



Church of Christ

Feb 15, 2026

Speaking Truthfully

(Ephesians 4:17-5:2)

The 1992 film, "A Few Good Men" produced one of the great all-time memes, before memes as we know them were invented. Jack Nicholson, on the stand, being goaded by Tom Cruise, the prosecutor, had had enough. He spat, "You want the truth! You want the truth! You can't handle the truth!" Never was there a truer statement made about human beings.

But before we go too far down that road, let's think about truth in the Bible. We tend to think of truth in terms of facts, data sets, and proper conclusions. This gives those who are smarter or more powerful leverage over others. The "truth" becomes a tool to test orthodoxy. We think of it as something that can be proven because we can present evidence. In a religious setting we build whole theologies based on rationality and demonstrable truths by using a preferred interpretive method. This is most certainly very far from what "truth" is in the Bible.

In the Old Testament the word for "truth" is very often translated as "faithfulness." Psalm 86:11 says, "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth. Unite my heart, that I may fear your name." (RSV).

The New Testament uses the Greek word for truth but holds on to the Jewish relational thinking. Think about how this causes us to think about Jesus who had come from God, "full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). Or later when Jesus said, "I am the true and living way." Or in I John 1:6, "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth." (We do not "do the truth.")

In Ephesians, for Paul to talk about unity and maturity and *everyone* being given gifts for the upbuilding of the church and connect it to "speaking truthfully in love," would be an epic culture clash. It still is if we understand truth to be relational and the ways that we make up our own "truths full of facts" and replace it with the invitation to be in a relationship with God.

In the ancient world, "truth is hateful" (Menander). Truth is something that was not to be risked on a superior in society. Isocrates said, "those who speak frankly are more to be feared than those who flatter them (rulers)." Seneca said, "To tell the truth is a dangerous thing for it often provokes anger in those who hear it."

The Greeks thought of truth as persuasion. Rhetoric was not about telling the truth, it was about convincing the hearers that you are right. Speaking truth was more about keeping the peace than making peace.

Truth in the Bible is more about being aligned with God's intent for humanity. It is about being faithful in our relationships – first with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, then with each other. That is probably why immediately after telling the Ephesians to speak truthfully (faithfully to each other) he addresses anger, idleness, and empty words (flattery). May we learn to be people who speak faithfully.



Today!- NO Children's Church

Tonight!- Singing at Oak Ridge Senior Living, 3 pm

-No singing class

Tomorrow!- Women's Prayer Group, 10:00 am

Mon & Wed- Walking Group, 12:30 pm

Feb 22- Cookie Outreach- Cookies Due by 4:30 pm

- PM Church Potluck, 6 pm

Mar 2- Ministry Meeting, 7pm, Room 103

- Focus on Outreach

(all events happening at the building unless otherwise noted.)



Feb 13-15- Winterfest

Feb 22- Meet at church, 5pm

- All Ages Welcome

- Assembling cookie boxes

Contact **Jon**—270-635-1029 or

Jared—270-841-8542 for more info.



Feb 16- Kelsey Jones

Feb 17- Tim & Margo

Ashby

Sermon Notes

When We meet:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Small Groups 6pm

Wednesday:

Bible Study 6:30pm

Contact Us:

Office— 9a-1p M-F

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P.O. Box 161, Madisonville, KY
42431

Minister: Sean Niestrath

269-352-9134

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Welcome Guests! Please scan the QR code or fill out our Connection Card-**Red Folder** . Let us know how we can help.



