



Bryan Sanders, Senior Minister

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### Free Breakfast

Sun. mornings at 8:15a, FCML

### Worship & Sunday School

Sun. mornings at 9:15a, WCML

### Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group

Sundays at 10:45am, FCLL

### Kidz Klub

Wednesday at 6:30p, WCLL

### Faithful Fitness

Wednesdays at 6:30p, FCML

### Souper Bowl Lunch

Sun. the 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30a, FCML

### Elders Meeting

Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30p

### Board Meeting

Thurs. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p, FCML

### Love Packages Trip

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00p–Mon. 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30p

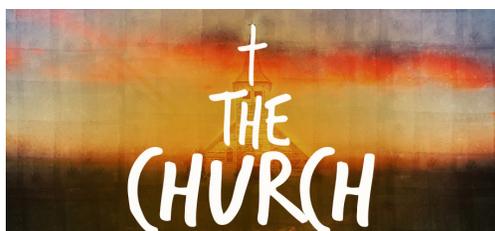
### Mission Lunch

Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am, Comm. Bldg.

### Connection

Sun. the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00p, FCML

WC—Worship Center, FC—Fellowship Center,  
ML—Main Level, LL—Lower Level



"I love Jesus but not the Church." You've probably heard someone say that, or you read it in a social media post, and the didn't know how to reply. It's likely they were hurt in some way by someone or some church, and now they don't belong to any church. They are done, not with Jesus, but with His church. They claim that they have been hurt too deeply by the church. Unfortunately, that is what sometimes happens in a place where brokenness abounds and where grace *needs* to abound even more...but doesn't always.

If you're wondering what to say when engaged in conversation with someone in this position, please begin with love and a sympathetic ear. Start there. You won't effectively argue them back into the fold by beating them over the head with facts, so don't take that approach. But do your best to gently remind them what Biblical Christianity is all about.

It presupposes that Christians will be a part of a local body of believers. It means loving one another, serving one another, connecting with one another.

Most want to delve into semantics and argue about "going to church" being necessary or not. Set that aside. I'm talking about *being a part of* a local church. You cannot claim to be practicing New Testament Christianity if you believe that you can "do your own thing" and have your own personal relationship with Christ apart from "institutionalized religion." Sure, there are admittedly many churches (i.e.: gatherings of believers) who aren't even close to the definition of "church" in Scripture, and because of this, many have inflicted deep wounds on believers, who have now left.

Encourage disenfranchised believers to never give up on looking for a body to belong to. Part of being a Christian is being in community, which yes, could even consist of just you and a handful of others in a home. But I cringe when I hear people who have rejected the local church and have replaced it with the notion that you and your family can reject communion with the saints and sitting under the proclamation of the Scriptures, and call it having "my own church." The New Testament describes the church as (not a building) but a meeting together of the people of God—a fellowship that involves elders, teachers, deacons, evangelists, etc. for the edification of the whole person until the saints reach unity in the faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:11-16). We are members of one another (Rom. 12:5, Eph. 4:25, 1 Cor. 12:12-27).

We, who are physically able to participate in the life of the church, reject the rugged individualism indicative of American Evangelicalism. We recognize that Biblical faith is a *personal* relationship lived out in community. If we really want to follow Jesus and what His disciples taught, we practice love, forbearance, grace, and compassion, as His Holy Spirit works through us to help us live in community with others that we may not always like.

It's hard sometimes. I get that. There may be healthy reasons why a devoted Jesus follower leaves a local church to find spiritual food elsewhere, but leaving the church entirely isn't an option if we're following Jesus. As hard as it might be some days, I am called to be devoted to the brethren, use my God-given gifts to serve them, and prove my love for Christ in how I love His bride. The apostle John is about as straightforward as you can get when he says, "**So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.**" Then, John urges us to *prove* our love by our actions: "**Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.**" (1 Jn. 3:10, 18, NLT)

Loving God is inseparable from loving those in the community of faith, not just in word—"Yeah, I love all people. I just don't want to meet together with them." But in actions—"I will serve my brothers and sisters in my local church to show the unity of the faith that Christ has called me to, for this is how everyone will know I follow Jesus." (1 Jn. 13:35)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

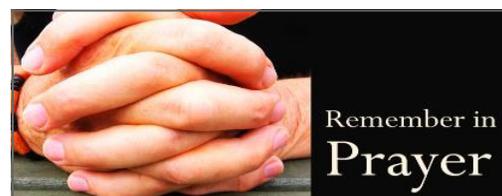
Sun., Feb. 2 at 11:30am, we will have our **Souper Bowl Sunday lunch**, featuring different soups and sandwiches. This is NOT a potluck. Soups, sandwiches, desserts, and drinks will be provided, and to-go containers will also be available if you cannot stay. Contact Amanda Schilt if you have any questions or would like to provide something. A free will donation will benefit our youth and camp funds.

