

Hey Church Family,
I hope everyone is doing well this week. Have there been times in your faith when you felt very alone? Maybe you made a stand that you would regularly attend the worship of the church while others in your family slept in on Sundays. Maybe you decided that consuming alcohol was unwise and you decided not to, even though your friends continued the habit. One way that we may feel alone in churches of Christ is our decision to only use our voices when we sing. It's likely the first thing that people first notice when they visit our assemblies. We only use our voices! Where's the band!? To many, it's very strange or old fashioned. It may feel like our conviction on this matter is all alone in the religious world.

Would you be surprised to know that we aren't actually alone in this? While I certainly wouldn't advocate for the numerous examples of false teaching found in the churches from the Orthodox tradition (Greek, Russian, Coptic, etc.), it is fascinating to me that 'Orthodox' churches have never used instrumental music in their history. Listen to the following reasons that they frequently give for this decision:

- The Orthodox Church chooses to focus on the human voice as a sacred instrument, and a desire to maintain the purity of worship as an offering to God. Created in the image of God, humanity is seen as uniquely capable of offering praise through speech and song. The voice, unlike a manufactured instrument, is an organic gift from God, the expression of the human's spirit and will.

- The Orthodox Church traces its practices back to the early Christian communities of the apostolic era. In the first centuries of Christianity, worship was simple and unadorned. Historical evidence suggests that early Christians relied solely on vocal music. Instruments, commonly associated with pagan rituals or secular entertainment in the Greco-Roman world, were avoided to distinguish Christian worship from surrounding cultural practices. While Roman Catholicism and Protestantism eventually embraced organs and orchestras—often influenced by cultural developments—the Orthodox Church holds fast to its ancient roots.

- The words of the songs themselves elevate the text of the scriptures, ensuring that the focus remains on the words and their meaning rather than on musical embellishment. Instruments, it is argued, could distract from this spiritual intent, introducing an artificial layer that might overshadow the sacred dialogue between God and His people.

- Another key factor is the concept of emptying oneself, which is a common theme in the Orthodox Church. Worship is not about spectacle or emotional manipulation but about humility and communion with God. Instrumental music, with its potential for grandeur or theatricality, risks shifting attention away from the heart of our worship: the glorification of God.

Again, I give no credence to the MANY false teachings present in the Orthodox churches, but I think their reasoning for a cappella worship is very good and may even remind us of a few things!

Our distinctiveness in choosing to worship God with our voices is not a weird "quirk" from our "tradition" but an important statement of our identity. We honor God by specifically obeying His commands to sing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). We respect the example of the early church and the nearly thousand years of a cappella worship we see in history. We elevate the human voice as God's gift to us that we can freely give the "fruit of our lips" back to him in a "sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15). We keep the focus on willful spiritual communion with God rather than emotional stimulation that comes and goes.

This week when we gather to worship (Don't forget Wednesday night is singing night!) let's all praise God with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our voices!
- John

On Our Prayer List... Keith Rodgers—will have nerve tests & MRI in March. Danny Dotson—still waiting on surg. W. R. Long
Martha Durham—is now home recovering Betty Suddeath Kathy Martin
Al & Vicki Peek Jim Tyler Marvin England

SURGERIES: Cassie Fleming—knee surg 2/28 Jean Buttrey—surg on 3/6 for an endometrial carcinoma Kim Marlor—neck surg on 3/10

*Steve Peyton—(Peyton family requesting prayers)been diagnosed with Cirrhosis of the liver-running tests to see if a good candidate for a liver transplant.In Washington State
*Carolyn Wilson—(Madison's grandmother) requesting prayers.

*Claude Hurt—in the hospital with influenza/ *Scottie Lashlee—still infection neck

*Skyler Stewart —(Craig Stewart's (Ruby England's grandson)son)—now home

*Mike Mathis—(Keith & Linda Rodgers son) home doing better

*Josh Barnett—(Charlotte Heights CoC Minister)benign brain tumor@treatments

*Mark Long—(Jane Riding's nephew) now home-@ follow-up Doctor appts.

*Dick Acuff—(Joan Long Acuff's husb/Dwight&Connie's cousin) crushed vertebrae

*Thelma Davidson—(Gwen Bullington's sister) having problems from lupus

*Chase Lewis—(Vicki Peek's family) having problems from lupus

*Suzanne Boyd—(John & Erin's friends) baby —now home @ feeding tube.

*Prim Sanders—newborn—that had heart surg—went well—improving

*Ralph Simpson— back in the hosp *Doug Simpson—heart —(Ruby England's brothers)

*Whitney(Bullion)Sager—now @ St Thomas Rehab.

*Stephanie Greene—(Mike's sister)needs prayers

*Charles Miles—recovering fr a fall + heart issues

*Marcia Simpson—(Mike Burn's aunt) now home.

