

# FIRST Church Of Christ

July 2025 NEWSLETTER

From Bob Russell's Blog

This past week, Israel launched a large-scale military attack against Iran. Since Iranian officials have long declared their goal to annihilate the Jewish state, it's understandable that Israeli leaders would act to prevent their hostile neighbor from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran immediately retaliated with a barrage of long-range missiles aimed at Tel Aviv and the surrounding area. The escalation in the Middle East brings to mind a sobering prophecy in Zechariah 12:2-3:

*"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations."*

No modern nation is more frequently targeted or globally scrutinized than Israel. Its landmass is roughly the size of New Jersey, its population just under ten million. Compared to the size and population of surrounding Muslim nations, Israel is a speck on the map—yet it remains the epicenter of international tension. Though surrounded by larger and often hostile nations, Israel dominates headlines and is regularly portrayed as the source of instability that could ignite World War III.

Even though Iran has pledged to destroy Israel, some critics call Israel's preemptive strike "disproportionate." Even though Hamas launched a vicious surprise attack on October 7, 2023—killing over a thousand Israelis and taking hundreds of hostages—Israel is the one accused of genocide. Even though Israel has long stood as an ally of the United States, pro-Palestinian sentiment is surging on college campuses. Even though God promised to bless those who bless Abraham's descendants and to curse those who curse them, antisemitism is spreading again around the world.

The prophet Zechariah warned that all nations would gather against Israel, but that Jerusalem would be an "immovable rock"—a burden too heavy to move. Unfortunately, many Americans seem ambivalent about it. Maybe it's due to years of conflict, constant headlines, and doctrinal confusion that have dulled concern for what the Bible says about the role of Israel in the end times. Yet there's been a concerning trend among some evangelical circles to dismiss Israel's significance and to downplay Bible prophecy altogether. Many pastors scoff at the idea of preaching about Christ's

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### Office Hours:

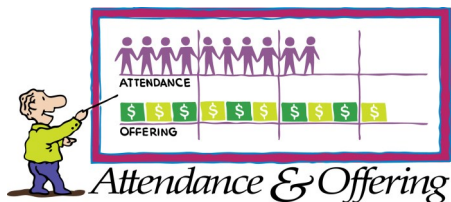
Monday—Thursday  
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

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### June 1

Attendance 54/82  
Offering \$5,668.72

### June 8

Attendance 38/100  
Offering \$9,712.72

### June 15

Attendance 49/91  
Offering \$5,684.13

### June 22

Attendance 50/80  
Offering \$2,632.72

### June 29

Attendance /  
Offering \$

### Needed for Budget:

\$5,099.21



## July Servers

### Deaconesses:

MaKenzie Manges & Sherry Trubey

### Elder Schedule:

6—Shawn Brandeberry  
13—Doug Haase  
20—Seth Ramey  
27—Mark Rhodes

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

### Nursery:

6—1st—; SS—Jessica & Shaun Arend; 2nd—Jessica Arend & Julia Haase  
13—1st—; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Janet McCarthy & Deb Rhodes  
20—1st—; SS—Need Volunteer; 2nd—Need Volunteer  
27—1st—; SS—Kim Snavelly; 2nd—Kim Snavelly

### Greeters

1st—; 2nd—



*Those* who know your name  
trust in you, for you, **LORD,**  
have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:10, NIV



## **JULY** Birthdays

1 Kaleb Hartman  
 3 Marcia Culler  
 5 Joan Brown, Jerry Hug  
 6 John Leppelmeier  
 7 Kolden Avina, Khloe Hartman,  
 Leona Puff  
 9 Ron Walker  
 10 Madelon Salisbury  
 12 Wyatt Garza, JoNell Gotshall, The-  
 resa Kuszmaul, Adam Perry  
 14 Andyn Haynes  
 16 Larry Sanders  
 18 Hallie Geinger  
 21 Regina Kidd, Bennett Von Deylen  
 22 Kara Ramey, Zane Roose  
 25 Bettie Finken  
 28 LuAnn Jerger, Autumn McNamara,  
 Justin

## **JULY** Anniversaries

McNamara  
 31 Shane Cochrane  
  
 13 Ron & Ellen Walker (40)  
 19 Terence & Beth Clingaman (11)  
 20 Dan & Deb Nixon (40)  
 21 Darrell & Shirley Kinnan (68)  
 Dick & Theresa Kuszmaul (41)  
 Troy & Trisha Hug (10)  
 25 Henry & Regina Kidd (61)  
 28 Gene & Ruth Ordway (57)  
 29 John & Janet Leppelmeier (53)  
 30 Gary & Teresa Brown (37)



