

Is Jesus Denominational?

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
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

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Our Lord did not align himself with any party or division. Religion in Jesus' time and place was plagued by disharmony. Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians, Zealots, Essenes and other factions crowded the little territory where most Jews lived. Some of the groups wanted political power, some aimed to mold the thinking of the masses, some felt a sense of superiority, and some wanted to be left alone and really cared little to influence others. They were one people but agreed on little. Hardly anything united them until many of them united against Christ. None of them knew the way. Jesus is the way (John 14:6).

Our Lord prayed for unity. On the night he was betrayed, while praying for the disciples whom he had already gathered, Jesus offered this up to his Father: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21). He gave them a message to make believers out of us. God does not answer the prayer of his beloved Son with disunity. His desire is a believing bunch that makes the world take notice.

Our Lord paid for unity. Division between Jews and Gentiles dwarfed the division within Jesus' own Jewish people. And today who could compile the complete list of things that pull people apart? When his killers erected his cross, Jesus broke down the wall. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of

commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility" (Eph. 2:13-16).

Our Lord pled for unity. When pride and rivalry rose up to threaten what Christ bought with his own blood, his apostle Paul implored Christians to think better. "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

Our Lord planned for unity. We don't need to make a plan; we need to follow the plan. "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:1-6).

Wendell Winkler made these main points decades ago in his book *The Church Everybody Is Asking About*. They were true then. They were true in the first century. They still matter in the 21st century.

Danny Boggs

This article is a rerun that came to mind due to (1) studying with the young adult Bible class what makes us distinctive and (2) traveling to Honduras to help with a seminar on unity next weekend. Please pray about that trip, and if you're a young adult, please join us at 9:00 on Sundays for class!



Kay Anderson, Pat Andrews, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford. Don Deffenbaugh, Joe and Teresa Freund, Pete Griffin, Glen Honeycutt, Molly Jackson, Wayne King, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Shanna (Cheryl's daughter), Harold Speir, Edith Toney, Lisa Toney, Ken Tyler.

Kathy Friend remains in rehab in Carthage.

Glen Honeycutt will have surgery on Dec. 12.

Our sympathy is extended to **Ashlea Norman** and her family on the death of her grandmother.



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

Devo and Donuts is Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center. Invite your friends and join us in this morning devotional. 

If 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.

Our devotional at **Gran Villas** has been canceled for today. We will resume in January.



Today's Sermons

A.M.: *Amazingly Humble*
(Luke 7:1-10, Danny Boggs)

P.M.: *Isn't It Obvious?*
(Mark 2:1-12, Danny Boggs)

Tri-State Youth Series is today in Grove, OK. The van will leave at 3:00.

Men's BBQ night is Tuesday. The van will leave at 6:00 to go to BBQ Station in Cassville.

The van will leave for **House Retreat** at 6:00 on Friday. This will be a great time of fellowship for our youth,

Sign up now for **Challenge Youth Conference** in Dallas on January 13-15. The sign up deadline is December 14.

Senior Saints Special Announcement: Interested Senior Saints will have a meeting in the church library after morning services to discuss a Christmas buffet dinner and a lights displays road trip.

Wednesday **Family Meal** is Dec. 14. Sign up in the foyer.

Our **Bright Futures Christmas Family** from South Elementary has two sisters who have been in and out of foster care, but are currently with their mom. Those who took a gift tag, please return the unwrapped gift by next Sunday. Cash donations will be used to help a **second family** in need in our community from the Neosho Christian School. Please give cash donations to Brenda Kimbrough. Thank you for your help in both of these endeavors!

Please sign the **birthday cards** on the welcome desk for some children at Fair Haven.

Taylor and Victoria Keith will be having their **baby** soon. There is a basket in the foyer if you would like to leave a gift for them.

Danny will be leaving this week for a trip to **Honduras**. Pray for the trip and the efforts there.

As we begin a new year, men, if you have decided you would like to add an area of **involvement** in the services by leading prayers, leading Wednesday night singing, giving the announcements or presenting a five minute invitation and you have not been included on our assignment lists in one or more of those areas, please write that on your attendance card and we will include you.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

AM Opening Prayer: Mike Kidwell
AM Closing Prayer: Jared Thomas
Communion Prayers: Sam Collinsworth
PM Opening: Joe McLain
PM Closing: Glen Honeycutt

This Wednesday

Announcements: Mike Hinman
Singing: Carl Cobb
Invitation: Bryan Reiboldt
Opening Prayer: Jared Hyder
Closing Prayer: Ethan Murray

RECORDS

	11-27-22	11-28-21
Bible Study	174	155
AM Worship	213	201
PM Worship	128	115
Wednesday	138	112
Contribution	\$8810.28	\$8,899.56
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00