



First Christian Church
Community Partner... With Family Focus

SOARING SPIRIT

June

Monthly News Letter

2023



2023 VBS THEME IS

ON A ROLL WITH GOD!

JUNE 12th thru 16th

Sign-up begins June 12th

Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

- Proverbs 4:14-17



STAFF @
FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

JAMES LOFT Ph.D.
Senior Pastor

IAN WATSON
Director of Music

KAY WEIDEMAN
Office Manager

RENEE RAY
Children's Program Director
Firehouse Custodian

JOHN FRANKOVICH
Firehouse Manager
Soaring Spirit Editor

KELLY BIDDLE
Church Custodian

CINDY WATSON
Pianist

SARAH WATSON
Worship Team

Elder for the Month
of **June:**

*LYNN BOCKOVER



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**Lynn Bockover

Becky Catey

Bob Catey

Dan Ray



FIREHOUSE COMMITTEE

**Lynne Ream

Barbara Kuhn

Becky Catey

Carl Comerford

Renee Ray

ELDERS BOARD

**Mike Hileman

Becky Catey

Carl Comerford

Jim Clary

Lynn Bockover

Michael Riley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Carl Comerford

Barbara Kuhn

Becky Catey

Bob Catey

Dan Ray

Jim Clary

Karen Comerford

Lynne Ream

Lynn Bockover

Nancy Cunningham

TRUSTEES

**Bob Catey

**Dan Ray

Carl Comerford

Renee Ray

Ron Morris

June Birthdays {If your name should appear on the birthday list and doesn't, please notify the office.}



June 6 Ralph Duckwall

June 7 Jacob Bockover

Dera Shuler

June 13 Jeff Allen

June 15 Mel Duckwall

June 23 Anabelle Jones

Linda Merchant

Brooklynn Lewis

June 24 Edmund Duckwall

Gracie Ressett



From the Pastor's Desk

“What is Chrislam? Is it Biblical”

By Dr. James Loft

Syncretism is the fusion or blending of differing systems of belief.

“Chrislam” is an attempt to syncretize Christianity with Islam, therefore the name “Chris” for Christ and “lam” for Islam.

The central belief is that Christianity and Islam are compatible, worship the same God, and that a person can be both a Christian and a Muslim at the same time. It attempts to blur the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam. It is a *cult*.

Chrislam reportedly began in the 1980's among the Yoruba of Nigeria, and has spread somewhat world wide.

Berlin, Germany has announced that a new worship building is being constructed; The House of One.

Reportedly, Jews, Christians and Muslims will meet in different facilities—a synagogue, a church, and a mosque—under one roof. According to their website (02/20/2017), *“The three separate sections will be linked by a communal room in the center of the building. This will serve as a meeting place, where worshippers and members of the public can come together and learn more about the religions and each other.”*

This “blending” has been observed on numerous other fronts.

1. According to the Washington Times, in June of 2014, Pope Francis authorized Islamic prayers and readings from the Qu’ran at the Vatican; stated to be an attempt to usher in peace between Israelis and Palestinians.
2. According to the Wall Street Journal, on November 29, 2014, Pope Francis prayed with the Grand Mufti Rahmi Taran while facing east in a mosque in Istanbul.
3. According to The Huffington Post, on September 23, 2015, Pope Francis stated at St. Patrick’s Cathedral: *“I would like to express two sentiments for my Muslim brothers and sisters: Firstly, my greetings as they celebrate the feast of sacrifice. I would have wished my greeting to be warmer. My sentiments of closeness, in the face of tragedy. The tragedy that they suffered in Mecca. In this moment, I give assurances of my prayers.*

“A prayer to almighty god, all merciful.”

In addition, to calling Muslims “*my brothers and sisters*” and lending credibility to their feast (Eid al-Adha, a feast celebrating the fictitious claim that Abraham followed Allah’s command to sacrifice his son Ishmael), the last phrase of the Pope’s comments are consistent with Islamic beliefs, as they recognize Allah as the all-merciful one.

