

Consider the Lightning Bugs

John Jones

This summer, I'm especially grateful for my children who remind me of the awe I should have for God's creation. There have been a few evenings recently in which we attended a church activity later in the evening and were returning home after the kid's bedtimes. On our walk home, tiny florescent lights glimmering in the twilight caught our attention and sent the kids running into the yard. Of course, these were lightning bugs (or fireflies depending on where you're from). Do you remember trying to catch these insects when you were a child? I remember the excitement of seeing one and running in its general direction until it light up again and I could catch it.

What seems like a simple, light-hearted childhood activity is actually a deep reminder of the creative power of our God and His love for us. If you're on YouTube today, look up the Apologetics Press video "Wonders of Creation: The Lightning Bug." Here's what I learned from it.

Fireflies are not flies at all, but flying beetles that literally carry their own flashlights. These remarkable insects produce light through a process called "bioluminescence"—the emission of light from living organisms. Inside their bodies, they combine special chemicals to create a bright, heatless light. Unlike the glow sticks we might use, which also rely on chemical reactions, fireflies achieve this with incredible efficiency. Scientists have studied these creatures for years hoping to replicate their light production, yet they admit that the firefly's light remains far superior—many times more efficient than anything humans have engineered.

This "cold light" serves practical purposes in the insect's life. Fireflies use their flashes to warn potential predators of danger or to attract mates for reproduction. What appears as a magical twinkling on a summer evening is actually a sophisticated communication system built into these tiny creatures. The more we learn about their biology, the more we stand in awe of the intricate design at work.

Tragically, many in the scientific community attribute this complexity to millions of years of mindless evolution through time, chance, and random mutations. Yet, as the AP video points out, such functional design clearly demands a Designer. The Apostle John wrote, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:5). In the same way, the light of the lightning bug shines as a testimony to God's creative power, one that unbelieving minds often fail to comprehend.

As parents, we have precious opportunities to use moments like chasing fireflies to point our children toward the Creator. Next time you see those glowing specks dancing in the twilight, pause with your family. Marvel not just at the insect, but at the Mighty Maker who spoke the universe into existence and crafted even the smallest details with purpose and beauty. From the grandeur of the stars to the glow of a beetle's abdomen, every part of creation declares His glory (Psalm 19:1).

This summer, let the simple wonder of lightning bugs rekindle childlike awe in your heart. God's creation is not random or accidental—it is intentionally designed to draw us closer to Him. May we, like the psalmist, respond with praise: "O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all" (Psalm 104:24). Let us teach the next generation to see God's handiwork everywhere, even in the backyard on a warm summer night.

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!

*Jackie Harvey—now home- *Sherry—awaiting test results.
*Tabitha Sneed—has been in serious condition-starting to improve-keep in prayer
*Joe & Betty James— both dealing with serious medical issues—their address is 8516 Burlleson Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Upcoming Surgeries-Recovery!

*Kathy Martin—home recovering from out-pt surg.
*Marsha Patrick—recovery going well @ home
*Rita Oliphant— will be having upcoming surg.

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

*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

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 *Al & Vicki Peek *Jerry Martin *Roxanne Fuqua *Mary Mulliniks
*Bonita Madewell *Becky Palk *Jim & Betty Suddeath *Chase Lewis *Doug Simpson *Joe Wright *Judy Simpson
*Sue Edmission *Alyssa Gold *Carolyn Wilson *Scotty Palk *Margie Gunn *Josh Barnet *Lance Davis
*Frances Simpson *Carlene Davis *Daniel McCarson *Marcia Simpson *Nancy Daniel *Claude Hurt *Thelma Davidson
*Savannah Patrick—(Rhetts 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
Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. Waverly, TN 37185— **Gary Davis**—in rehab there room 717 & **June Dreaden**—(Sonya Rachford's mom) had to go to the hospital & stay for a few days—now back @HCNH . please continue to 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

ANNOUNCMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

You are all invited to a
"Going Away Party"
for
"Rebecca Potter"

on Sunday, July 5th from 12:00-4:00 here @ the building. Rebecca has taken a new music director/teaching position @ Chester County High School in Henderson, thus we are sad to say will be leaving us & McEwen. This will be a casual event, if you would like to help with this event you could bring an appetizer to share!

This week being the 4th Wednesday of the Month, will be our singing night, along with our meal starting at 5:15 pm. See you there!!!

