Stensland-Viskalns
22 Preston Hull
23 Gary Brown
26 Ruth Thomas
27 Austin Bard
28 Dylan Dominique, Wanda Hug
29 Bill Brewer, Sue Smethurst
30 Brian Criswell



7 Mike & Lexy Robson (4)
10 John & Mary Garver (61)
27 Adam & Sarah Perry (3)
29 Toby & Jane Runyan (16)
Congratulations!

♦ **Adam & Sarah Perry on the safe arrival of Rockwell Joseph born on 1/30. He weighed in at 7# 10 oz. and 20.5". He joins big sister, Rilyn.**
 ♦ **Barry & Kelly Von Deylen on the safe arrival of Maddox John born on 2/4. He weighed in at 9# .6 oz. and 20.5". He joins brothers Parker, Peyton, & Bennett and sister, Sawyer. Maternal grandparents are Dave & Melissa Beerbower. Great-grandmother is Carol Beerbower.**

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, 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, Dave Stutzman, Bill Brewer, Ellen Walker, Grace Slagle, Tootie Bowman, Jeff McCoy, Dave Hug, Nikki Fisher, Joanne Allison; **Shut Ins:** **Bryan Healthcare:** Esther Rosendaul; **Fair-lawn Haven:** John Altman; **Fountain Park:** Esther Krill; **Hillside:** Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler; **Home:** Ron & Linda Lewis, Leona Puff, Edith Wagner



Upcoming EVENTS

Craft Group
3/5/2024

20° (Men's Leadership Training)
3//2024

Palm Sunday
3/24/2024

Pre-Easter Breakfast
"Invitation to the Feast"
3/28/2024

Communion & Prayer
3/28/2024

Easter Sunday
"It is Finished"
3/31/2024



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Website:

www.bryanfcc.org

SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 3/26 at 11:45 AM at Nana's Pancakes in Bryan. Please meet there.



ists point to the donors supporting the campaign, warning others not to be duped by the campaign they describe as funded by "bigoted, MAGA-loving Christians." In an article for Vox, one critic denounced the effort, saying, "While the clear goal of the ad is to bring people together across different life experiences and backgrounds, the result is a disjointed, chaotic dartboard effect that raises far more questions than it provides answers."

Similar to the Vox critic, I felt the ads left viewers confused rather than inspired or intrigued. Now, before I explain further, let me preface it by recalling an old story about acclaimed Evangelist Dwight Moody. A man criticized Moody for the way he conducted altar calls at the end of his crusades. Moody tersely asked the critic how he conducted them at his own crusades. The critic admitted he didn't preach. To which Moody replied, "Well, I like the way I'm doing it better than the way you are not doing it."

So I acknowledge I did not spend millions of dollars on a Super Bowl ad to exalt Jesus, and I am glad someone tried to do so. And I like the way they did it better than the way I didn't do it. With that said, I hope the creators of the campaign consider some of this critique as a suggestion for improvement rather than an outright dismissal of their efforts.

Admittedly, I realize it is difficult to present the essence of the Gospel in a 30-second commercial. But the primary need of our un-

principled culture is not to leave the impression that “Jesus loves us despite our sin” and that is all, which I feel the ads portray. Instead, our lost world needs to know that Jesus loves us despite our sin, calls us to repentance from our sin, and saves us from the consequences of that sin.

I would be more inclined to fully support the “He Gets Us!” campaign efforts if the ad directed viewers to a website where they would be presented with a clear explanation of the gospel. However, the HeGetsUs.com website appears to further the ads’ soft-sell of the gospel, with more effort given to distance themselves from Christian stereotypes and to ensure site visitors they are not trying to get them to go to church. The site barely portrays Jesus as God and says little about the cross or our need for repentance in order to escape the punishment of hell.



The first thing a sick person needs to hear is not, “The doctor really cares about you,” although that’s reassuring. The first thing a sick person needs is a correct diagnosis. “You have a serious infection. It’s potentially lethal, but the good news is it is treatable. Now, here’s what you need to do to survive.”

Jesus came to earth to “seek and save the lost.” His most graphic display of love was not washing feet but the giving of His life on the cross “as a ransom for many.” The reason His atoning death was necessary was, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Jesus’ first recorded sermon was not, “God loves you and understands you and accepts you as you are⁴.” Jesus’ very first recorded message to the world was “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matt. 4:17). His last recorded words to His disciples were, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (MK 16:15-16).

Jesus came to redeem us from the lethal consequences of our sin. But our redemption is contingent upon repentance which is confessing our wickedness and turning from our evil ways and walking in obedience to Christ. Jesus warned, “...unless you repent, you too will all perish” (Lk. 13:3). After Simon Peter preached the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost, the people were convicted of their sin against Jesus and cried out, “What should we do?” Peter didn’t say, “You don’t need to do anything. Jesus gets you and automatically forgives you.” “Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’ (Acts 2:38). When we repent of sin and express our surrender to Jesus as Lord by being baptized into Him, Jesus not only cleanses us of sin, He empowers us to conquer death and live forever. He promises, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (Jn. 11:25).

Although I appreciate those who invested millions to exalt the name of Jesus during the Super Bowl, I’m convinced the primary message a fallen world needs to hear can be conveyed in half a minute, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Destined to Win, Larry

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship	4 9:30 Senior Seekers	5 10:00 Craft Group	6 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Supper 6:15 MOPS 6:15 Club 226 6:15 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship 	11 9:30 Senior Seekers	12 6:30 20°	13 10:00 La- dies Bible Study 5:30 Supper 6:15 Ladies Bible Study 6:15 Club 226 6:15 Bible Study	14	15	16
17 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship	18 9:30 Senior Seekers	19 	20 5:30 Supper 6:15 MOPS 6:15 Club 226 6:15 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Wor-ship	25 9:30 Senior Seekers	26 11:45 Lunch Bunch	27 5:30 Supper 6:15 Ladies Bible Study 6:15 Club 226 6:15 Bible Study	28 9:00-3:00 Prayer & Communion 9:30 Senior Saints Pre-Easter Breakfast	29 	30
31 8:00 Worship 9:15 Break-fast 10:15 Wor-ship						