## Love All

**Our Service Personnel:** Austin Brandeberry (HI), Zachary Perkins (IN), Jordan Thornburg (NE), Katie Sparks (PA). **Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Marcia Baumgartner, Sue Bever, Tim Bight, Brent, Mary Ellen Bowman, Mark & Carrie Campo, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H, Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Tim McKown, Rexann McCrary, Lora Manon, Chloe Merrilet, Crystal Miller, Ruth Ordway, Mary Pinckley, Elaine Purdue, Mike Roose, Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Stu Short, Annette Snavelly, Holly Sprow, Kortney Subasic, Amy Tobin, 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, children's ministry, Danny Hull, Cindy Webber, Kevin Ayre, Kathy Moog, Marty, John Fry, Jackson Wolph, Shawn Roose, Fran Mavis, Nathan Ray, Nehemiah Haase, Randy Fisher, Jason Gregg, Ryan Yahraus, Khloe Hartman, Martha Hardy, Ellen Walker, Ronnie Pinckley, Tommy Morr, Garry Oberlin, John Leppelmeier, Tootie Bowman, Henry Kidd, Maverick Fields, Chuck Salisbury, Pat Northcut, Nikki Taylor, Tim Gordon. Sharon Brewer, Robert Buskirk, Beth Clingaman, Shawn Gambler; **Shut Ins:** **Hillside:** Charlene Gambler; **Home:** Charlene Dean, Linda Lewis, Norma Lorentz, Leona Puff, Vince & Nola Girardot.





## Upcoming EVENTS

**Ladies Bible Study**  
**7/16/2025**  
**6:15-7:15 PM**  
**Kim's House**

**Splash Pad Day**  
**7/20/2025**  
**2:00-4:00 PM**  
**Archbold Splash Pad**

**Lunch Bunch**  
**7/30/2025**  
**12:30 @ Asian Grill,**  
**Defiance (NOTE**  
**DAY & TIME**  
**CHANGE!)**



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## SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 7/30 at 12:30 PM at Asian Grill, Defiance. Please meet there.  
(PLEASE NOTE DAY & TIME CHANGE!)

return, with prophecy often treated like a punchline. Just as in Noah's day, people willfully ignore the obvious warnings—assuming everything will continue as normal—despite the fulfillment of prophecies and the promised judgment of God.

While some debate the prophetic significance of modern Israel, Scripture is clear: God chose Israel to play a central role in His redemptive story. Through the Jewish people, God gave the Law, the Prophets, and ultimately the Messiah. Regardless of one's views on end-times timelines, Christians are called to reject antisemitism, to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and to recognize that God's promises—including the promise of salvation through Jesus—are for both Jew and Gentile alike. The land may be disputed, but God's heart for His people is not.

And no matter where you land on end-times theology—Jesus' warning about the end times remains unshakably clear.

*"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left."* (Matthew 24:37-41)

In light of these warnings, how should we live? Peter tells us: *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."* (2 Peter 3:10-13)

None of us can predict how serious the current Middle East conflict will become. It may die down quickly, and lasting peace will be restored. Or it could spiral into something much larger, drawing in world powers and escalating into global crisis. But one thing is clear: this is no time to be spiritually indifferent.

It's time to get our house in order.

*"Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."* (Matthew 24:42)

**Destined to Win, Larry**

# JULY

| Sun                                                                                          | Mon | Tue | Wed                                  | Thu | Fri                                                                                   | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|              |     | 1   | 2                                    | 3   |    | 5   |
| <b>6</b><br>8:00 Worship<br>9:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Worship                              | 7   | 8   | 9                                    | 10  | 11                                                                                    | 12  |
| <b>13</b><br>8:00 Worship<br>9:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Worship                             | 14  | 15  | <b>16</b><br>6:15 Ladies Bible Study | 17  | 18                                                                                    | 19  |
| <b>20</b><br>8:00 Worship<br>9:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Worship<br>2:00 Archbold Splash Pad | 21  | 22  | 23                                   | 24  | 25                                                                                    | 26  |
| <b>27</b><br>8:00 Worship<br>9:15 Sunday School<br>10:15 Worship                             | 28  | 29  | <b>30</b><br>12:30 Lunch Bunch       | 31  |  |     |

