



FIRST Church Of Christ

February 2025 NEWSLETTER

“This little word morph has a long history. It actually comes from one of the richest Greek words in the New Testament, and in a sense, this little word is the foundation of this whole book. “Morphoo” means “the inward and real formation of the essential nature of a person.” It was the term used to describe the formation and growth of an embryo in a mother’s body.

Paul used this word in his letter to the Galatians: “. . . until Christ is formed in you.” He agonized until Christ should be born in “those people, until they should express his character and goodness in their whole being. Paul said they — like us — are in a kind of spiritual gestation process. We are pregnant with possibilities of spiritual growth and moral beauty so great that they cannot be adequately described as anything less than the formation of Christ in our very lives.

Paul used another form of this word when he told the Christians in Rome that God had predestined them to be “conformed to the image of His Son.” This word, “summorphizo,” means to have the same form as another, to shape a thing into a durable likeness. Spiritual growth is a molding process: We are to be to Christ as an image is to the original.

Still another form of the word appears in Romans when Paul says we are not to be conformed to the world around us but “transformed by the renewing of your minds.” This word is “metamorphoo,” from which comes the English word metamorphosis. A creeping caterpillar is transformed into a soaring butterfly — yet as the children of God we are to undergo a change that makes that one barely noticeable. “When morphing happens, I don’t just do the things Jesus would have done; I find myself wanting to do them. They appeal to me. They make sense. I don’t just go around trying to do right things; I become the right sort of person.”



These are audacious statements. Ordinary people can receive power for extraordinary change. It’s morphing time, Paul says.

To help people remember this, I developed a little liturgy at a church I served. I would say to the congregation, “It’s morphing time.” They would reply, “We shall morph indeed.”

The primary goal of spiritual life is human transformation. It is not making sure people know where they’re going after they die, or helping them have a richer interior life, or seeing that they have lots of in-

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Office Hours:

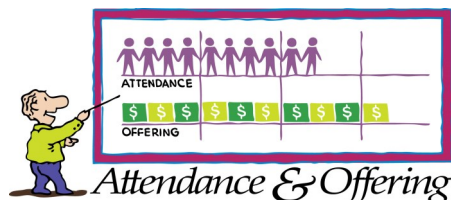
Monday—Thursday
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

www.bryanfcc.org

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Attendance & Offering

January 5

Attendance 46/88

Offering \$5,242.14

January 12

Attendance 49/86

Offering \$4,358.84

January 19

Attendance 46/86

Offering \$6,012.66

January 26

Attendance 50/106

Offering \$2,802.86

Needed for Budget:

\$5,099.21

February Servers

Deaconesses:

Ashley Grimm & Kim Snavely

Elder Schedule:

2—Seth Ramey

9—Mark Rhodes

16—Larry Snavely

23—Dave Beerbower

Nursery:

2—1st—Nathan Knepper; SS—Jessica & Shaun Arend; 2nd—Teresa Gambler

9—1st—Nathan Knepper; SS—**NEED VOLUNTEER**; 2nd—Cody & Ashley Grimm

16—1st—Nathan Knepper; SS—**NEED VOLUNTEER**; 2nd—Janet McCarthy & Deb Rhodes

26—1st—Nathan Knepper; SS—**NEED VOLUNTEER**; 2nd—Jane Runyan

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Kits for North Carolina

During the month of February we will collect kitchen kits for the hardest hit areas of North Carolina. (Pack kits in a 2-gallon plastic storage bag or a drawstring backpack.) Kitchen Kits include: can opener, cookbook, dish cloths, dish towel, hot pad, spatula (turner), measuring cups, measuring spoons, another helpful kitchen item of your choice (mini cutting board, peeler, tongs, etc.), storage container (2 cup w/lid), and garbage bags (mixed sizes). Bring your kit to the church during the month of February, and put it in the large wooden box in the foyer.

Other items you could donate include: Bibles (all ages), Bible stories for children, quilts or blankets (any size including baby), or gift cards (Home Depot, Lowes, Walmart). If you have any questions, please call the office or see Mike or Lexy Robson.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 2 Vincent Girardot, Sawyer Von Deylen
- 4 Maddox Von Deylen
- 7 Aaliya Grimm, Jacob Manges
- 9 Carole Cramer
- 12 Cassidy Hankey
- 14 Tracy Brandeberry, Maxton Sprow
- 19 Stephanie Ramey
- 21 Julia Haase
- 23 Tyler Beck, Sharon Brewer, Rilyn Perry
- 24 Miles Manges
- 25 Melissa Beerbower
- 27 John Altman

The church family extends her sympathy to Nathan & Ashley Knepper on the passing of Nathan's grandfather.



