



# FIRST Church Of Christ

May 2024 NEWSLETTER

By Bob Russell:

I do not profess to be an expert in the ongoing debate between creationism and evolution. The prevalent arguments in both educational and theological spheres often seem trivial. Maybe I am a simpleton, but I have three primary reasons that I believe in the creation narrative in the book of Genesis.

First, the concept of a creator just makes sense. If you attend an elaborate Kentucky Derby party and see a spectacular ice sculpture of a horse, would you wonder how it was crafted? Would you consider whether the artist may have purchased several bags of ice at the store, poured them in a cooler, and, during his commute, hit a large pothole that caused the ice to bind together, forming a marvelous, perfect depiction of a horse? Of course not. You would compliment the artist on his craftsmanship.

What is more complex—an ice sculpture or a living, breathing, eating, running, reproducing thoroughbred? How can one gaze upon the marvels of a horse, or the innocence of a baby, or the majesty of a tree and dismiss them as mere cosmic accidents? The Bible says, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1). We instinctively know the difference between deliberate design and random results. It makes sense for us to believe an all-powerful creator is behind our complex universe.

The second reason I believe the creation story is that the counterargument—that life is the product of random events over countless millennia—defies reason. It requires a belief that nothing became matter, chaos

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### Office Hours:

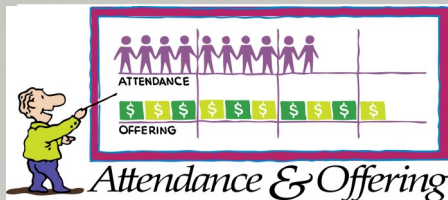
Monday—Thursday  
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

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## May Servers

### Deaconesses:

Cindy Horton & Jane Runyan

### Elder Schedule:

5—Dave Beerbower  
 12—Doug Haase  
 19—Mark Rhodes  
 26—Larry Snavely



### Nursery:

5—1st—; SS—Shaun & Jessica Arend; 2nd—Jessica Arend & Julia Haase  
 12—1st—Ashley Knepper; SS—Kim Snavely; 2nd—Kim Snavely  
 19—1st—; SS—**VOLUNTEER NEEDED!**; 2nd—Barry & Kelly Von Deylen  
 26—1st—Ashley Knepper; SS—Cody & Ashley Grimm; 2nd—Sharon Blinzler

### April 7

Attendance 55/103  
 Offering \$7,675.73

### April 14

Attendance 63/86  
 Offering \$4,587.16

### April 21

Attendance 49/106  
 Offering \$4,342.78

### April 28

Attendance 44/82  
 Offering \$129.44

### Needed for Budget:

\$4,967.69



## Mr. Rogers on Parenting

One of the most important gifts a parent can give a child is the gift of that child's uniqueness. Children's parents are the very best people to let them know that they are different, that there are no others in the whole world who are exactly like them, and that their differences are part of what makes them special and loveable. When parents value their child's uniqueness, that child can learn self-worth and the worth of others as well.

*Fred Rogers, Presbyterian Minister,  
 of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*



2 Linda Hill  
 3 Gail Wyrick  
 8 Deb Hallett, Dick Kuszmaul

10 Ron Brown, Brienne Hetrick  
 11 Alma Thornburg  
 12 Norma Lorentz, Kortney Subasic  
 14 Megan Grimm  
 15 Troy Hug  
 19 Isaiah Knepper  
 20 David Cunningham, Kim Snavely  
 22 Cate Clingaman, Mary Pinckley  
 26 Scott Hartman  
 28 Tanya Barnes, Cadance Ryan  
 29 Janet Leppelmeier, Ezra Murphy  
 31 Vickie Rhodes



8 Shawn & Tracy Brandeberry (25)

15 Doug & Vickie Grimm (31)



16 Jacob & MaKenzie Manges (9)

21 Joe & LuAnn Jerger (36)

25 Steve & Connie Tressler (56), Harm & Brienne Hetrick (22)

**Congratulations!**

The church family rejoices with Avery & Emilee Moeller on the safe arrival of Archie Baker on Sunday, March 31st. Archie weighed in at 6# 15 oz. and 20.25". Archie joins big sister, Ellie. Maternal grandparents are Larry & Kim Snavely.

We also rejoice with David & Samantha Olds on the arrival of Jett Jackson. Jett also made his debut on Easter Sunday (3/31). He weighed in at 8# 10 oz. and 20". Paternal grandparents are Dan & Margie Olds.



