

JUNE 18, 2023

CHURCH OF CHRIST



*1002 Clairmont Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725
(740) 432-7486*

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

*Minister, John Keith
(304) 266-9027*

WELCOME!

We invite you to all of our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

FAITH, OPINION, AND LOVE

In our journey to Heaven, we must come to realize that there are things that we *must do* and things we *must avoid* doing. Likewise, there are things that we may choose to do, or choose not to do. Crucial in both of these matters is a prevailing attitude of love, which is the very nature of God our Father. Often, the lines may become blurred as to what are the requirements of the faith, versus the matters of opinion, and when diverging views appear a lack of love may seem to prevail. When love is lacking, matters of opinion may be held as matters of the faith; and matters of the faith may be held as matters of opinion. As a result, the kind of unity that Christ desires cannot be had. Let us look at a few brief definitions and some discussion with the hope of defining the lines and bringing the matter into clearer view.

“Matters of the faith” are those matters that apply directly to the *faith-system* (Christianity) that Jesus Christ set in order when He died for our sins, was buried, and arose. Included is His ascension back to Heaven and the establishment of His church on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. The matters of the faith are not our personal (subjective) faith /belief in whether or not these things happened, but rather, matters about things that we know happened and resulted in the (objective) faith that now governs our lives as His disciples. For example, we know that baptism for the remission of sins is a matter of the faith (Acts 2:38); it is not our opinion. We also know that Jesus said, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery” (Matt. 19:9). Again, this is a matter of the faith, and not of opinion.

So what is an example of a matter of opinion that a person may have as part of his own personal (subjective) faith? Some elders in the church have decided that it is not in the best interest of the congregation to have a *fellowship*

room where common meals are eaten and that is fine—that is their opinion—no one has the authority to make them have a fellowship room. Neither do they have the right to insist that any other congregation *not* have a fellowship room. If a Christian is a member of a congregation that has one, but he does not feel comfortable eating in it, the other members are not to judge him unfairly or ridicule him, for that is his liberty and right. Neither is he to be unfair and unloving to the members who choose to engage in the activity. Since this is not a matter of the faith, neither party is wrong, so they can worship in fellowship together and love each other, respecting each other's liberty.

Another example might be used in the fact that I prefer to wear a jacket and tie at worship services. To me worship is a special occasion that deserves dignity and respect. Since I would not pay my respects to the deceased of this world in casual attire, I cannot bear to pay my respects in casual attire to the Living God. May I force this on others? No! Fashion changes, society's perception of things changes, and we must recognize that one's personal preference is just that—their personal preference (opinion).

So where does love fit into all of this? Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The commandments of Jesus are matters of the faith. Our obedience to the Lord will demonstrate our love for Him and the faith for which He died. Our acceptance of others whose opinions differ from ours regarding non-faith matters demonstrates our love for them as well.

We must hold to the teaching of Christ and His inspired writers, doing what they commanded, and avoiding what they prohibited. We must respect our brothers and sisters whose *opinions* differ from ours on matters of opinion and not try to force our own opinions upon them. We must let love, governed by the faith, rule in our lives so that together we may all be given entrance into the eternal abode of God at the last great day—*PK*

Welcome! We are thankful for your presence. To our visitors, please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one of the collection plates.

Please welcome **Charles Pugh** who will present the Bible Study and deliver sermons at both services today. God willing, Tina and I are spending the day with my mom and our daughter in Newport as we consider the work there.

Happy Father's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (None submitted)

REMINDERS:

- ❖ There are change cans for *Potter Children's Home* on the back table.
- ❖ **Oct. 7—Men's Encouragement Day** here with **Roger Rush**.

<p><u>IN OUR PRAYERS:</u> Kevin Adkins, Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Cathy Jackson, Katelynnngayle Jamiel, Bruce & Kim Johnson, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Jody Main, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury, Jean Whitley, and Randy Yost.</p>	<p><u>SHUT-INS:</u> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love,</p>
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FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Betty Cox** (Diann Bachmann's sister), **T.J. Hart**, **Trudy Kerby**, **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), **Addy Reed**, **Rodney Reeves** (Erica Cunningham's father), **John Rockhold**, **John Shipley** (New Concord), **Conrad Schultz**, the U.S.A., **Ukraine** and remember to pray for **one another**.

AM STUDY	SUN. AM	SUN. PM	GIVING \$2,460	WED.
31	55	33	\$2,291	31

Who Held the Ropes? Steve Higginbotham

[There are many examples] of countless individuals who have made notable differences in the world, but who have all but been forgotten by history. The Bible records one such example in Acts 9:23-25. The Jews in Damascus were so angry with Paul, they plotted to kill him (Acts 9:23). The Jews had all the exits to the city watched, day and night, to catch Paul. But learning of the plot, some nameless brethren let Paul down through the city wall in a large basket (Acts 9:25). Had these nameless brethren not been willing to hold the ropes for Paul, his ministry may have been snuffed out before it even started.