1. June of 2016, the PCUSA offered up prayers to Allah at their 222 General Assembly, with representative Wallid Said stating; *“Allah bless us and bless our families and bless our Lord.”*
2. On January 17, 2017, ABC affiliate KTXS reported that Methodist-affiliated McMurry University had a Muslim Student Assoc., and will dedicate some space in one of the school dorm’s for its Muslim students’ daily prayers.

Islam believes that Jesus is not God (5:17). They reject the deity of Christ. The Qur’an emphatically states that the very idea that Jesus is God is blasphemy (5:17). Moreover, Muslims deny the death of Christ on the cross (4:157-158).

While there is some overlap in the works of Christianity and Islam (and other religions), there is a great difference in their intended purpose, motivation, and author.

1. Salvation:

A. Christianity teaches, by grace alone (Eph 2:10). The believer does good works because God lives in them (Col 1:27; Phil 2:13). The faithful Christian does not will and work independently of God, but their wills and actions are the very areas in which God’s own power manifests itself (Phil 4:13; 1 Thess 2:13). Christ alone mediates salvation (1 Tim 2:5) and actually saves (John 3:36, 14:6). Acts 4:12 states, *“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

B. For Muslims, forgiveness is based on a combination of Allah’s grace and their works (8:29; 33:70-71; 42:26; 49:14); if a Muslims good works outweigh their bad ones (18:105; 21:47; 23:102-103) and if Allah so wills it, a Muslim may be forgiven of their sins and enter paradise.

When God’s word says there is no other name, that includes Muhammad and Allah.

FATHERS DAY

Shared Memories of Dads

Written & Compiled by John Frankovich, Jr



Once again, as with *Mother's Day*, I wanted to collect various stories and memories of Dads.

This first *Dad Memory* comes from Ralph Benedict. The following is what he wrote.

"Jim Benedict was not only my father, he was my Dad. From the day he married my Mom to the day he past away, he was my Dad."

"Dad didn't have any hobbies, or get elected to any local clubs, or have a favorite place to go after work. He always took care of his responsibilities the way a Dad should."

"He learned how to be a good man from his family, being taught the right way to be a good provider, do what is needed, and know how to treat others right."

"Dad was one to lead by examples of being a good son, staying away from trouble, taking care of his Grandma, Mom, Dad, my Mom, John and I."

"Jim Benedict enlisted in the Marines, and served in his Company's Honor Platoon."

"Dad would always make time for us, whatever we wanted to do, he was there providing support with love and anything we need."

"When I was in DMH, or broke my leg, hit by a car, broke my arm, sick, enlisted with the Army, deployed, moved, deployed again, Dad was always there."

"Dad did have one hobby, being a Family Man!"

The next *Dad memory* comes from Beverly Clary, I present what she wrote to me.

"My Dad loved to go fishing. My sister and I would always want to go too. Mom always fixed food for us to take and we got quality time with Dad."

"Because of our age difference, 10 years apart, he started taking us one at a time. The problem was that when there was only one of us, he didn't get to do much fishing. I wouldn't take the fish off the hook, and my sister wouldn't bait the hook. Dad discovered that we were better together as we took care of each other and he could fish. That made a winning situation for everyone."

The next two stories come from Carl Comerford, I present what he wrote.

"My younger brother and I loved to wrestle each other. One day as we were going at it, Dad came in and asked us if we would like to try and wrestle with him?"

"My brother and I hatched a plan to attack Dad on the count of three. We each got on separate sides of Dad and counted to three. The next thing we know, we were both on the ground looking up at Dad while he was sitting on us. Dad asked us if we wanted another chance, we both said; "NO!!"

Another memory from Carl Comerford.

"My favorite memory of my Dad was shortly after I had graduated from High school."

"It seemed that during my Senior year in high school, my Dad and I didn't see eye to eye on several things. So I had decided to get an apartment in town with a buddy of mine from school. At which, my Dad said, 'Don't plan on coming back, and don't think you're getting any help.'

"After about a week in the apartment, I needed to go back home and get the rest of my things. When I pulled into the driveway, my Dad was standing there, and as soon as I got out of the car, he started asking me if I was okay, and if there was anything I needed."

"From then on, my Dad and I were always best friends."

Continued...

