

# St John Church of Christ

October 3, 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](http://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](#)

## Sacred Cows Make the Best Hamburger



Throughout the story of the Exodus, the Israelites were famous for complaining. "Why have you brought us out into the wilderness?" "We have no water." "This food is terrible" and much worse. On one such occasion, as they set out from Mt. Hor, skirting the land of Edom,

The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people so that

many people of Israel died (Numbers 21:4 - 6).

That got their attention!

And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So, Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." So, Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live (Numbers 21:7 - 9).

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What I wonder about it; what became of the bronze serpent after the snakes left? Apparently, someone kept it for hundreds of years. Perhaps it was proudly displayed as we might do with something put into a museum. It might be that children took field trips to see this touch from the past. However, over time, something happened. The bronze serpent began to take on a legacy of its own. Hundreds of years later, it might be that someone claimed when they looked on the snake, and they too were healed. From there, it would be a natural step to ascribe healing power to the image. I can picture the light from an oil lamp dancing over the bronze image and frightening children. The snake was given the name "Nehustan" (which in Hebrew sounds like both the word "bronze" and "snake"). Before long, what had been a link to Moses and the Lord became an evil idol of itself, for we read how good king Hezekiah:

[Hezekiah] removed the high places and broke the pillars, and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan), (2 Kings 18:4).

I wonder if we have any traditions that have outlived their usefulness? Is it possible that we do some things just because we have always done it that way? I remember my grandfather telling me about the great "communion shroud" controversy. It seems that in a little country church, it was their custom to put a white cloth over the bread and wine on the

communion table to keep the flies away. Over time the ladies took great pride in starching and ironing that pure white cloth. It was an honor to be asked to prepare it. People began to think about the cloth as a funeral shroud, and it added a new symbol to the communion celebration. Then, one day, someone brought in a new shiny communion set that held the cups and the bread protected by a tray with a fly-proof lid. The cloth was no longer needed, so someone served the communion without the "shroud." A holy war broke out in the congregation. "We've always done it that way!" someone shouted. "The cloth is the shroud of Christ!" someone else explained, quoting John's Gospel (20:6, 7). My grandfather shook his head sadly and observed, "Johnny, that silly tradition nearly split the church."

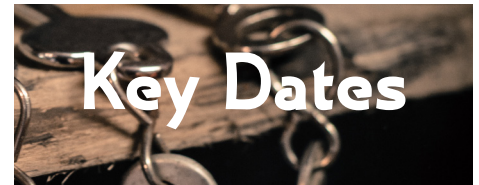
On occasion, we need to think about the things we do and ask ourselves why we do them. It could be that sacred cows do make the best hamburger.



## Prayer Requests

Chet and Marla's son-in-law's mother, Chrissy, is still struggling with cancer. She thought things were going better, but found out cancer has grown. She would like to have prayers on her behalf.

Terry and Joy are continuing to recover from covid, but it is a long-haul. Please remember them in your prayers.



## 2021 Kansas Ministry Retreat

Zane Perkins is the featured keynote speaker for this year's men's retreat at Silver Maple Bible Camp, Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Zane is the Director of Advancement Relations at SIBI - the Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas.

This year's program begins informally Sunday evening at 6 pm at the Pizza Hut in Kingman and then runs Monday and Tuesday at camp. The cost is only \$75. More information is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/3: Jakobe Gunter

10/4: Don Hornbaker

10/10: Adam and Cheyenne Anniversary

10/10: Chris Mansel

10/12: Teddy Gingrich

10/20: Carol Gingrich

10/22: Tara Kinnamon