

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of February 4, 2024 -

Sunday School	20
Sunday Morning Service	32
Sunday Evening Service	16
Wednesday Eve., 02/07/24 Service	11

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of February 4, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,268.68
Church Sign Restoration Fund	\$ 5.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 02/04/24:</b>	<b>\$ 2,271.68</b>

- Week of January 28, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 967.19
Church Sign Restoration Fund	\$ 7.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/28/24:</b>	<b>\$ 974.19</b>

- Week of January 21, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 657.58
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/21/24:</b>	<b>\$ 657.58</b>

- Week of January 14, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,175.02
Missionary Offering, Children's SS Class	\$ 3.09
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/14/24:</b>	<b>\$ 1,178.11</b>

- Week of January 7, 2024 -

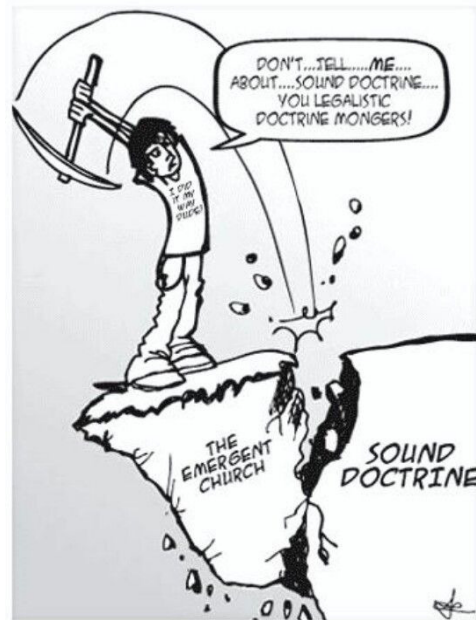
<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,735.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 01/07/24:</b>	<b>\$ 1,735.00</b>

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



**Church Directory**

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
LeAnna White	Custodian
Keith Shufelt	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly	Trustees

**REMINDER**

**JOIN US TODAY FOR A SPECIAL SUNDAY OF -**



**SUPER BOWL**

**WORSHIP**

- \* 9:45 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL
- \* 11 AM - MORNING WORSHIP
- \* 6:30 PM - EVENING WORSHIP

**Don't Miss What God Has Planned For Your Life By Staying Home & Watching "The Big Game"!**

**SET YOUR VIDEO RECORDER & JOIN US!**

**LISTEN TO -**



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

## NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **A WORLD UNDER DELUSION, WITHOUT EXCUSE, ON THE VERGE OF JUDGMENT** - According to the Bible, the entire world totters on the very brink of eternal judgment. The good news of God’s gracious offer of salvation in Jesus Christ, a salvation that was purchased by the suffering and death of the very Son of God, has been proclaimed to the ends of the earth for 2,000 years; it has been translated into most languages; it is available on the internet at the click of a mouse or the swipe of a smartphone.

For the most part, it has been callously rejected.

The law of God is written on man’s very conscience and will condemn him in the day of judgment (Romans 2:14-16). Man instinctively knows there is a God, and he knows that this God is a holy Judge, and he tries to hide himself from that God as our forefather Adam did when he sinned. The universe shouts out its infallible testimony to an Almighty Creator -

**“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. ... There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world” (Psalm 19:1-4). “[T]he invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).**

2nd Thessalonians 2 is a major Bible prophecy about the Antichrist. His coming and reign will be accompanied by global delusion, the cause of which is man’s willful rejection of God’s Word. This delusion is already happening, and it will be brought to perfection in the Great Tribulation, which is imminent. It is the only explanation for man’s stupidity in believing that everything came from nothing, that the utter chaos of a “big bang” produced a well-ordered universe, that life arose from non-life and intelligence from non-intelligence, that DNA has no maker and light just happened, that a hyper complex amoeba popped into existence and then became a butterfly, an elephant, a man, and an oak tree.