SCAN ME

WELCOME TO church



Children's Song

Cong. Reading: Zechariah 8: 16-17

Angry Words

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Prayer— Roger Dillingham

When I Go Home

Beautiful Lamb of God

Lord's Supper

Presiding LS: Quincy Stephenson

Serving: LS: Tim Teel

Joshua Scott Terry Hampton

Jeremy Duggin Pete Shoulders

Breath of Heaven

Contribution

No Children's Church

The Law of the Lord

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25-29 Steve S

Prayer— Terry Hampton

Lesson— Sean Nistrath

Do You Know My Jesus

Benediction: Ephesians 5: 1-2

The Grace

TODAY—

Call to Worship: Barry Webb

Song Leader: Eric Seesengood

Monitor: Byron Pruitt

Children's Church: None

Sound Booth: Zach Pressley

NEXT WEEK—

Call to Worship: Byron Pruitt

Song Leader: Josh Lupo

Prayers: David Stubblefield/Jared Jones

Scripture: Ezra Bridgman

Monitor: Jeff Phillips

Children's Church: Lupo

Sound booth: Daniel Davis

Presiding LS: Tim Teel

Serving LS: Quincy Stephenson, Joshua Scott
Bryson Shoulders, Jeremy Duggin, Pete Shoulders

Alternates for February:

Barry Webb, Keith Tapp

Communion Prep: Pressleys

For the Record

Last Sunday:

Bible Class— 70

Worship— 108

Contribution— \$5,445.75

Wednesday— 55



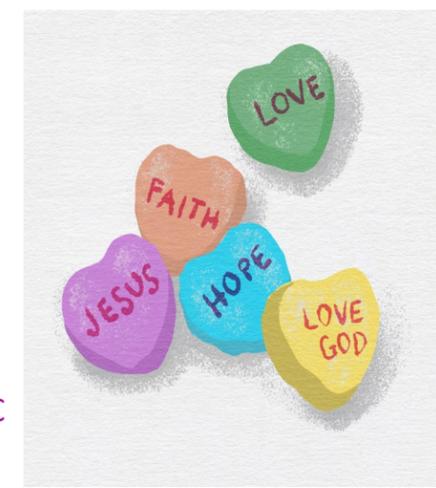
Announcements:

Cookie Outreach Project: Sign up sheet— Lobby

♦ Due Feb 22nd, by 4:30 pm

Bulletin Board:

- ♦ Wyatt Brown Update, Picture from Paolo in Rome
- ♦ Thank you letters from Potter Children's Home
- ♦ Equipped Workshop, April 24-26, Cumberland Trace COC
- ♦ Soles 4 Souls -Shoe Drive— Entire Month of February



Elders:

Barry Webb (270) 339-8429 barry1.webb@gmail.com

Dan Rust (812) 746-5635 dbrust@bellsouth.net

Byron Pruitt (270) 841-7518 brpruitt65@gmail.com

Sean Nistrath (269) 352-9134 sean.nistrath@outlook.com

Deacons:

Brock Shoulders, Buster Almon,
Darin Swaidner, David Stubblefield,

Jeremy Duggin, Steve Stoltz,

Tim Teel, Zach Pressley

Johnny Allen, he is starting cancer treatments on the 23rd

Ed Saley, recovering from carpal tunnel surgery

Bob Florida's family, he passed away last week

Todd Tipton, fighting Stage 4 colon cancer

Danielle Almon's family, her grandmother, **Donna Floyd**, passed away and Donna's daughter **Suzanne Rouse** has a broken wrist

Sherry Logan, (Don & Pat McCuiston's daughter), has a lump on her breast

Everett Carlisle & his family, (Gaye's relative), he is a 10 yr old boy with bone cancer

Kathy Killough, (Keith Tapp's friend), asked for prayers

Elaine Brown, (Judy's daughter), has a fractured foot & sprained ankle and may need to have surgery—waiting on appointment to find out if surgery is needed



Ongoing Health Concerns and Prayer:

Diana Adams, Dexter & Kathy Black, Suzette Mooney, Sherry Rushing, Jim Miller, Sister Josephine, Jama Doc, Barbara Lynch, Lisa & Emmy Dunlap, Wyatt Brown, Christy Estrada, Jon Phillips, Dennis & Carol Warszona, Alberta Rust, Rebecca Nistrath, Karen Wilkerson, Benson Holmes, Lauren Turley, Alexis Coats, Linda Smith, Mike Pedego, John Benham

Sunday 6 pm, The Interpretation Of Prophecy, John 5: 28-29, Quincy