

The REAL Cross of Christ

Our sermon yesterday morning was about the cross of Christ. The REAL cross was a brutal, torture device that broke the bodies and minds of the person upon it and the spirit of anyone who witnessed the spectacle. Unfortunately, most of the crosses we see today do not capture the brutality. They are ornaments or jewelry that are designed for their beauty. The actual cross was anything but beautiful. While the gilded, ornamental crosses we see today may indicate our belief in Christ, they fall far short of bringing the reality of the cross to our remembrance.

Scripture does not soften this reality. Deuteronomy 21:23 declares, "Anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse." Paul echoes this in Galatians 3:13: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.'" The cross was not a symbol of victory in the eyes of the world; it was an emblem of defeat and divine judgment. Yet it was precisely there, in that place of horror, that Jesus bore our sin.

The Gospel writers don't pull any punches when referencing the cross. In Matthew 27, Mark 15, and Luke 23, we read of mocking soldiers, Jesus's garments gambled over, and the darkness that covered the land as Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). Isaiah 52:14 had prophesied it centuries earlier: "His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness." The real cross crushed body, mind, and spirit. It was anything but attractive.

Today, we wear crosses of gold around our necks and hang polished versions on our walls. While these may serve as expressions of our faith, they risk domesticating the very event that should shake us every time we consider it. The ornate cross may signal our belief, yet it can quietly distance us from the cost of our redemption. We are prone to remember a sanitized version – one that fits comfortably in our culture – rather than the blood-stained wood where the Son of God suffered in our place.

The Apostle Paul refused to sanitize the message. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Later he declared, "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). In Galatians 6:14 he boasted only in the cross: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

This is our challenge: to let the true cross confront us again. The cross where Jesus' body was broken reminds us of the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's love. "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Because He endured the brutality, we receive forgiveness, adoption, and eternal life.

The cross was ugly so that we might be made beautiful in Him. May we never lose sight of its true cost or its matchless grace.

**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.

<u>{Recent Medical concerns/updates}</u>		<u>{Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery}</u>	
*Gary Davis— had a fall-now in Humphreys County Care & Rehab-Rm 717 *Joe & Betty James— continued prayers for them		*Marsha Patrick—continue in prayer surg-May18th *Thomas Cook—tonsillectomy on May 12th *Diane Curtis— recovering from knee surgery	
<u>THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER:</u>			
*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 *Houston Howell *Brian Gill-CA-treatments *Mack Winstead-CA-continued prayers *Vicki Donegan-taking treatments-needs prayer *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	
<u>Listed below are those that are continuing to have on-going medical issues that are in need of our prayers.</u>			
*Marvin England *Hattie Tate *W. R. & Louise Long *Gary & Pam Davis *Al & Vicki Peek *Jerry Martin *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 *Shane Cobb *Carlene Davis *Claude Hurt *Marcia Simpson *Nancy Daniel *Luis Tipia *Thelma Davidson *Savannah Patrick-(Rhetts syndrome-Marsha Patrick's granddaughter) c/o Jaimie Patrick—111 McJury Lane, Lafayette, TN *Rita Oliphant			
<u>{Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab}</u>		<u>At Home in McEwen</u>	
AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave,Parsons,TN 38363Wyle Marshall-(Rm 726) (Traci Adams dad) NHC—812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055 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		Jim & Jane Ridings-172 Indian Ck Rd Robert Bradford-347 Brown Mill Rd. Jimmy Mullinicks-56 Mike Street	
Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly,TN 37185- June Dreaden- (Sonva Rachford's mom)now on hospice. please keep her & Acension Saint Thomas-451 TN-13, Waverly, TN 37185- Wayne Jones-(having serious diabetic complications) the family in your prayers..Rm 104)			
<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; UPCOMING EVENTS</b>			
<p><b>vBS Coming Soon!!!.....Starts on Sun. night, June 7th -Thursday night, June 11th.</b></p> <p>*Thursday night homemade ice cream night</p> <p>*Kick-Off – Friday, June 5th @ 6:00 PM</p> <p>As always will be filled with lots of kids, fun, laughter &amp; most of all focus on our amazing God!!!</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>Please help us in celebrating our Seniors....<b>Karolann, Ty &amp; Jesse.</b> Join us at the McEwen Church of Christ Fellowship Hall downstairs on Sat, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-6pm, for a Come &amp; Go Event honoring them. {It takes a village &amp; you are a part of our village}</p> <p>Please RSVP to one of the below:</p> <p>*Cindy 615-418-1459 *Lori 931-209-0839 *Traci 931-622-2520</p>	
<p><b>Bridal Shower</b> </p> <p>for <b>Gracie Doyle</b>, Bride-Elect of <b>Skyler Buckner</b> will be on <b>May 17th</b>, from <b>2:00-3:30</b> here in the <b>Fellowship Room.</b></p> <p>Registry Link: <a href="https://www.myregistry.com/wedding-registry/skyler-buckner-and-gracie-doyle-york-sc/5318310">HTTPS://WWW.MYREGISTRY.COM/WEDDING-REGISTRY/SKYLER-BUCKNER-AND-GRACIE-DOYLE-YORK-SC/5318310</a></p>			
<b>IN.F.O.C.U.S.</b> Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation			
<p>Today is the start of a big week for our high school seniors, as they wrap up their high school careers with graduation this Friday at 6:00. We were blessed to be able to recognize each of our high school seniors, as well as our college seniors, before worship on Sunday morning. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they wrap up their high school and college careers and go on to another important part of their lives.</p> <p>Our annual zoo trip is in just a few weeks. This trip is for young people of all ages. Please be sure to sign up on the youth board if your child plans to attend. We plan to eat lunch at the zoo, so everyone will need to bring money. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask me. In Him, Keith</p>			

