

100% Tomato Juice?

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Charles Collinworth
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
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

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



I don't drink a lot of tomato juice anymore. None of it tastes like Grandma's did. But tomato juice is usually my choice when they offer drinks on an airplane flight. Once on a trip I was enjoying a can labeled in bold letters, "100% TOMATO JUICE." But just below that banner—in fine print—were these words: "From Concentrate with Added Ingredients." What?! A closer look revealed that the ingredients in order were water, tomato concentrate, salt and ascorbic acid. I don't think that was Grandma's recipe.

In religion people often assume that they have the pure product when, in fact, they do not.

Paul wrote that we ought "not to go beyond what is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6). Instead he urged, "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13). John warned that "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).

Most churchgoers assume that theirs is 100% pure church. But when the Lord's New Testament pattern for church is mixed with manmade ideas for salvation, worship, organization and more, what is the result? It's not the Lord's church. Maybe it's church cocktail. How many additional ingredients can be thrown into the mix before the Lord refuses to recognize a body as his

own? We ought not to water down the pattern. Nor do we need to spice it up.

Most who profess allegiance to Christ believe that theirs is 100% pure Christianity. But the Holy Spirit taught John that Christians need a reminder like this: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but from the world. And the world is passing away, but whoever does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15-17). Would you want to meet the Lord with a mixed allegiance? Is his will number one in your priorities? What does your daily life say about whether you love God or love the world and the things in it?

Since Grandma has gone to be with the Lord, I can only settle for second-rate tomato juice. But in religion we need not, should not, and must not compromise. The New Testament way is the best, and it is the only one that will abide forever.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Bonaga Buck, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Joe and Teresa Freund, Coral Haggard, Gaele Jackson, Molly Jackson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Lyn Pendergraft, Charlie Phillips, Mebyl Privett, Tina Rasbury, Connor Reiboldt, Lawrence Sanders, Rylee Schroeder, Harold Speir, Edith Toney.

Lisa Daniels will have surgery on her foot and knee on Friday.



Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. We recently helped a family whose mother died unexpectedly. If you know someone who needs help, contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Students of all ages are invited to **Devo and Donuts** every Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center. Come and bring a friend!



When you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

The **Wednesday Night Family Meal** is this week. Please sign up in the foyer and plan to attend. The menu is meatball subs. They will be provided by the hostess groups of Molly Cobb/Brenda Kimbrough and Heather Reiboldt/Andrea Wald.

Today's Sermons



A.M. *Excel Still More*
(1 Th. 4:1, Danny Boggs)
P.M. *Jesus, the Son of Man*
(Danny Boggs)

Challenge Youth Conference is January 14-16 in Dallas. It is exciting to head back to CYC! The sign up deadline is today, so go online and register if you haven't already done so.

Men and boys, join us for **BBQ night** at  Woody's Smokehouse on Monday. The bus will leave here at 6:00.

K-12 Family Ice Skating is this Friday at the Lawrence Plaza skating rink in Bentonville! Kindergartners through grade 12 and their families are welcome. The busses will leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 5:45 pm on Friday. There is still room so message Caleb with how many members of your family are coming ASAP to reserve your spot. Bring money for hot chocolate if you want!



New Devo will be next Sunday at the home of Charlie and Keri Collinsworth. Please bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift. Boys are asked to bring milk or juice and girls bring pancake toppings.

It is time for **caroling!** We will go caroling to the homes of some of our shut-ins and elderly members on Monday, December 20 from 6:00-9:00. If you can come and sing, please sign up on the bulletin board in the back. We want to leave them with a little treat of cookies or other items. If you can donate those, please sign the list.



After the first of the year, everyone will be asked to fill out a form indicating **assignments** you are willing to help with. The specific areas will be for greeting on Sundays, cleaning the activities center, and for worship. For worship we need men who will say a prayer, lead singing on Wednesdays, give a 3-5 minute invitation, and make announcements. Many of you have signed up in the past, but we are updating the information. Maybe you were willing to make announcements but are now also willing to say a prayer. Be thinking and praying about how you can serve the congregation in one of these ways. If you have the ability, we have the opportunity and we want everyone to be involved.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

This Wednesday

AM Opening Prayer: Tim Murray
AM Closing Prayer: Todd Tyler
Communion Prayers: Darren Pierce
PM Opening: Joe McLain
PM Closing Prayer: Mike Kidwell

Announcements: Wayne Douthitt
Singing: Josh King
Invitation: Charlie Collinsworth
Opening Prayer: Peter Wald
Closing Prayer: Aaron Wilson

RECORDS

12-5-21

12-6-20

Bible Study	133	117
AM Worship	168	155
PM Worship	93	113
Wednesday	130	105
Contribution	\$8,375.73	\$8,196.13
Budget	\$8,000.00	\$7,864.15