

## Is Your Faith a Vegetable?

This past Wednesday night we began our new series titled, “I didn’t learn THAT in Sunday School.” Please make plans to attend this Wednesday night to hear John Potter continue our series.

While “the fruit of the Spirit is not a” mango, strawberry, or apple, I worry at times that Christians are at risk of becoming vegetables. Not tomatoes or zucchinis, but the secondary dictionary definition: “a derogatory term for a person with an inactive or lazy life” (e.g. ‘I’m tired. I’m going to be a vegetable today.’) A couch potato! Are we ‘vegging out’ in our spiritual walk?

At the risk of pushing the vegetable metaphor too far, do you remember the children’s show VeggieTales? The incredibly popular 1993 direct-to-video series still creates content thirty years later, after selling over 16 million books, 7 million CDs, and 235 million streaming downloads. One regular element of the show was the oversimplification of complex or challenging Bible stories. Nebuchadnezzar’s golden statue that must be worshipped on penalty of death? Yeah, now it’s a giant chocolate bunny. Haman’s genocidal plot against the Jews in the book of Esther? Actually...it’s banishment to “the island of perpetual tickling.” Though this ‘vege-tizing’ of adult themes in the Bible made these stories (and perhaps vegetables) palatable for children, I wonder if we’ve ever revisited the passages of Scripture that were first introduced to my generation as goofy parables. We remember “Silly Songs with Larry,” but have we ever chewed on these challenging biblical passages for the spiritual nutrition therein?

My point is this: Over time, our faith needs to grow through the wrestling with the tough topics in God’s word. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way: “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Heb. 5:12–14).

One sign of Christian maturity is the ability to ‘chew on’ the solid food of Scripture. There are prime ribs available within God’s word, but is our weekly intake any more than what the preacher spoon-feeds us on Sunday mornings? After the “milk of the word” (1 Peter 2:2), and perhaps the mashed peas of a VeggieTales childhood, are we guilty of not being “ready for solid food” like the Corinthians, even in adulthood (1 Corinthians 3:1–2)?

Where should I start if my spiritual palate is lacking? Pick up your Bible and start reading. Keep a notebook nearby and write down any and every question that arises from the text. Continue reading to see whether your question finds an immediate answer in the text or if it might take more detailed study of original languages or ancient culture. An excellent place to begin would be with Brother Tyler Boyd’s “Better Bible Study Tips” (<https://thechristianexile.com/biblestudy/>).

Ask hard questions! Chew on some biblical meat! If you haven’t felt spiritually “full” in a while, here’s your answer. Don’t let your faith become a vegetable!

## On Our Prayer List... \*May we always be using God’s blessing & power of prayer for one another: Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray & not give up. Luke 18:1.

### {Recent Medical concerns/updates}

\***Marsha Patrick**-had surgery on Monday, continued thoughts & prayers for her & her recovery.  
 \***Jackie Harvey**-(Sherry’s husband)-in Asension St Thomas in Nashville  
 \***Danny Scott**- fell, suffered a brain bleed, is now home

### {Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery}

\***Thomas Cook**-recovering from surgery  
 \***Diane Curtis**-recovering from knee

### THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER:

\***Jimmy Phy**-CA  
 \***Lillian Childress**-successful radiation treatment  
 \***Dale Street**-(N. Buttrey grandfather)CA  
 \***Hudson Jones**-(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine,Walnut St COC–Leukemia)  
 \***Robert Gardner**-(friend of Bill Williams) CA  
 \***Alan Jones**-esophageal CA-treatments  
 \***David Stokes**-(Jordan Stokes& Carly Stone’s dad)& Drew Swearns step-dad

\***Chris McCurley**-Walnut.ST COC  
 \***Casey Vailes**  
 \***Brian Gill**-CA-treatments  
 \***Mack Winstead**-CA-continued prayers  
 \***Houston Howell**  
 \***David Nowlin**-CA treatments-WcoC elder  
 \***Jackie Borders**-Lauren Stuart’s mom  
 \***Maggie Wright** -(friend of N. Buttrey) CA  
 \***Jerry Honea** -cancer, prayers  
 \***Dwight Proffitt**-cancer, prayers

### Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.

\***Marvin England** \***Hattie Tate** \***W. R. & Louise Long** \***Gary & Pam Davis** \***Al & Vicki Peek** \***Jerry Martin** \***Joe & Betty James**  
 \***Bonita Madewell** \***Becky Palk** \***Betty Suddeath** \***Chase Lewis** \***Doug Simpson** \***Joe Wright** \***Judy Simpson**  
 \***Sue Edmission** \***Alyssa Gold** \***Carolyn Wilson** \***Scotty Palk** \***Margie Gunn** \***Josh Barnett** \***Lance Davis**  
 \***Frances Simpson** \***Carlene Davis** \***Claude Hurt** \***Marcia Simpson** \***Nancy Daniel** \***Luis Tipia** \***Thelma Davidson**  
 \***Savannah Patrick**-(Rhett’s syndrome-Marsha Patrick’s granddaughter) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN \***Rita Oliphant**