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Welcome** .....Barry Phy  
**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prayer**.....Dwight Stuart  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**.....Andy Marlor  
     Jimmy Suddeath     Mike Robertson  
     Wendell Monroe     Robert Proctor  
     Matthew Dotson     Wayne Coates  
**Closing Prayer**.....Mike Tyler  
**Collect Cards**.....Jaxon Holt  
                                     & Stirling Hurt  
**Greeters**.....Jackie Potter & Rebecca Potter  
**Nursery**..... *Not at this time*  
**Collect Cups**.....Youth  
**Security**.....Team #2

**Sunday 6PM May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Lead Singing**.....Mark Forster  
**Prayer**.....Danny Dotson  
**Sermon**.....John Jones  
**Lord's Table**.....W. R. Long  
                                     & Bruce Mayfield  
**Closing Prayer**.....Jim Suddeath

**Wednesday 6:30 PM, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Lead Singing**.....John Hurt  
**Prayer**.....Jesse Kilpatrick  
**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.*

Published weekly by the  
 McEwen church of Christ  
 P.O. Box 171  
 McEwen, TN. 37101

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 McEwen, TN. 37101  
 Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested



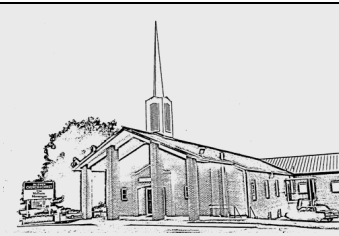
\*If you are unable to attend any service please tune in to our Facebook page or our YouTube page to watch the services. This is NOT a replacement for the command to assemble together as Christ's Body, but a tool for those who may be homebound/shut-in or sick.

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



### OUR RECORDS for 5/10/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School ----- 133  
 Sunday Morning Worship ----- 216  
 Sunday Evening Worship ----- NC  
 Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study ----- 106  
 Sunday Contribution ----- \$7,915



# The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of May 10<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 - 2 there may be cards to work on this Wednesday night.