

### The Great Toad Massacre of 2020

#### Elders

John Deffenbaugh  
Benny Haught  
Rick Hyder  
Tim Murray  
Bill Reiboldt

#### Deacons

Pete Babb  
Carl Cobb  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

#### Preacher

Danny Boggs

#### Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

#### Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

#### Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

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The early August weather was surprisingly beautiful. The two weeks of quarantine were extremely annoying. And the old hickory stump was just sitting there. Little did I know they would converge into the great toad massacre of 2020.

The tree died a few years ago. I kept waiting for a strong wind to blow it over, but it kept standing until one big limb dangled precariously about 20 feet above the ground. Hopeful for a big turnout for a yard sale one fall afternoon, I knew the tree had to come down for the safety of all our shoppers. So Elijah and I had some fun chopping it down the old fashioned way. Not long after, Tim came and leveled the stump near the ground.

There it sits, not rotting nearly as fast as the rest of the tree did. I see it almost every day as I walk to the mailbox and back. Every once in a while I walk to it with a freshly sharpened axe or mattocks and chop away. That nice August quarantine morning, I approached it with plenty of frustration to let loose.

I brushed away some grass clippings to find just the right places to strike. When I had landed a couple of blows, out jumped a medium sized toad from underneath the rotting roots. He didn't surprise me; this has been some year for frogs and toads around our place. He hopped a yard away, and I chopped some more while he seemed to assess the situation. Then he hopped right back under the stump! I told him it was a bad decision, then I went about my business.

Half a minute later, a big toad emerged. When I saw him, I couldn't tell if he was alive or dead. I poked at him, but he didn't move. I picked him up and set him a few feet away. He

didn't make the same choice as his medium sized friend. I went back to work. When I looked at him again a few minutes later, I saw blood trickling from his head down his back and side. I could tell he wasn't making any choices at all any more.

Another medium sized toad and a small one did the same thing the first one did—get out, then go back in. Why didn't they all get out when the chopping started? Why did they go back where the chopping persisted? I felt bad for them, but not bad enough to stop doing what I came to do. Thus, the great toad massacre of 2020.

Who do we human beings sometimes have no more sense than a toad? Why don't we see how much sin hurts us? Why do we keep going back?

Our decisions matter so much more than a toad's do. We're made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27). We're made to enjoy life with him in a kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world (Matt. 25:34). But we're made with the ability to make moral choices, and the result of choosing wrong is death and wrath (Eph. 2:1-3). God is merciful, gracious and loving to rescue us from our ill-fated decisions and give us good purpose in life (Eph. 2:4-10). But if, "after we have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for us than the first" (2 Pet. 2:20).

If you have more sense than a toad, follow Jesus out of your sin. And don't go back.

Danny Boggs

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Jaren Dodson, Vern Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Ervin and Wilma Hill, Karen Honeycutt, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Larry McMahan, Cheryl Neilans, McKinley O'Connell, Lyn Pendergraft, Andy Rasbury, Edith Toney, Miles Wolgamott.

**Bethany Boggs** will have surgery tomorrow.

**Every "One" Counts:** When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



 **Devo and Donuts** will resume on September 1 at 7:00 in the activities center. Invite a friend and begin your day with songs and praises.

We will be **back together** for services starting tomorrow evening. Everyone will be in the auditorium for a special three-part series.

This Sunday we will have our **regular services**, but no Bible classes. We hope to see all of you that can come to the building. You will continue to pick up communion supplies at the tables and leave your offering there. There will be an extra song at the end to allow those who wish to leave before everyone is dismissed. Masks will be available in the foyer, if you wish to wear one. Seating is still every other pew and social distancing is encouraged.

## This Sunday's Sermons:



AM: Danny Boggs  
 PM: *Hosanna! Hallelujah! Huh?*  
 (Danny Boggs)

We, again, encourage you to stay home if you are not feeling well. We also know that many of you cannot get out at this time for health reasons. We miss you but certainly understand. Please join our **services online** at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. Visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services online.

Sunday **Bible classes** will resume on September 13 and Wednesday classes will return on September 16.

Ladies, if you haven't picked up your copy of "**The Shepherd's Daughter**" you can get it from the library. Leave your money in the basket or give it to Coralee. We are going to place another order on September 1 for the same \$12.55 price. Please let Coralee know if you would like to order.

**Family Movie Night:** We have reserved a room at the Neosho B&B theatre on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 pm to watch "The Lego Movie." This is a activity for K-12 children and their families. We hope you can join us. The cost will be \$5.00. The concession stand will be available if you would like to purchase items from there.

**Polishing the Pulpit** has changed to access to their program. You still get the same materials with new ones including videos added often. You can go to PTP365 or <https://polishingthepulpit.com/welcome-to-ntp365/> Click: I am a member of a subscribing congregation. Enter: Hillcrest Church of Christ and follow the instructions.

Remember to bring your **housewarming** gift for Ethan Murray. You can put it in the basket in the foyer. Cash gifts may be given to Molly Cobb.

We will have a weekend at **Green Valley Bible camp** on October 9-11. More details can be found on our Facebook page. Go online now and sign up at <https://neoshochurchofchrist.org/week-two-weekend/>



### PRAYER LEADERS

| SUNDAY                          | WEDNESDAY                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| AM Opening: Rick Hyder          | Opening: Miles Wolgamott |
| Communion Prayers: Adam Bennett | Closing: Bob Murray      |
| AM Closing: Todd Tyler          |                          |
| PM Opening: Kaed Thomas         |                          |
| PM Closing: Harold Speir        |                          |

| RECORDS      | 8-23-20    | 8-25-19    |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Bible Study  |            | 158        |
| AM Worship   |            | 205        |
| PM Worship   |            | 136        |
| Wednesday    |            | 139        |
| Contribution | \$5,923.72 | \$9,186.00 |
| Budget       | \$7,864.15 | \$7,717.37 |