Global delusion explains such things as the broad acceptance of transsexualism, the mutilation of brainwashed children, same sex “marriage,” diapers on cows, the destruction of farming, sympathy for vicious terrorists, Marxist thugs, police killers, baby killers, shoplifting gangs, and drug addled indolent encouraged to take over beautiful cities.

The following Bible prophecy explains these insanities and much more:

**“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; BECAUSE THEY RECEIVED NOT THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. AND FOR THIS CAUSE GOD SHALL SEND THEM STRONG**

**DELUSION, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned WHO BELIEVED NOT THE TRUTH, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (II Thessalonians 2:8-12).**

The hour is very, very late.

❑ **CALIFORNIA TO PAY \$200,000 TO SETTLE GENDER LAWSUIT FROM CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL** - The following is excerpted from “California to Pay,” Christian Headlines, Jan. 31, 2024:

“The state of California has agreed to pay a Christian preschool and its attorneys some \$200,000 as part of a settlement to a lawsuit that began when the state tried to force the school to change its biblical beliefs on gender and sexuality.

The controversy began when the California Department of Social Services, citing new federal and state rules, told The Church of Compassion in El Cajon, Calif., that its preschool, Dayspring Learning Center, could only participate in the government-assisted food program if it agreed with a nondiscrimination policy that includes ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘gender identity.’ The state even told the church it must stop ‘requiring Church employees to sign or abide by’ a handbook that includes a statement of faith and affirms biblical teaching on gender and sexuality, according to court documents.

Dayspring filed suit, alleging violations of the U.S. Constitution’s Free Exercise, Free Speech, Free Association, and Establishment Clauses. The suit also claimed the state was violating the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Administrative Procedure Act. ‘While the Church and Preschool serve all families, they will not teach or promote all messages,’ the suit said. Following the lawsuit, the state agreed to settle.

... The school was represented by Alliance Defending Freedom, the National Center for Law & Policy, and Advocates For Faith & Freedom. ... The church’s beliefs on gender and sexuality, the suit said, were ‘uncontroversial for more than 2,000 years and continue to be held by most major world religions.’”

❑ **EVANGELIST RETURNS TO CHURCH AFTER BEING SHOT WHILE STREET PREACHING** - The following is excerpted from “Evangelist Hans,” Christian Post, Jan. 30, 2024:

“Hans Schmidt, the 26-year-old military veteran and outreach director of Victory Chapel First Phoenix in Arizona, who was shot in the head while street preaching last November and wasn’t initially expected to recover, has returned to his church, his wife announced Sunday, saying, ‘he walks, he talks, [and] he even plays the drums.’ In a fresh update on her husband’s ‘miracle’ recovery, Zulya Schmidt, who shares two young children with the preacher, published videos and photos in an Instagram post ... ‘God has done an incredible work in Hans’ life, and every day, he continues to improve. Please continue to pray for a full restoration.’

... Schmidt, a former military medic, was shot in the head on the evening of Nov. 15, 2023, at the intersection of 51st Ave and Peoria in Glendale, Arizona, while doing church outreach before a Wednesday night service. ‘Single entry point on the side on the

left temple. The bullet traveled through his brain. ... No one heard the shot or saw where it came from,’ family friend Brad Currell wrote in a GoFundMe campaign that has raised more than \$78,000 as of Tuesday on behalf of the Schmidt family.”

❑ **LIFE CHURCH TO EXEGETE SUPER BOWL COMMERCIALS INSTEAD OF SCRIPTURE ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - In our modern world where the line between secular amusement and what presents itself as “church” is increasingly blurred, LifeChurch, under the leadership of Craig Groeschel, stands as a paragon of innovation - or so they claim. This past summer, they spearheaded the “Hollywood in the pulpit” movement, most notably with a Spiderman-themed sermon by Jonathan Herron of the Michigan campus.

LifeChurch will not be preaching the Scriptures to the people in the seats on SuperBowl Sunday. Instead, they will exegete 30-second Super Bowl commercials in what they dub “*30 Second Theology*.”