Remember, our staff will be going to Camp Leatherwood, this coming Saturday, with our kids leaving on Sunday, June 28th. Please be continuing to pray for the kids, workers, weather & most of all souls to be reached &/or renewed! Also, this year Monday night will be fish night, with our congregation overseeing the supply & cooking of. This always takes a few good men/ women to handle. If you can help with please contact Wade Tummins & let him know, will start @ 3:00 pm.



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

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

It is the week before church camp and I am covered up with kitchen duty stuff!! This year I decided it was time for me to step away from being the Activities Director and move to a different role for camp. Our kitchen staff from the past several years will not be at camp this year, so guess where I will be working!?! Yep, in the kitchen alongside Laurie and several others. It is a totally new area for all of us and we are nervous but also excited about our new adventure. Please keep us and the entire week of camp in your prayers. Pray for a successful week of spreading the Gospel and please pray for cool weather.

Our only youth activity for last week was our Breakfast and Bible study last Thursday. We had 12 in attendance. We enjoyed another great meal prepared by Laurie and another great time of bible study as we discussed Living a Life that Matters. We had a great morning together and I appreciate all the youth that came. In Him, *Keith*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, June 28th 2026

WelcomeMike Burns
Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
1st Prayer.....Barry Phy
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Andrew Peyton
 Bruce Mayfield Keith Grigsby
 Derek Berryman Wade Tummins
 Ty Adams Jesse Kilpatrick
Closing Prayer.....Mike Robertson
Collect Cards.....Slate Berryman
 & Colt Stanfill
Greeters.....Mark & Kim Forster
Nursery..... Not at this time
Collect Cups.....Youth
Security.....Team #3

Sunday 6PM June 28th, 2026

Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
Prayer.....W. R. Long
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Thomas Cook
 & Carter Howard
Closing Prayer.....Jack Grigsby

Wednesday 6:30 PM, July 1st, 2026

Lead Singing.....Jimmy Long
Prayer.....Jacen Robertson
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 6/21/2026

Sunday Morning Bible School	-----	114
Sunday Morning Worship	-----	200
Sunday Evening Worship	-----	93
Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study	-----	95
Sunday Contribution	-----	\$11,198

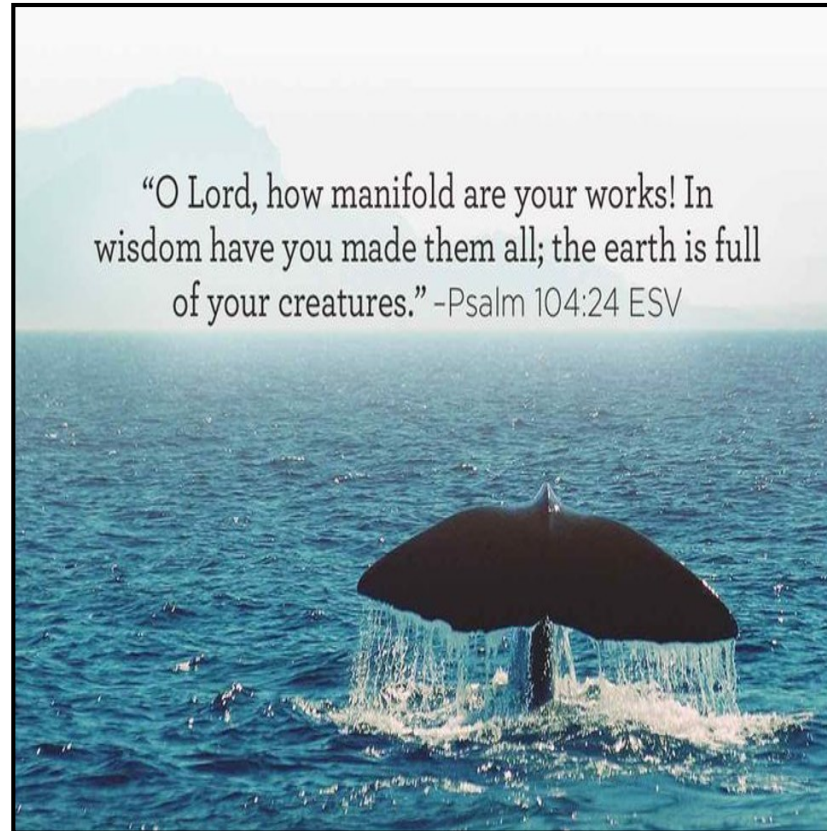


The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of June 21st 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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 Website: www.mcewenchurchofchrist.com

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 - 4 there may be cards to work on downstairs this Wednesday night.