

Children's Ministry


Hi Everyone!


I hope you're having a great day! Are you getting very excited for the eclipse tomorrow? This will be the third (and likely final) time I see a solar eclipse in totality, and I'm super pumped about it! If you have a chance to (safely) view it, I think it will be something you never forget! Did you know that back in ancient times, people came up with some pretty odd explanations for what was going on during eclipses? Some believed that it was a sign that a terrible disease or war was about to happen. Others believed that the sun was being eaten up by a giant animal like an enormous dragon or magic space-wolf, and the only way to get it back was to shout and jump around like crazy so that the monster would be scared away and return the sun to them! I imagine they felt pretty proud of themselves since it came back every time!


Before 2017 (when I saw it in Nashville), I would have probably laughed at such superstitious ideas, but now, when I think about it, I have to admit, after seeing such an eerie sight for myself, that it makes perfect sense for them to be scared! They had to find some way to explain it; it only sounds funny to us because we now understand exactly how something like that can happen! Even now, when we know so much more about everything, there are things in life that we don't understand. Just like those ancient people, we may feel scared, lost, or alone. Those feelings are perfectly natural because we don't have all the information right now. The best news I can give you about that is this: a day is fast approaching when Jesus will return, and all of our weak understanding and flimsy explanations will pass away. If, on that day, we are members of God's family, the answers to all of our questions will be clear, and our troubles will disappear just like a sun-eating dragon who's scared of people yelling and shouting! (That's my new favorite analogy!)


Talk to you soon!

-Ryan

 **CHURCH CAMP WORK WEEKEND**—If you are interested in helping up at Church Camp the weekend of May 3-5, please sign up in the foyer. See Josh Ball for details.

 **MYSTERY DINNER**—Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 11! More information will be available soon!

 **FRIENDS DAY**—Our Spring Friends Day has been moved to Sunday, May 19.

 **WEDNESDAY EVENING INVITATION TALK**—Men, younger and older, there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, where you can sign up if you're interested in giving a short invitation talk before bible class on Wednesday evenings.

LOOKING FOR THE SON

Acts 1:6-11

OF JESUS'

Pharisee's ask _____.

- Luke 17:20
- Daniel 7:27

Jesus answered _____.

- Luke 17:21

We should avoid _____.

- Luke 17:22-23
- Matthew 24:36

WHAT JESUS _____ YOU TO _____ ABOUT HIS _____.

He is _____!

- Luke 17:24
- John 14:3
- Acts 1:11
- 2 Peter 3:3-4; 8-9

His return will be _____.

- Luke 17:24

Many people won't be _____ when He _____.

- Luke 17:26-30
- Genesis 6:2, 5, 11
- Ezekiel 16:49
- Jude 7

There will be no _____ to _____.

- Luke 17:31-33

His return will _____!

- Luke 17:34-37

WHAT JESUS WANTS YOU TO

Scriptures to keep in _____ as you _____ his coming.

- Romans 13:11, 12
- Hebrews 10:25
- Hebrews 10:37
- Revelation 22:12-13

He will _____ what He _____!

- I Thessalonians 4:16-18

ELDERS

Brian Driver
740-360-8137

Bill Isler
740-494-2582

Keith Rogers
419-946-2831

ELDER ON CALL

Brian Driver
740-360-8137

MINISTER
Russell Howard
Cell Phone #
740-360-0271

INVOLVEMENT MINISTER

Matt Dahm
740-382-8118

CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Ryan Hoggatt
740-417-3181

TEEN MINISTER

Josh Ball
740-225-2710

DEACONS

Josh Ball
Walter Benson
Todd Buckland
Mike Hallabrin
Nate Hildreth
Ryan Hoggatt
Kendal Montgomery
Ed Nice
Seth Rossiter

Richland Road

Church of CHRIST

April 7, 2024

WHEN THE SKIES TURN DARK IN LIFE, LOOK FOR THE SON.



JESUS SPOKE TO THEM SAYING,
"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE
WORLD; HE WHO FOLLOWS
ME WILL NOT WALK IN THE
DARKNESS BUT WILL HAVE
THE LIGHT OF LIFE."

JOHN 8:12

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS

~ www.richlandroadcofc.com ~ richlandroadcofc@gmail.com ~

~ 535 Richland Road ~ Marion, Ohio 43302 ~ Phone: 740-389-1017 ~

REACHING OUT TO MEET YOUR NEEDS THROUGH HIS LOVE

Staying Connected

SPRING! Many of us grew up with laughter and lessons brought to us by the Andy Griffith Show. For those who remember, we say, "WELCOME SWEET SPRINGTIME!" There is just something special about the springtime!! The new life bursting forth points us back to the giver and creator of all life and the beautiful design of it all. Even with all the rain this past week, April showers bring May flowers!



UPDATE! According to Todd Buckland, the new auditorium chairs will hopefully be delivered in a few weeks. Once they arrive, the old carpet will be removed and the new carpet will be put down. We will need help unloading chairs, moving pews, and unloading all items from classrooms. We will put the word out when exactly those days will be once we have confirmation that the chairs will be here.

CHANGE OF DATES! Due to scheduling conflicts, two upcoming dates have been changed: The Mystery Dinner will now be on Saturday, May 11. Friends Day will now be on Sunday, May 19.

PICTURE UPDATES! Starting next Sunday, we will be taking pictures to update our online church directory. Those pictures will be taken in the north glass door foyer by the wall with the mural. If your picture does not appear in our online directory or needs to be updated, then take advantage of this opportunity during the next few weeks.

