

St John Church of Christ

August 15, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00



Back to School - part 2

Welcome to Worship!

We're glad you're here. Bible classes begin at 10:00. For kids, Pete & Penelope, our children's puppet program, is followed by songs and classes.

Join us this fall as we dig into the fascinating book of Revelation. Perhaps no other book of the Bible has been as abused at Revelation. Come learn how a better understanding of "apocalyptic literature" can open doors of insight into the last book of the Bible. Class begins at 10:00 A.M. with worship following at 11:00 A.M.

If you are unable to be with us in person, our worship is shared through our website:

www.StJohnChurchOfChrist.org

Simply select "Sermons" from the menubar at the top, or click this link to visit our page on YouTube:

[St. John Church of Christ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



After loading the shopping cart with all the supplies on the list – pencils, erasers, paper, notebooks, ruler, compass, rubber cement – and trying on new clothes for fall, there came the time to make the most difficult decision of all. The choice was irrevocable and you only had one shot at it. Which lunchbox would you take with you every day of the school year: cowboy, super-hero, novelty or something else? Your choice would brand you with the other kids. Were you cool or just another playground hack?

Some kids tried to avoid the decision by bringing their lunches in plain brown paper sacks. That allowed them to delay choice of a

permanent pail until they could see what everyone else was carrying. It was an interesting gambit but labeled you as rather slow unless you could decorate the bag with cool sketches as you rode the bus like a wolf man or the re-creation of the entire D-day invasion.

Others opted for a practical approach and carried plain black lunchboxes – often hand-me-downs from their dads. They did contain cool thermoses with silver cups tucked inside the lids. It was all the better if the kid could grow a mustache and filled the thermos with coffee but that only happened when I was living in Louisiana. If I remember correct-

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ly, he also had a pack of Luckies rolled up in his t-shirt sleeve.

Then there was the unfortunate kid who had a Gumby and Pokey lunchbox. He tried decorating it with Snap-On Tool stickers but he wasn't fooling anyone. School can be cruel.

Of course the most important thing was what came out of the lunch box. A sandwich and fruit was typical. Cookies never made it to lunch. They were generally devoured as soon as mom was out of sight. Pizza was good but fried chicken was better. If you had fried chicken, you always made a show of pulling it out, holding it over your head and announcing, "Hey! I've got fried chicken." There followed a spate of open bidding that became a model for Wall Street traders in later life. "I'll trade you my fruit-rollups for that drumstick!"

Some kids bought their lunch but that tended to only complicate matters. First there was the question of getting through the line without losing your lunch money. Then there was the issue of getting your tray to the table while negotiating the various chairs, legs, book bags and bullies trying to trip you up. Finally there was the issue of actually consuming USDA issued mac and cheese. No, bringing your lunch was the best option but that still left you with the difficult decision of choosing a lunch pail. What would it be?

I chose a black "James Bond" lunchbox because I was convinced it must have some secret gizmos that would pop out and protect me from that kid who

looked like "Odd Job." I never did find the right button to make that happen but it was the envy of the lunchroom and I was safe for another year.

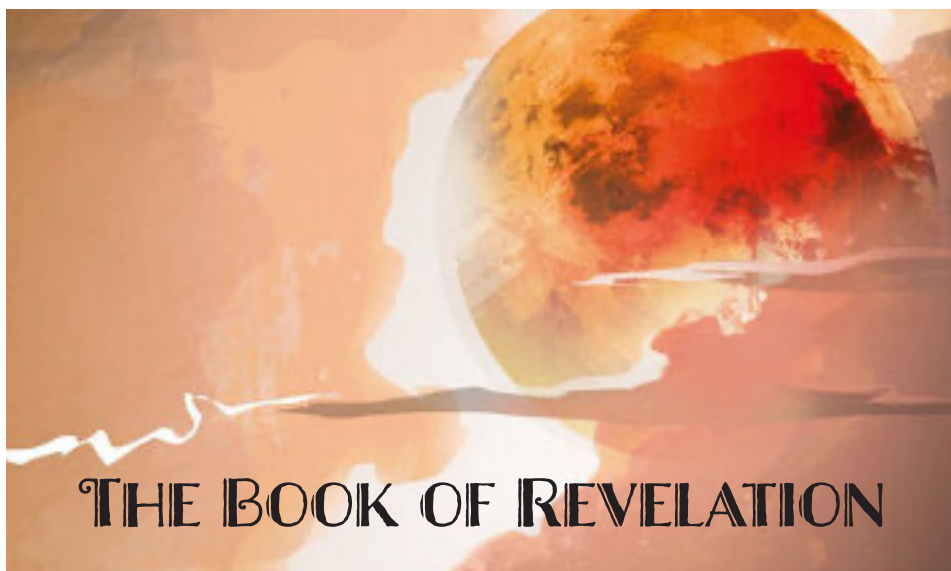
Much later, reflecting on my old, dented lunch pail, I realized an important lesson. If we make our choices based on what we think other people think, we can never really be happy. True happiness comes from who we are, not from what we have. The only opinion that really matters belongs to God and He doesn't care which lunch pail you have. He only cares that you share what's in it!



News & Prayer Requests

Covid is back along with the Delta variant. According to the Stafford County Health Department (as of Wednesday), there were 15 active cases and 2 cases of the Delta variant. 61 people are under quarantine orders. Please be safe, get vaccinated, and pray for our community.

Our worship services at the Kenwood Retirement Home, and Leisure Homestead have been suspended for now due to the high numbers of Covid cases. Please pray for the residents and staff!



Join us for a new and exciting Adult Bible Class Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. With two simple "keys," John McKeel will be opening up the last book of the Bible in a way you may not have thought possible. John says, "If you can use the same principles you use to read through the Sunday newspaper, you can understand this important book."

The first key is to identify the genre – the type of literature it is. John says "Revelation is apocalyptic. That means it is composed of word pictures much like modern political cartoons."

And the second key is "To understand the historical circumstances those Christians were facing. Come be inspired!"