According to their own promo, this spectacle will be accompanied by “tons of food, tons of games, tons of fun,” perverting what should be a solemn assembly into a halftime show where pretty much anything but God goes.

This Super Bowl-themed “church service” is emblematic of a broader trend where God’s Word is abandoned in favor spectacles designed to keep the goats in their pens—a trading of the profound Word for the profane turd. In their quest to be relevant and engaging, LifeChurch has forgotten that the Gospel itself is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, not the fleeting thrill of a cleverly marketed beer or the latest car. The church ought to be a balefire of light in a dark world, teaching people the truth of Scripture and urging them to obey it.

❑ **SPORTS GAMBLING ADDICTION INVADES SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** - Sports gambling takes center stage with the Super Bowl being televised from Las Vegas on Sunday, 2/11. Apps available on everyone’s phones makes betting during this game more accessible and convenient than ever before.

A small initial bet then goes into an internet surveillance system that exploits this information to target the bettor with a barrage of ads enticing him to gamble further. This is a gold mine for the online gambling companies, led by FanDuels and DraftKings, both of which are airing expensive Super Bowl ads this year as is BetMGM.

Calls to gambling addiction hotlines have already spiked in the 38 states where sports betting has been legalized. When Ohio authorized sports gambling last year, calls to the state’s gamblers’ hotline tripled in the very first month.

The New York Times recently quoted the former Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ), who sponsored a federal ban on sports gambling as a retired professional basketball star. Some pretend that sports gambling “can now be controlled,” he said, “and I just don’t think it will be controlled. I think it will pervade the culture.”

The U.S. Supreme Court regrettably struck down Bradley’s federal ban on sports gambling in Murphy v. NCAA (2018), and

all but 12 states have since legalized betting on these games. Gambling addiction has risen to an all-time high.

An employee of one NFL team, the Jacksonville Jaguars, stole \$22 million from the team in order to lose virtually all of it on sports gambling. The team is attempting to recover that stolen money from the online gambling companies, but they refuse.

Last week, a federal district court in New Jersey dismissed a lawsuit by another victim of gambling, declaring that casinos have no legal duty to stop taking bets by a compulsive gambler. New Jersey’s Consumer Fraud Act is supposed to shield against unconscionable acts by companies, yet gamblers as consumers are not protected as other consumers are.

More than half of college and even high school students gamble now, and one out every 5 college students admits to spending some of his student loans or financial aid on sports betting according to a survey by Intelligent.com. Many college athletic departments even partner with sportsbooks to promote more gambling to students at the college.

The highest percentage of victims are young men and their families. But wait, this year bookies are taking bets concerning Taylor Swift at the Super Bowl, on what she will wear and whether Travis Kelce will propose to her, and 20% of women aged 18 to 49 are online sports gamblers.

Known as “prop bets,” these are wagers on issues unrelated to the game, such as what shade of lipstick Taylor Swift will be wearing. Offshore gambling sites are processing bets on this and as many as 89 aspects of Swift and the Super Bowl, for all the Swifties who will be tuning in, although prop bets are illegal in some states.

Until recently, the NFL strictly kept gambling out of football, but now it has partnered with online gambling companies to tap into the profits and boost television ratings. On Monday NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said that the NFL seeks to ensure “the action on the field is genuine and without any outside influence,” but three dozen players and league officials have already been found in violation of the rules.

Holding the Super Bowl in Las Vegas this year injects more gambling into the sport. While players are told not to place any bets while there, it is impossible not to walk past a “one-armed bandit,” the ubiquitous slot machine, in that city.

Fourteen out of 15 experienced oddsmakers told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that they felt Las Vegas would never host the Super Bowl. This is like holding a fireworks competition in a dry, flammable forest despite warnings about the high risk of fire.

Studies show that 16% of gambling addicts attempt suicide, more than 20 times the rate in the general population and the highest of any addiction. Today young adults are compulsively betting through apps on their phones, including while in the shower, while driving, and in the middle of the night. ■

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH TONIGHT!**