FATHERS DAY

Shared Memories of Dads Part 2

Written & Compiled by John Frankovich, Jr



I now share a story about my Dad, being in full *Father mode*.

It's 1976 and I am in the 6th grade. I pretty much blew off "most" of the First Semester, my youthful mind apparently deemed it unworthy of my attention.

My Dad picked up at some point that I wasn't doing much homework at home. He further found it curious that returned and graded papers were sparse, as he would check his desk daily, where I was to place them for his review.

As Dad did typically, during dinner he would ask probing questions to gauge my answers and reactions. I'm fairly certain I gave vague answers in return.

Moving forward a few months, it's now Christmas time, and there would be a two week holiday break.

On that Friday before the break, Dad and I are eating dinner. My father casually asks what my plans were for the holiday break. I responded with the usual same answer; "*Build a model, do some sketches and read my history books.*" My Dad nodded and smiled.

After dinner, and I had done the dishes, Dad calls me back into the kitchen. I immediately noticed a stack of books and papers on the kitchen table upon my return from the bedroom. Dad tells me to have a seat. I immediately know, that what's coming won't be friendly to my holiday plans.

The following is what my Dad in full *Father mode* laid out to me that Friday evening; "*Son, I love you, and because I love you, I can no longer stand by as you eagerly travel into the abyss. I got with Mrs. Brewer, your teacher, and she and I had an interesting conversation, about you. As you well know son, you have opted not to do your school work, and since you have not done what you were supposed to do these past several months, you will do so during your holiday break. You son, didn't earn your holiday break.*

"*You are fortunate my son, that you have a teacher that cares. Mrs. Brewer put together all of the assignments that you failed to do. Here in these papers, are those assignments, worksheets and instructions. Mrs. Brewer also was gracious enough to supply you with all the books needed for this task.*

"All the books are marked according to the assignment number, and that sheet is on top.

"You will work on this all through the break. When you are not eating and sleeping, you are working on assignments. Again, Mrs. Brewer is a gracious teacher, and she will take the time to grade all of your work, and maybe, just maybe, you won't fail the First Semester.

"If you fail in completing this task, you know the consequences will be severe. Do you read me?"

"You have any questions or need guidance, just ask. Further more, my Supervisor at Chrysler is also an understanding and gracious man. You will be relieved son that I have the next two weeks off work. Now I will leave you to it. You will give your best in this task, so you best get started."

To this day, I still don't know how I crammed a whole semester in two weeks, but I did. I did not fail that semester.

A few decades later, when my Dad and I revisited this particular episode, my Dad told me he was a bit impressed that I actually got it all done. It further proved to him at the time, that his son was *very capable* after all.

My Dad attended every *Parent-Teacher conference*, and had additional meetings with teachers, when the need arose.

On one occasion, my teacher shared her concern with my Dad, about my "comprehension problem."

Dad digested all she presented. My Dad, recalling of the episode, told her, that comprehension wasn't the problem. He told her that his son reads and digests history books far above his grade level, and he added, can recite to me in detail all he learned from his reading. My son, he continued, has an issue of day-dreaming, not paying attention, or giving the school work the due time it needs. That, he said, is now a different matter, but it's not a comprehension problem.

When I was a kid, my Dad wasn't my "buddy", he was my Father, and that is exactly what I needed.

FLAG DAY

June 14th

Pledge of Allegiance Day

June 22nd

The American Continental Congress passed an act that established an official National flag on June 14, 1777. One of the first flags recognized was of the 13 stars arranged in a circle with the idea that all the colonies were equal. The 13 stripes resting next to the blue field (blue representing 'loyalty'), represented the struggle for independence. Red is for 'valor' and white is for 'purity'.

The longest lasting version of the American flag is the current 50 state flag which, was established via an Executive order by President Eisenhower on Aug. 21, 1959. It was first flown officially on July 4th, 1960.

In 1968, the U.S. Congress approved the "*Federal Flag Desecration Law*", due to Vietnam protests. The Law made it *illegal to publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning or trampling upon it*. The consequences were fines and or a year in prison.