SOLAR ECLIPSE! Tomorrow, a total solar eclipse will be one of the celestial highlights of the century, and we in Marion have a front-row seat. A total eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. The last total solar eclipse in Ohio happened in 1806, and the next one will occur in 2099; in fact, on average, one happens somewhere on Earth only once every 1.5 years, and only 21 total eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states in the entire existence of the United States.

A solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, blocking out a significant amount of the Sun's rays. In order to see the full effects of the eclipse, thousands of people are flocking into our area as the eclipse begins at 1:56 PM, with maximum totality at 3:13 PM (lasting 3 minutes and 35 seconds) and the eclipse will be over at 4:27 PM.

While the eclipse is a normal but rare recurrence every so many years, a few eclipses recorded in the Bible were not normal but were motivated by God's providential hand. During the plagues of Egypt, God covered the land in darkness (Ex. 10:21-23). During Jesus' crucifixion, something similar happened (Mk. 15:32-33). While many people across this state and others will lift their eyes to the Sun, that number will pale in comparison when every eye on the face of the Earth will look in the sky to see the SON of God coming in glory (Rev. 1:7).



FUN FACTS! Here are some Bible trivia questions, and I'm looking forward to your answers, along with the Bible verse and where it is located.

- What is the first city mentioned in the Bible?
 - How many cities were given to the Levites for their use?
 - Which two men hid in a well to save their lives?
 - What queen of Bible times is described by the epithet "that wicked woman"?
- Matt

INFORMATION & EVENTS

LIFEGROUPS

MEET TODAY



WE REJOICE with the angels in heaven that John Lambillotte was baptized into Christ last Sunday.



AMAZING GRAYS—The seniors will meet this Tuesday at 11:30 AM at the El Campesino on Route 423. Afterward, County Commissioner Mark Davis will speak at the Outreach Center. Sign up in the foyer.



VBS PLANNING MEETING—This Wednesday, there will be a planning meeting in Room 11 after Bible Class.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—This Thursday, all men are invited to a bible study at Panera Bread @ 7:30 AM. See Matt Dahm for details.



BABY SHOWER—There will be a Baby Shower in honor of Michael and Trisha Ponziani next Sunday, immediately after the second service. See Diane Howard or Jeannie Rogers to give towards the group gift.



MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE—There will be a committee meeting Monday, April 15 in Room 11 at 6:30 PM.

ORPHANS LIFELINE—On Sunday, April 21, there will be a combined Adult and Teen Class in the Auditorium with guest speaker Kelvin Hoover from Orphans Lifeline. Learn more about this organization at orphanslifeline.org.

QUILTING MINISTRY—The Quilting Ministry will meet on Tuesday, April 23, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.



WOMEN OF PURPOSE—The Women of Purpose will meet on Wednesday, April 24, at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please see Terry Fawley for details.



HELP HAND OUT APPOINTMENT TICKETS in the Fellowship Hall on 4/22, 4/23, or 4/24. Contact Kahlan Sargent to help.

HELP UNLOAD & BOX THE MID-OHIO FOOD on Thursday, April 25 @ 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

THE FOOD GIVEAWAY is on Saturday, April 27. Contact Josh Ball to volunteer to help. Volunteers, please be here by 7:30 AM.

Bible Hour and Junior Worship will be offered at the 2nd service

FOR THE RECORD - March 31, 2024

BIBLE CLASS.....n/a	WEDNESDAY.....93
SUNDAY AM.....406	CONTRIBUTION.....\$7,516.11
SUNDAY PM.....n/a	BUDGET.....\$7,100.00

FROM OUR SHEPHERDS



At the risk of sounding geeky, I must confess that I am super excited to see the solar eclipse tomorrow. Back in 2017, we saw a partial solar eclipse here in Ohio, but the last total solar eclipse was in 1806, a few years before I was born. The next one in Ohio is scheduled for 2099, which some of our grandchildren may get to see. So for most of us, this is the one chance to witness this phenomenon.

I think what draws us to want to see a total eclipse is the fact that it is not the norm. Every day, we live without giving any thought to the fact that the light of the Sun appears in the morning, "travels" across our sky and then goes away every evening, only to repeat the process the next day. What a blessing that our Father has designed this world to sustain us with these amazing yet routine processes.

The eclipse, though, is out of the normal process. For a brief moment in the middle of the day, the light of the Sun will be blocked by the Moon as it passes between the Earth and the Sun. This is contrary to the way that God designed it back in Genesis 1:16: "And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars." For a few brief moments, the *lesser light*—the Moon—will get to rule the day.

I am reminded of other great moments recorded in the Bible where God did something miraculous with the Sun:

- Joshua 10:12-14 – Joshua asks God to stop the Sun in the sky so that they could continue the battle against the Canaanites to capture the Promised Land. We are told that the sun stood still in the sky for a whole day!
- 2 Kings 20:8-11 – As a sign to Hezekiah that he would recover from a fatal disease, God caused the "shadow to go back ten steps," which I take to mean that he reversed the Earth's rotation for that to occur.
- Luke 23:44 – During the crucifixion of our Lord, darkness came over the land for three hours in the middle of the day.

What the eclipse and these events tell me is that if our God is able to control the activity of the Sun, he is more than able to save us from whatever Satan wants to throw our way. Let us live as victorious children of the King!

For the Elders,
Brian



CHILDREN'S SPRING PARTY—There will be a Children's Ministry Spring Party on Saturday, April 27, from 3:00—4:30 PM. All children preschool age to 5th Grade are invited for a time of food, crafts, and fun. See Ryan or Misty Hoggatt for details.

PICK UP AN APRIL PRAYER LIST IN THE FOYER