

St John Church of Christ

August 22, 2021

Worship
Service

Premiers
Sunday at 11:00

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/UCv3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3)

The Man in the Gorilla Suit



Once there was a powerful corporate executive who lost his job. He was devastated. His whole life was wrapped up in his job. It not only provided for his family, but it also gave him his identity. The news came suddenly, and he was ushered out into the street with just his briefcase.

Broken-hearted, the man couldn't go home and face his family. Instead, he took a long walk in the park and sat down on a bench beside the fountain. As fate would have it, another man sat down on the other side of the bench who looked even more down than he did. Eventually, they struck up a conversation, and the new-comer

told the executive, "I own a circus. My star attraction was a fierce gorilla – he wasn't really mean, but he could put on a show! People came from everywhere to watch this gorilla charge around his cage, but he died yesterday, and without him, I'm afraid I'm finished." He hung his head.

The executive, used to solving complex business problems, perked up and concluded: "Look! I might just have a solution. I've lost my job, and you've lost your gorilla. Why don't we skin out the gorilla and I can be your new star attraction dressed up as your ape?"

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It was a great idea and the executive – used to ranting and raving and carrying on in the corporate world – made a splendid new gorilla. He was even better than the original, and soon the crowds were even larger than before. Unfortunately, one day as the gorilla executive was putting on his fearsome show, beating his chest and howling at the crowd, someone put a fierce lion in with him. Horrified, the executive began to shout, “Help!” to which the lion replied, “Be quiet you fool! Do you think you’re the only person without a job?”

When someone comes to my home congregation for the first time, they look around and wonder, “Will I fit in? Is there anyone just like me?” Unfortunately, if we are wearing our disguises, the new person will be disappointed. They might look around and only see all the “perfect people” and be tempted to walk away.

The visitor can only see who we are now and not who we were “B.C.” – before Christ came into our lives. We’re not proud of what we were before we became Christians and we are tempted to cover up our past, put it in the closet and forget about it.

Unfortunately, if we forget, we lose our basis for worship – the attitude of gratitude – and we might even be tempted to become judgmental.

I’m not suggesting we do as those who seem to glory in their past and parade their sins. That smacks of false humility. Rather we need to shift the focus from sin to the Savior. If there is a place for pride, it

is not in the sinful past, but in the transforming present. Remember: you don’t make butterflies by pinning paper wings on worms. The change comes from the inside!

It’s time to take off the gorilla suits.



**Happy 91st Birthday
DIXIE HORNBAKER!**



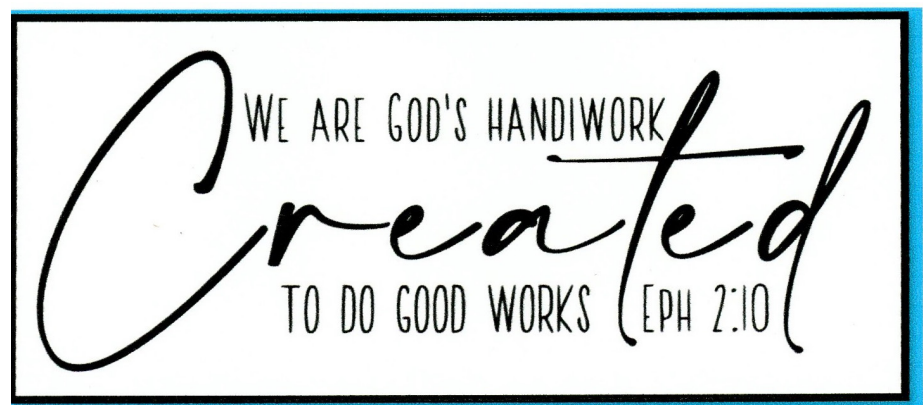
News & Prayer Requests

Thank you for your prayers! Covid is still active in our community, but the numbers are declining and we are able to resume worship services on Sunday mornings at Leisure Homestead.

School has resumed for most of our students, teachers and staff this week, so we want to cover them especially in prayer. It’s an exciting time of year!

Jerry’s eye continues to heal and “is getting better every day.”

Today is Dixie Hornbaker’s 91st birthday. Grab a cupcake in the foyer after services!



Silver Maple Camp LADIES RETREAT

Friday, September 24 – Saturday, September 25, 2021 will be the dates for the annual Silver Maple Camp Ladies Retreat. Registration at the door begins at 4:30 p.m. Friday and supper will be served starting at 6:00 p.m. but the preferred and easy pre-registration and payments are online at silvermaplecamp.org.

This year’s event is going to be fun, informative, and interactive! We can’t wait for you to join us!

The cost is only \$50 (\$20 for Friday only – \$25 for Saturday only). RV hook-ups for an additional \$10.

There will be special missions and vendor tables set up for information and shopping. Shirts will also be available for purchase with the 2021 SMC Ladies Retreat theme.

Questions? call LeAnn Hodson at 620-842-2292.