Our next trip to **Love Packages** will be Feb. 16-17. We will meet at the church at 3:00pm on that Sun. and stay overnight. We will work all day Mon. and return that evening. You will need money for 2 dinners out. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Sign up in the foyer. For more information, contact John or Lisa Gregg.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **King's Daughters Ladies Conference** will be Sat., Feb. 29 from 9am-3pm at the Greene County 4H Fairgrounds. You may register in the foyer or online at [www.kingsdaughters.info](http://www.kingsdaughters.info). Contact Renee Schopmeyer if you have any questions.

The **Armor-Bearers Men's Conference** will be at North Knox Primary in Bicknell this year on Sat., Feb. 29 at 8:30am. This is a free conference, but please register at [armorbearers.org](http://armorbearers.org). If you're interested, see Jeff Heuby or sign up in the foyer.

Our **fall mission trip to Piedras Negras, Mexico** will be October 17-23. If you would like to go, please sign up in the foyer or let Bryan know by Sun., Mar. 1. At the current time, the trip cost will be around \$1,100/participant. Learn more at [www.sandbornfcc.org/missions](http://www.sandbornfcc.org/missions).



Shirley Baumert, Eula Emry, Kirk Hinchman, Floyd & Jean Kamplain, Bill Mischler, Brionna Myers, Karl Newell, John Rawles, Zach Rawles, Traci Raymond, Bonnie Schilt

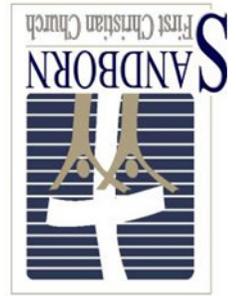
*\*Names above will be left on for 4 weeks and then removed unless otherwise requested.*

**Nursing Home:** Doris Bledsoe, Jack & Sylvia Heuby

**Our Military, SFCC Youth**

**Our Missions/Ministries:**

Camp Illiana, Ivory Coast Christian Mission, Helping His Hands, Matthew 25 Ministries, Delhi Outreach, Open Arms Christian Ministries, V.U. Christian Campus Fellowship, Pregnancy Choices



Place  
 postage  
 here

<b>Feb. Serving Schedule</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Bus Driver on Standby</b>	Julie Sanders	TBD	Steve Anderson	David Myers
<b>Greeters &amp; Communion Cleanup</b>	Kevin & Becky Cook	Josh & Juli Adams	E.B. & Janelle Rawles	Thilo & Deb Mason
<b>Communion Meditation</b>	Richard Mortland	E.B. Rawles	Steve Anderson	Paul Kaiser
<b>Offering Prayer</b>	Forrest Lynch	Chad Russell	J.D. Lynch	Scott Williams
<b>Media Booth</b>	Luke Powers	Madison Burress	Debbie Mason	Luke Powers
<b>Worship Team</b>	Janice, Troy, Janelle, Amanda, Jeff	Barb, Karen, Janelle, Amanda, Jeff	Amanda, Cody, Janelle, Jeff	Janice, Karen, Janelle, Amanda, Jeff
<b>Decision Guide</b>	Paul Kaiser	Troy Stoll	Renee Schopmeyer	Becky Williams
<b>Nursery</b>	Alisa Anderson & Regina Kaiser	Tyler & Alexis Van Deventer	Becky Williams & Chad Russell	Jes Fry & Lexi Ferree
<b>Preschool Teachers</b>	Larry Tennant	Janelle Rawles	Erin Russell	Dana Wright
<b>Elementary Teachers</b>	Julie Sanders	Jes Fry	Jeff Heuby	Troy Stoll
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Scott & Becky Williams			



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|---------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Leslie Dale       | 20 Scott Williams  |
| 9 Steve Bryant      | 21 Mike Cazel      |
| 9 Evelyn Schopmeyer | 21 John B. Gregg   |
| 11 Holly Anderson   | 23 Sharon Lynch    |
| 12 Nancy Moore      | 25 Carol Augustine |
| 17 Lucille Carrico  | 28 Linda Powers    |
| 19 E.B. Rawles      |                    |



- |                           |
|---------------------------|
| 17 Ralph & Joan Heshelman |
| 24 Scott & Becky Williams |
| 28 Doug & Janie Sanders   |

If your name was left off, please fill out an Anniversary/Birthday info sheet found on the table in the foyer and submit it to the minister.