FEBRUARY Anniversaries

- 5 Ron & Karen Roose (53)
- 14 Tom & Cindy Horton (39)
- 26 Barry & Kelly Von Deylen (8)

Congratulations!

The church family rejoices with these families:

- ♦ Devin & Amanda Poncsak on the safe arrival of Aurora Rose on 1/23. She weighed in at 8# 10 oz. and was 20.25". Paternal grandparents are Scott & Pam Hartman. Great-grandparents are Ron & Ellen Walker.
- ♦ Katelyn & Mike Quillen on the birth of Laiken Michael on 1/24. He weighed in at 7# and was 22". Maternal grandparents are Tony & Wendy Farrell. Great-grandparents are John & Linda Hill.



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, Tim McKown, 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, Holly Sprow, 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, Garry Oberlin, John Leppelmeier, Ramon Alpaugh, Barbara Alpaugh, Larry Snavely; **Shut Ins:** **Fairlawn Haven:** John Altman; **Hillside:** Annie Engel, Charlene Gambler; **Home:** Ron & Linda Lewis, Leona Puff.

Tommy Morr: VA Ann Arbor, CLC Unit Room 78, 2215 Fuller Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105



Upcoming EVENTS

Craft Group
2/4/2025

Momco (MOPS)
2/5 & 19/2025

Mom's Spa Day
2/5/2025

Chili Lunch
2/9/2025

20°
2/11/2025

Lunch Bunch
2/25/2025



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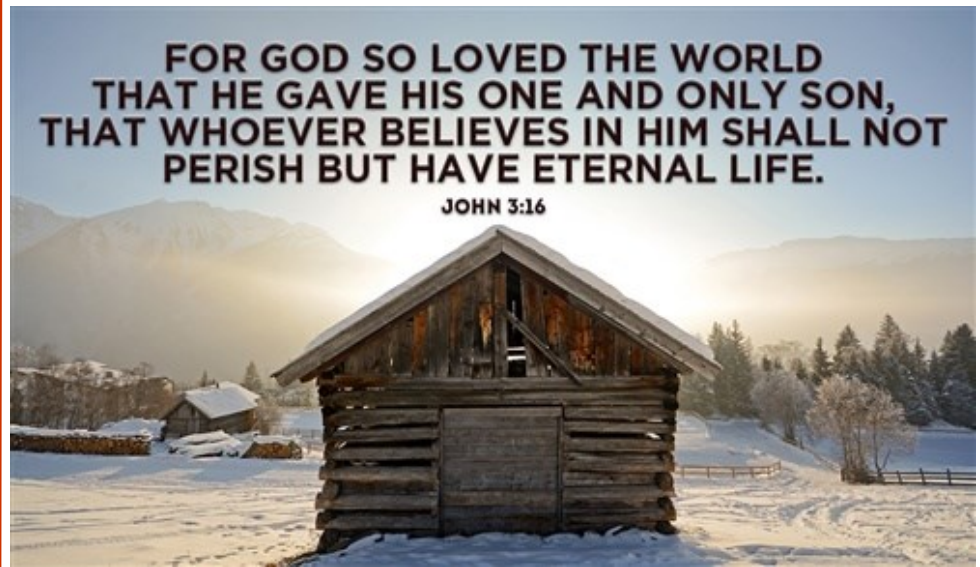
Website:

www.bryanfcc.org

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

SENIORS MINISTRY

We will do Lunch Bunch on Tuesday, 2/25 at 11:45 AM at Pizza Hut in Bryan . Please meet there.



formation about the Bible, although these can be good things. “Let’s put first things first. The first goal of spiritual life is the reclamation of the human race. It’s morphing time.”

“One of the great works of art in the Western world is Michelangelo’s Pietà, a marble statue of an anguished Mary holding the crucified Christ. Some years ago, a fanatic nationalist rushed upon the masterpiece and began smashing it with a sledgehammer. Although the damage was significant, Vatican artists were able to restore the statue to near-perfect condition.

You were created to be a masterpiece of God. Paul writes, “For we are God’s poiēma” — a word that can mean God’s “workmanship,” or even God’s “work of art.” God made you to know oneness with Him and with other human beings. God made you to be co-regent with Him — to “fill the earth and subdue it,” to “have dominion” over creation under His reign and with His help. It is the goodness of God’s work in creating us that makes our fallenness so tragic. This is why my disappointment in myself runs so deep.

But God is determined to overcome the defacing of His image in us. His plan is not simply to repair most of our brokenness. He wants to make us new creatures. So, the story of the human race is not just one of universal disappointment, but one of inextinguishable hope.”

Destined to Win, Larry



WORKMANSHIP



F E B R U A R Y

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