## Love All

**Our Service Personnel:** Austin Brandeberry (HI), Josh Severs (AL), Braxton Singer (NC), Jordan Thornburg (GA), Katie Sparks (PA), Wesley Tressler (Korea). **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, Stu Short, Denise Smith, Annette Snavely, Amy Tobin, Linda Walker, 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, Raymond Folk, Randy Fisher, Annie Engel, Jason Gregg, Nikki Hull, Ryan Yahraus, Khloe Hartman, Martha Hardy, Tommy Morr, Bill Brewer, Ellen Walker, Dave Hug, Nikki Fisher, Ron Lewis, Dave & Connie Cunningham, Mike Green, Esther Krill, John Leppelmeier, Mark & Carrie Campo; **Shut Ins:** **Bryan Healthcare:** Esther Rosendaul; **Fairlawn Haven:** John Altman; **Fountain Park:** Esther Krill (hospice); **Hillside:** Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler; **Home:** Ron & Linda Lewis, Leona Puff.



## Upcoming EVENTS

**Craft Group  
5/7/2024**

**20° (Men's Leader-  
ship Training)  
5/14/2024**

**Volunteer Apprecia-  
tion Dinner  
5/15/2024**

**Mother's Day Tea  
5/19/2024**

**Lunch Bunch @ Dos  
Eppi's in Bryan  
5/28/2024**



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Website:

[www.bryanfcc.org](http://www.bryanfcc.org)

## SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 5/28 at 11:45 AM at Dos Eppi's in Bryan. Please meet there.



### *On Your Special Day*

God bless you, Mother, on this special day  
For always being lovable and dear,  
For thoughtful things you find to do and say  
That mean so much to others all the year.

For patience and for willingness to share  
Whatever comes, in joy and sorrow too,  
For thoughtfulness and tender, loving care.  
God bless you, Mother, all your lifetime through.


—Plymouth Congregational Church

Aberdeen, SD





# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Supper 6:15 MOPS 6:15 Club 226 6:26 Adult Bible Study 7:30 Praise Band Practice	2	3	4
5 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	6 9:30 Senior Seekers	7	8 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Supper 6:15 MOPS 6:15 Club 226 6:26 Adult Bible Study 7:30 Praise Band Practice	9	10	11
12 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 	13 9:30 Senior Seekers	14 6:30 20°	15 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 5:30 Volunteer Appreciation	16	17	18 
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 12:00 Mothers Day Tea	20 9:30 Senior Seekers	21	22 10:00 Ladies Bible Study	23	24	25
26 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	27 Church Offices Closed 	28 11:45 Lunch Bunch	29 10:00 Ladies Bible Study	30	31	

became order, the inanimate became animate, ignorance became intelligence, and the indiscriminate became complex without any guidance. That is not logical.

Author Frank Peretti mused about the absurdity of the notion—that billions of years ago, a mass of goo was struck by lightning and, incredibly, it quivered with life! Then, that one-celled amoeba swam around in the swamp for billions of years until it developed fins and scales. That implausible fish swam around in the ocean for billions of years but so desperately wanted to test dry land that it somehow developed a hard shell and lungs to breathe above water. Amazingly, it eventually crawled onto land and, over billions of years, began craving the ability to climb trees. Astonishingly, it developed claws and a long tail and ate nuts! But that squirrely creature wanted to move faster through the trees, so it developed a longer tail and different bone structures in its legs and began eating bananas. Then that evolutionary miracle wanted so badly to smoke, drink, and cuss that it stood up on two legs and became a man! Frank Peretti titles this implausible long story “From Goo to You by Way of the Zoo.” Come on! The faith required by the evolutionist to actually accept that as truth is nonsensical!

The third and most significant reason I believe in the Genesis narrative is that Jesus Christ believed it and taught it as fact. “Haven’t you read that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,?’” (Matthew 19:4). To suggest that the universe is the product of chance is to claim superiority over Jesus Christ. Unless the evolutionists can heal, save, impact the world, and then conquer death and raise themselves to life like Jesus, I am going to take Jesus at His word.

When I became a Christian, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and the Lord of my life. Jesus said, “I am the...truth” (see John 14:6). Therefore, I believe what Jesus said about creation. It reminds me of an old bumper sticker that read, “Jesus said it. I believe it. That settles it.” Someone suggested the bumper sticker should really say, “Jesus said it. That settles it, whether I believe it or not!”

So, for me, believing the Genesis narrative is really quite simple. I believe the account of the only One who displayed power over science by conquering death, and that settles it.

Destined to Win, Larry

