



FIRST Church Of Christ

December 2024 NEWSLETTER

Traditions can be beautiful reminders, but they are not the essence of worship. Worship is not about preserving customs but about expressing love and adoration to a holy and sovereign God. God desires communion and devotion from us. Approaching Him with a humble and obedient heart matters far more than ritualistic actions.

My wife and I have a tradition of kissing each other goodbye and hello each day—a good habit, but it’s usually a simple, ritualistic peck. Sometimes, if she’s wearing lipstick, it’s just a “pucker” in each other’s direction! It’s a nice tradition, but not very meaningful. Thankfully, I know my wife truly loves me. All of us want a marriage that is not just going through the motions, offering a ritualistic kiss or “I love you.” We desire spouses who want to be in our presence, to hug, talk, listen, and really kiss us. We want our spouses to be fully devoted and truly love us.

Similarly, God wants more than ritualistic, go-through-the-motions worship. He desires a deep covenant connection—a devotion that reflects our acknowledgment of His Lordship, not a rote display.

Some rituals and traditions can be positive reminders of God’s presence, moving us toward a deeper connection with Him. Yet, they can easily become routine and meaningless. God wants more than rote prayers, automatic church attendance, routine singing, and mechanical tithing. He wants our heartfelt attention. He wants real conversation, complete trust, intimate fellowship, and joyful passion in His presence.

That is why God once spoke sharply to His people, who had reduced their faith to hollow acts: “*I despise your religious feasts; I can-*



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Office Hours:

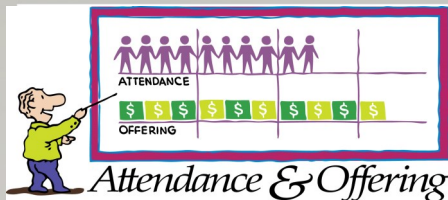
Monday—Thursday
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

www.bryanfcc.org

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November 3

Attendance 53/83
Offering \$5,414.55

November 10

Attendance 54/90
Offering \$3,873.71

November 17

Attendance 48 /101
Offering \$6,579.07

November 24

Attendance 53/73
Offering \$7,841.74

Needed for Budget:

\$4,967.69



December Servers

Deaconesses:

Diane Altman & Deb Rhodes

Elder Schedule:

1—Mark Rhodes
8—Larry Snavely
15—Dave Beerbower
22—Doug Haase
29—Seth Ramey

Nursery:

1—1st—; SS—Kim Snavely; 2nd—Deb Rhodes & Janet McCarthy
8—1st—; SS—Kim Snavely; 2nd—Kim Snavely
15—1st—; SS—Shaun & Jessica Arend; 2nd—Sharon Blinzler & Jessica Arend
22—1st—; SS—**NEED VOLUNTEER!**; 2nd—**NEED VOLUNTEER!**
29—2nd—**NEED VOLUNTEER!**



Work Projects at Woodburn

We are planning to help Woodburn with a few specific projects. If any of these fit your skill set and you would like to volunteer, please see Larry.

- ◆ Lay tile floor (12x12)
- ◆ Sand & Paint LP tank
- ◆ Spray clean siding
- ◆ Paint inside rooms
- ◆ Clean pantry





- 1 Holly Sprow
- 2 Cindy Horton
- 3 Tim Bloomer
- 5 Cody Grimm
- 6 Connor McNamara, Dick Newcomb
- 7 Nikki Hull
- 8 Ron Roose
- 9 Ellen Walker
- 10 Madison Hetrick, Kale Miller
- 12 Derek Murphy
- 15 Henry Kidd, Samantha Ryan
- 18 Vickie Grimm
- 21 Teresa Brown, Annie Engel
- 24 Todd Gambler
- 31 Braxton Wonderly



- 2 Tim & Samantha Ryan (7)
- 6 Jerry & Wanda Hug (49)
- 13 Gerry & Gail Wyrick (38)
- 23 Dave & Melissa Beerbower (41)

SYMPATHY

The church family extends her sympathy to the families of Esther Rosendaul and Annabelle West.

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Austin Brandeberry (HI), Zachary Perkins (TX), Josh Severs (AL), Jordan Thornburg (GA), Katie Sparks (PA), Wesley Tressler (Korea). **Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Marcia Baumgartner, Sue Bever, Tim Bight, Brent, Mark & Carrie Campo, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H, Terri Hug, Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Rexann McCrary, Lora Manon, Chloe Merrilet, Crystal Miller, Ruth Ordway, Mary Pinckley, Anna Pitman, Elaine Purdue, Mike Roose, Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Stu Short, Annette Snavely, Kortney Subasic, Amy Tobin, 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, Randy Fisher, Jason Gregg, Nikki Hull, Ryan Yahraus, Khloe Hartman, Martha Hardy, Ellen Walker, Mike Green, Ronnie Pinckley, Tommy Morr, Rob Warfield, Garry Oberlin, John Leppelmeier, Lance Smith, Ramon Alpaugh; **Shut Ins: Fairlawn Haven:** John Altman; **Hillside:** Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler; **Home:** Ron & Linda Lewis, Leona Puff.



Upcoming EVENTS

Craft Group
12/3/2024

Momco (MOPS)
12/4 & 18/2024

20°
12/10/2024

Lunch Bunch
12/17/2024

**Christmas Eve
Service**
12/24/2024

Unity Sunday
12/29/2024



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Website:

www.bryanfcc.org

YouTube—[bryanfcc](https://www.youtube.com/bryanfcc)

SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 12/17 at 11:45 AM at Nana's PK House in Bryan. Please meet there.



not stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Away with the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the music of your harps” (Amos 5:21-23).

God sought their hearts, not their rituals. His desire was for true worship, not performance.

Most of all, He wants obedience to His commands. James reminds us that *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27)*. True worship calls us to serve others, act justly, and walk humbly with God. Empty rituals cannot substitute for obedience and compassion.


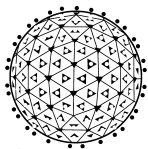
When we replace genuine devotion and obedience to God with empty practices, He is displeased, and our souls remain unfulfilled. Our faith should be more than an empty religion. It should be expressed in humble, obedient love and devotion that glorifies God.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (Mark 12:30).

Destined to Win, Larry

DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Craft Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Club 226</p> <p>6:15 Momco</p> <p>6:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 20°</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Club 226</p> <p>6:15 Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 Supper</p> <p>6:15 Club 226</p> <p>6:15 Momco</p> <p>6:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 Worship</p> <p>9:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>7:00 Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Breakfast</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p>				