*Alyssa Gold—(Robert Proctor's niece) in need of prayers

*Faye Marshall—Traci Adams mom *John Henry & Carlene Davis

*Victor Mandeville (BC student) requesting our prayers. *Mike Gunn *Margie Gunn *Janet Hicks

THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER

*KENNY FLEMING—cancer

*JIMMY PHY-CA treatments

*HUDSON JONES—(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC— has Leukemia)

*DAVID NOWLIN—CA treatments—WCOC Elder

*RONNIE ENGLAND—CA/AFIB—NOW HOME ON HOSPICE.

*DONNA BURNS—WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN'S NIECE)—CA

*WANDA DOBBINS—(kin to Tyler's) terminal CA

*JACKIE BORDERS— Lauren Stuart's mom

*ROBERT GARDNER—(Friend of Bill Williams) CA

*RANAE DUNCAN—(Bo&Amy's neighbor)CA treatments

*CASEY VAILES—(Ranae Delcan's son)also has cancer

*JOHN PIRTLE —frd of Roy Deloach) Lung CA—age 53

*LARRY HAYES—(fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo

*MAGGIE WRIGHT—(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo

*BARBARA BUCCIARELLI—CA—from Tennessee Ridge

*ALAN JONES—Stage 4 Esophageal CA—taking treatments

ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME/HOME

AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons,TN 38363-**Wyle Marshall** (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad

NHC-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson,TN 37055- **JoAnn Haley Doris Stokes**-R127

Humphreys County NH 104 Fort Hill Rd. **Herbert Capps**—now on hospice care—Rm-404/ **Mary Lana Adams**—Rm 706/**June Dreaden**- Rm 714 Waverly, TN 37185

AT HOME:**JIMMY MULLINICKS**-56 Mike Street/**JANE RIDINGS**-172 Indian Ck Rd/ **ELTON SMITH**-7731 Hwy 70E

Address needs to have everything listed for Eric to receive: Dickson County Jail/James Eric Warden-ID102618/ POBox 76550/Highland Heights, KY 41076

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH

*Making Music—sign up sheet is on the Youth board. We will be going to the afternoon show on April 12th & will be taking the van.

*Youth Retreat—March 22nd-24th—sign-up sheet is also on the Youth board.

Our Evangelism Program

"Please continue to think of individuals or families that you know who need to come to know the Lord or come back to His church! Please write down their information on a contact card the next time you're at the building so we can begin the process of reaching out to them. Thank you for your support. Appreciate the new contacts & your willingness to help in this important work for Christ & the lost. Thank You, John

Our 4th Wednesday Night is "Singing Night" & is this week!! As we have done in the past, there will be a meal starting at 5:15 for anyone who would like to join us before we start making sweet melodies to the Lord with our hearts.

FYI: The "Area Wide Singing" we host each year, which is normally in the month of March, has been moved to December 12th this year.

231 Trash Pick-up -will be held on Saturday, March 1st. Your help would be appreciated, we will be leaving the building @ 7:30 AM. Thanks

I.N.F.O.C.U.S.

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

There is always so much planning for this trip, but once we leave for it, it goes by so fast. From the time we leave the parking lot of the church building it's a whirlwind of events and activities that await us. Upon arrival to our cabin Friday, we unloaded everything and headed out for supper. After supper we headed to the convention center for our first session. We sang together, heard a great message, and watched some skits. Saturday was full of the same, more singing, two more lessons, and lots of fellowship. Saturday night there was another session of singing and a lesson before heading back to the cabin for a time of devo together. We wrapped up the night with game time and fellowship. Sunday morning, we loaded everything up, went to worship, and headed home. So much crammed into just a couple of days, but I wouldn't want it any other way! We had a great time, and I feel so blessed to have been able to spend the weekend with our wonderful youth group and adults.
Christian Love, Keith

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, March 2nd 2025

WelcomeMark Forster
Lead Singing.....Mark Forster
1st Prayer.....Calvin Buckner
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Wayne Coates
 Bruce Mayfield Derek Berryman
 Wendell Monroe Joe Smith
 Jack Grigsby Ty Adams

Closing Prayer.....John Potter
Collect Cards.....Jaxon Holt
 & Matthew Dotson
Greeters..... Not at this time
Nursery..... Not at this time
Collect Cups.....Youth
Security.....Team #4

Sunday 6PM, March 2nd 2025

Lead Singing..... Mark Forster
Prayer.....Billy Buttrey
Sermon.....John Jones
Lord's Table.....Gerald Curtis
 Terry Parchman
Closing Prayer.....Carter Howard

Wednesday 6:30 PM, March 5th 2025

Lead Singing.....Jacen Robertson
Prayer.....Mike Tyler
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 2/23/2025

Sunday Morning Bible School — — — — — 99
 Sunday Morning Worship — — — — — 176
 Sunday Evening Worship — — — — — 105
 Wed-Mid-Week Bible Study — (was canceled due to weather)
 Sunday Contribution — — — — — \$6,982
 Number of Seeds Planted — — — — —



The MESSENGER

A weekly publication of the McEwen church of Christ

Week of February 23rd 2025

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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Evangelism Program