On June 21st, 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 in favor of Gregory Lee Johnson's right to "burn" the flag as a protestor. The decision was placed under the 1st Amendment, constituting as a form of "symbolic speech."

It is reported that the credit of original authorship for the *Pledge of Allegiance* goes to Francis Bellamy (1855-1931), a Baptist minister in 1892. The Pledge was recited in schools, government organizations and American social events, before the entry of the 20th century.

In 1923, the words, *to the flag*, were added to the Pledge. Then on June 22, 1942, the U.S. Congress adopted the "Pledge."

In 1954, in response to the communist threats of the day, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add to the Pledge, the words; "*under God*."

From the 1960's to today, the "Pledge" has been assaulted publicly and battered in ping-pong fashion in the U.S. courts into the 21st century.

In 2002 the 9th Circuit court found the "Pledge" unconstitutional, for students, because it violated their First Amendment rights. This was struck down in 2004.



The real objection to the Pledge as things played out, is the phrase, *one nation under God*.

With the long desire for some to eliminate God from this nation's history, what God do "they" want to replace Him with?

Red Skelton in 1969, on his show, recited the *Pledge of Allegiance* as he learned it from the Principle of Harrison School in Vincennes, IN, when he was in the 7th grade (about 1925-27). What follows is direct from an audio recording I made.

I (me, an individual, a committee of one)

Pledge (*dedicate all my worldly goods, without self pity*)

Allegiance (*my love, my devotion*)

To the flag (*our standard, old glory, a symbol of freedom wherever she waves there's respect. Because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.*)

Of the United (*it means we have all come together*)

States of America (*individual communities that have organized into 48 great States. 48 individual communities with pride, dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, love for country.*)

And to the Republic (*a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern, and government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.*)

For which it stands, One Nation (*one nation, meaning so blessed by God.*)

Indivisible (*incapable of being divided.*)

With Liberty (*which is freedom, the right of power to live ones own life, without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.*)

And Justice (*the principle or quality of dealing with others.*)

For all (*which means it is as much your country as it is mine*)

*"Since I was a boy, two states have been added and two words have been added to this Pledge; **Under God**.*

"Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said this is a prayer and "it" would be eliminated from schools too."

Compiled & Written by John Frankovich, Jr.

THE McNEILLS



COMING TO First Christian Church

53 W. Main St, Peru, IN

765-473-3105

JUNE 10th, (Sat) 2023 @ 6:00 PM

👉 Tickets on Sale Now

👉 \$10 per Person

\$15 per Family



“Operation Shoebox Update 3”

For the month of “**June**,” focused purchases of toothbrushes, socks for all ages, and coloring books.

Child shoeboxes will be packed in less than 5 months. We are still gathering so many items. I am hoping we can pack between 130-150 boxes. Each box needs \$10 to cover postage and literature in “their” language. Monies collected are divided toward; purchases, shipping & the boxes themselves.

The boxes never go to the same village or community, it changes yearly.

- *Bev Clary*



Around the world, the animal kingdom is a big help in this ministry, going where the machines can't or aren't available to do so.



From Samaritan's Purse Part 3

When packing “shoeboxes” DO NOT include the following; candy, toothpaste, used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds, chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; or aerosol cans.

During “*National Collection Week*” (Nov. 13-20, 2023), S.P. will collect the gift-filled shoeboxes at nearly 5,000 drop-off locations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

In 2022, in the U.S. alone, 9.3 million shoebox gifts were collected, with over 220,000 Americans helping in this ministry.





PRAYER Warriors

The *Prayer Warriors* encourage FCC members to join with them during your day to pray over the Prayer List. They are always looking for new members to join them. If you are interested, please see Sandy Alspaugh for more information.

Prayer is the breath of the Christian life. We are committed to frequently practice the presence of Jesus and stand in the gap for others in prayer. Please contact the office at 765-473-3105 for your prayer requests or contact Sandy Alspaugh at 765-469-9802.

PRAYER List

Scripture tells us to pray and intercede for one another. Please remember the following members and friends in your prayers.



