

Are you a Christian or a Church Customer?
John

Hey Church Family,
We have been blessed with Jack Wilkie having taught the first few lessons of our Gospel Meeting. In years past, Gospel Meetings have traditionally been aimed at the community, like the old style ‘revival’ meetings. In recent years, however, many congregations have used these opportunities to stress important topics that the church needs to hear since the majority of the attendees are from our congregation or other local churches of Christ. Jack has offered some challenging topics so far and I’m looking forward to the rest of his lessons for us.

I particularly enjoyed his comparison of our ‘church experience’ of either **eating at a fast food restaurant**, or to having a **family Thanksgiving meal**. Though both of these types of meals involve food, only one of them includes acts of service for the family, a loving family atmosphere, precious memories of years past, and concern for all the family members involved. I’m definitely not talking about McDonalds! Which do we want our congregation to look like? I know which one the New Testament church looks more like!

Here are some passages that point us towards biblical fellowship, not fast food:

Acts 2:44-46 paints a picture of the early church as a close-knit family, sharing life together, meals and whatever else anyone needed. “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (also Romans 12:4-5) emphasizes the one body with many parts to describe the individual’s relationship to the church. I certainly have never felt that way about any fellow customer in Taco Bell! But, when I think back to family Thanksgivings, we miss loved ones who are no longer there, and we are excited about new people at the table (whether through marriage or new children). We aren’t fellow customers, but parts of the same body that cares for one another! “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free...”

Jesus, Himself said in **John 13:34-35** - “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” A family Thanksgiving meal shows our love, care, and time spent together—qualities Jesus wants his people to display in our time spent together whether in worship or fellowship.

Hebrews 10:24-25 sums it up well: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

This encourages us to regularly gather together and encourage one another. If one of your family members was regularly absent from family gatherings, we would be worried and reach out to them. How much more important in the Lord’s family?

As much as I may enjoy Dairy Queen and Sonic from time to time, that’s not what our church experience should look like. Let’s bring our service, work, and love together and show the McEwen community what God’s family really looks like!

On Our Prayer List...

Martha Durham-home recovering
Al & Vicki Peek
Betty Suddeath
W. R. Long
Kathy Martin
Marvin England
JimTyler
DANNY DOTSON-surg rescheduled

SURGERIES: Hattie Tate-procedure end of this mth/ Betty Rumsey-bone marrow biopsy the 28th

<p>*Shane Cobb-(Louise’s son) foot/part of leg removed. *Bob Thomason-recuperating at home from a fall. *Terry England-(Marvin’s nephew) stroke-on life support. *Gary Street-(Kenny Fleming’s cousin) In Centennial hospital *Mike Gunn-home recovering from neck surg. *Steve Peyton-(Peyton family requesting prayers)been diagnosed with Cirrhosis of the liver-running tests to see if a good candidate for a liver transplant.In Washington State *Carolyn Wilson-(Madison’s grandmother) requesting prayers. *Odell Nichols (Ruby Dell’s brother-in-law) in hospice care *Claude Hurt *Josh Barnett-(Charlotte Heights CoC Minister)benign brain tumor@treatments *Mark Long-(Jane Riding’s nephew) now home-@ follow-up Doctor appts. *Dick Acuff-(Joan Long Acuff’s husb/Dwight&Connie’s cousin) crushed vertebrae *Thelma Davidson-(Gwen Bullington’s sister) having problems from lupus *Chase Lewis-(Vicki Peek’s family) having problems from lupus *Suzanne Boyd-(John& Erin’s friends) baby –now home @ feeding tube. *Ralph Simpson- back in the hosp *Doug Simpson-heart -(Ruby England’s brothers) *Whitney(Bullion)Sager -home recovering *Stephanie Greene-(Mike’s sister)needs prayers *Charles Miles-recovering fr a fall + heart issues *Marcia Simpson-(Mike Burn’s aunt) now home./ *John Henry & Carlene Davis *Alyssa Gold-(Robert Proctor’s niece) in need of prayers</p>		<p><u>THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER</u> *KENNY FLEMING—cancer meds *JIMMY PHY-CA treat-ments *ROY DELOACH, JR-(Roy’s son) pancreatic cancer *HUDSON JONES-{2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC– has Leukemia} *KAY LEE-breast & colon cancer *DAVID NOWLIN-CA treatments-WCOC Elder *DONNA BURNS-WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN’S NIECE)-CA *WANDA DOBBINS-(kin to Tyler’s)terminal CA *JACKIE BORDERS- Lauren Stuart’s mom *ROBERT GARDNER(Friend of Bill Williams) CA *RANAE DUNCAN-(Bo&Amy’s neighbor)CA treat-ments *CASEY VAILES-(Ranae Duncan’s son)also has cancer *JOHN PIRTLE –frd of Roy Deloach) Lung CA-age 53 *LARRY HAYES-(fr Waverly COC) restarted</p>	
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ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME: Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd., Waverly, TN 37185
June Dreaden- Rm 714
AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-Wyle Marshall (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad
NHC–812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- JoAnn Haley Doris Stokes-R127

Address needs to have everything listed for Eric to receive: Dickson County Jail/James Eric Warden-ID102618/ PQBox 76550/Hglnd Heights, KY 41076

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS		
<p>Please be bringing candy & leave downstairs for our easter egg hunt on 4/19.</p> 	<p>UPCOMING EVENTS!!!</p> <p>*April 26th - Our “<u>Ladies Day</u>” Ashley Deffenbaugh will be our speaker with the topic of“ Unshaken”. If you did not sign up to order a t-shirt, you can still order on your own from “The Ruffled Mango thur Etsy. “It is the Unshaken shirt in light blue”. Also check out the foyer bulletin board for the food sign-up sheet. Will have work days on Wednesday the16th & the 23rd</p>	<p>Camp Leatherwood for 2025 June 22nd-28th Camp Applications are on the back table in the auditorium , if you have not filled out & returned please be sure and do so “today” before there</p>
		<p>Our sympathy to Scottie & Michelle Lashlee on the loss of Scottie’s brother “A. P. Lashlee” age 41, no service at this time.</p>

INFO.C.U.S.

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

What a crazy week we just had with the weather! As I sit here on Monday morning, the kids are at home from school for the 3rd day in a row due to the severe weather and flooding that we have had in the county for the past several days. I’m excited to see the sun once again this week and for the kids to be able to get back to a normal routine. Our youth activities will ramp back up this coming weekend with Makin Music on Saturday and our youth devotional Sunday night. We are just over a month away from the beginning of summer break. And with that comes lots of activities for our youth. I am looking forward to those activities that include things like VBS, breakfast and bible studies, church camp, and the Hiwassee rafting trip. Let’s be sure to keep our kids in our prayers as they finish up another school year!

In Christian Love, Keith