### {Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab}

**AHC Decatur County**-726 Kentucky Ave,Parsons,TN 38363**Wyle Marshall**-(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad)  
**Magnolia Place**- 811 W. Main St, Waverly, TN 37185-**Jimmy Tyler**-(room 106)  
**Waverly Hills Post Acute**-895 Powers Blvd, Waverly, TN 37185-**Bertha Bradford**-rm 102A I  
**Humphreys County NH** 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly,TN 37185- **Gary Davis**-in rehab there room 717  
 & **June Dreaden**-(*Sonya Rachford’s mom*) now on hospice, please keep *Sonya & family in yr prayers.*

### At Home in McEwen

**Jim & Jane Ridings**-172 Indian Ck Rd  
**Robert Bradford**-347 Brown Mill Rd.  
**Jimmy Mullinicks**-56 Mike Street

**Acension Saint Thomas**-451 TN-13, Waverly, TN 37185- **Wayne Jones**-(having serious diabetic complications)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**VBS** Coming Soon!!!.....Starts on Sun. night, June 7th -Thursday night, June 11th.

\*Thursday night homemade ice cream night

\*Kick-Off – Friday, June 5th @ 6:00 PM

As always will be filled with lots of kids, fun, laughter & most of all focus on our amazing God!

Also, as always, there are many areas to help with; teachers, helpers, decorating, snacks, count, muppets, crafts, registration, please see Keith now on how you may be able to help.

\*We can go ahead be leaving snacks & drinks needed for each night downstairs. Thank You!

Sunday, May 31st will be a “Meet, Eat & Meet” service. After our morning service we will have a pot-luck meal, then after that we will meet again with our young men conducting our service. There will be no 6:00 PM service

But, there will be a VBS work-day right after our 2nd service, that day, which could use all hands on deck!

Thanks

Please keep Kim Reese & her family in your thoughts & prayers on the loss of her niece in a car accident. Sadley, leaving her 2 daughters ages 6 & 7.

ZOO TRIP-on Friday, May 29th, we will be leaving here @ 8:00 am. Sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board, with more info on our youth facebook page!

## IN.F.O.C.U.S.

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Last week was an exciting week for our seniors in our congregation, as well as seniors in our county as graduation for both McEwen and Waverly took place. Karolann, Jesse, and Ty ended their senior years, and we are so proud of them. It was good to be able to have a time to celebrate with them and their families on Saturday evening. Laurie and I were also able to go to Freed Hardeman Saturday morning and celebrate the graduation of Brayden. It is hard to believe that his 4 years have come and gone. Freed has been such a special place to Brayden. We are so thankful for all that he has accomplished there and the great friends that he made.

On Sunday night we had the pleasure of meeting with some of our youth and their families at the Mexican restaurant to surprise Laurie on her birthday with a meal together. We ended a great day in a great way celebrating someone very very special!!

In Him, Keith

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Welcome** .....Keith Grigsby  
**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**.....John Hurt  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**.....Mike Robertson  
 Bruce Mayfield      Gerald Curtis  
 John Potter          Danny Dotson  
 Andrew Peyton      Daniel Curtis  
**Closing Prayer**.....Noah Stuart  
**Collect Cards**.....Luke Wright  
    & Hudson Buttrey  
**Greeters**.....Wade & Terri Tummins  
**Nursery**..... *Not at this time*  
**Collect Cups**.....Youth  
**Security**.....Team #3

**Sunday 6PM May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**Prayer**.....Jon Holland  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**.....Wayne Coates  
    & Drew Buttrey  
**Closing Prayer**.....Ronnie Tyler

**Wednesday 6:30 PM, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Lead Singing**.....Jacen Robertson  
**Prayer**.....Carter Howard  
**Adult Class**.....John Jones



*\* If you are unable to serve.....please contact  
 Wade Tummins in advance. (cell 931-209-6291)*

*\*If changes need to be made in scheduling please  
 contact Jimmy Phy.*

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*Return Service Requested*

  \*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

**The MESSENGER is online!**  
 Visit the church website  
 to view!



### OUR RECORDS for 5/17/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School ----- 122  
 Sunday Morning Worship ----- 186  
 Sunday Evening Worship ----- 103  
 Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study ----- 105  
 Sunday Contribution ----- \$8,920



# The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026

A Caring Church Lifting Up The CROSS And CROWN of CHRIST



### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Study.....9:00am  
 Worship..... 10:00am  
 Evening.....6:00pm

#### Wednesday

Bible Study..... 6:30pm

#### Elders:

Calvin Buckner

Billy Buttrey      Bruce Mayfield  
 W.R. Long          Mike Robertson

#### Deacons:

Derek Berryman      Mike Burns  
 Wayne Coates          Mark Forster  
 John Hurt              Barry Phy  
 Robert Proctor          James Ridings  
 Joe Smith              Dwight Stuart  
 Ethan Tummins          Wade Tummins  
 Ronnie Tyler

#### Staff:

Ministers ----- Every Member  
 Pulpit ----- John Jones  
 Youth ----- Keith Grigsby  
 Secretaries ----- Terri Tummins  
    Teresa Fleming

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#### EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Continue to be:

1. Praying for those we are studying with
2. To provide new {Contact's} cards for us to reach out to.

Team - 3 there may be cards to work on this Wednesday night.