Angela Abbott
 Arnold Presley
 Barb See
 Ben & Jeanine Cripem
 Beth Edwards
 Bob Williams
 Brent Ewer
 Carolyn Everest
 Chad Abbott
 Ed Ballinger
 Elmo Torrence
 Jamyiah Wilson
 Janet Kerschner
 Jeff McElheny (Barb Kuhn's brother)
 John & Vivian from Tennessee
 Joy Renfrow
 Lisa Reibly
 Lloyd Hershberger
 Mallory Beaver
 Marilyn Allen
 Max Richter
 Mike Clingaman
 Miles Hewitt & Wife

Pat Hardwick
 Patrick Spohn
 Paul Stanton
 Ray Sisney
 Reed Bockover
 Ricky Stone
 Sue Evans
 Tommy Houlihan
 Tye Higgins
 Veda Crowley
 Wayne Brindle
 Willy Sprowl
 *Our FCC Church Family

2023 Friendship Ministry Listings

BLAIR RIDGE RESIDENTS 269 S Meadowview Dr. #472-8049

Jerri Kunkle
Apt 6

Bill Biddle
Apt 46

OUT OF TOWN RESIDENTS

Aileen Hunter
7133 Meadow Trail
Apt. 116
Brownsburg, IN 46112

Aliceann Allman
C/O Deanne Below
1426 Northridge Dr.
Danville, IN 46122

Arnold Presley
C/O Carol Penn
13103 N. Brick Chapel Dr.
Camby, IN 46113

Mildred Catey
Waterford Place, Rm. 517
800 St. Joseph Drive
Kokomo, IN 46901

JUNE SERVER CALENDAR

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25	June 25 Community Prayer
(WORSHIP)					
<i>Cameras</i>	Michael Riley	Carl Comerford	Michael Riley	Carl Comerford	
<i>Sound Board</i>	Mike Hileman	Mike Hileman	Mike Hileman	Mike Hileman	Mike Hileman
<i>Computer</i>	Carl Comerford	Nancy Cook	Barry Hazel	Nancy Cook	Carl Comerford
(KING'S KIDS)	Renee Ray <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Renee Ray <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Renee Ray <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Renee Ray <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	
(NURSERY)					
<i>Sunday School</i>	Barbra Hileman	Barbra Hileman	Barbra Hileman	Barbra Hileman	
<i>Worship</i>	Shirley Kerns	Cindy Beaver	Carol Biddle	Barbra Hileman	
(BUS DRIVER)	Bob Catey	Bob Catey	Bob Catey	Bob Catey	
(GREETERS)					
<i>Elevator Door</i>	Jim Clary	Carl Comerford	Jeff Reams	Jeff Burton	
<i>Sanctuary</i>	Bev Clary	Karen Comerford	Lynne Reams	Vicki Burton	

JUNE at-a-glance

REPEATING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

- Elders Prayer Circle, 8:30 AM
- Sunday School, 9 AM
- Sunday Worship, 10 AM
- AR, 2 PM

MONDAYS

- Staff Meeting 9 AM (except the week that has board meetings)
- AR, Noon

THURSDAYS

- Worship Team Rehearsal, 6:30 PM

FRIDAYS

- AR, NOON

SATURDAYS

- BIBLE STUDY, 9 AM
- AR 10 AM
- AR, 10 AM

JUNE 14th

Flag Day

JUNE 18th

Father's Day

Breakfast 9 am Sunday Morn. In Fellowship Hall

Home Communion 12:30 pm

JUNE 19th

Elders Meeting 6:00 pm

Executive Meeting 7:00 pm

JUNE 20th

Ministerial Assoc. 8:00 am—F.H. Bay

JUNE 22nd

Pledge of Allegiance Day

JUNE 27th

Nickel Plate Trail 6:00 pm - F.H.

JUNE

“Feed My Sheep” Ministry

Serving Lunch Every Mon., Wed, Fri - 11:30-12:30

JUNE 6th

Firehouse Committee Meeting 2:00 pm

JUNE 10th

The McNeills Gospel Group @ 6:00 pm

JUNE 12th

Gideon—FH Bay 6:30 pm

JUNE 13th

Needlework Group 5:30 pm

Kaios—LB 6:00pm

