

Having Fun or Just Clowning Around?

Recently there has been a rash of disturbing reports dealing with clown appearances in several states. Many of us are disturbed by clowns at the best of times but these reports tell of clowns going out of their way to scare people. It is to the point where legitimate clowns are thinking twice before they don their costumes and cosmetics.

The most disturbing image for me is the report of clowns who just appear on a street and stand there. I mean, that is just weird, right? Clowns are supposed to move around energetically. Everything about them is exaggerated as they seek to get our attention and entertain us. They are supposed to be happy! A clown that just stands and stares at us is completely antithetical, bogus and just plain scary. This might be a form of identity theft, or perhaps identity abuse?

Do you know another recognized part of our culture that might be accused of something similar to this? I read an article recently that offered six words that are the six words a Christian never wants to hear. (There are actually eight words in the sentence but two are contractions.)

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN.

How would that feel?

Are there people who put on Christ but who do things that Christ would never do? Are there people who put on Christ but then just stand and stare as lost people go by? Jesus certainly had a lot to say about hypocrites. The Bible has a word for pretense which suggests someone cloaks themselves, and we use the expression "wearing a mask" to describe someone who is living a lie. Here is how Paul warns of "such people" in 2 Timothy 3:4, 5.

...treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

We did not don a grotesque costume when we put on Christ. We put on the very best of humanity, and that should make us appealing to our fellow man. We exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, not gestures of the circus. One of those fruits is joy that comes from being fruitful. Truly following Jesus is a feel-good way to be. Making a pretense of faith is frightening.

Are you having fun or just clowning around?



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

October 9, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.



Today's Sermon: *Dinner and a Movie with Jesus*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website. Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: Matthew 26:6-16

Hymns: TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Next potluck: October 16th.**
- **Ladies Class: 10am, Tuesday, October 11th.** We are using **Human and Holy by Michelle Goff.** We are preparing chapter 5 for Tuesday. Patty will be leading the discussion.
- **Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's Thursday nights at 7pm.** Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted!
- **Regional Singing: Sunday, October 30th at 4:30pm.** This time Valley Cities church is hosting the 5th Sunday singing. We will need snacks and desserts to serve our guests.



- **The men had a breakfast business meeting yesterday. The results of their discussion and ideas they had have been printed out and are available to each of us on the entry table. Please look it over and bring ideas to talk about as we are sharing our potluck meal next week.**



- Potluck dinner NEXT WEEK!
- **Be sure to check whether anyone needs a ride to or from worship if you are blessed with a vehicle.**



THIS TIME, LIKE ALL OTHER TIMES, IS A VERY GOOD ONE IF WE BUT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

Be very careful, then how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. *Ephesians 5:15*

PRAYERS...

- Remember to pray for Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the Massena, NY church who has lung cancer.
- Pray for Claire Albro, Patty and Ruthie's stepmom who has cancer in several organs and is being treated with chemo. Claire is in a lot of pain and has been given an estimated 6 months to a year to live.
- Remember to pray for Lori Johnson, mother of Veronica who came to VBS. Lori has brain cancer.
- Remember to pray for Matthew Lowe, Rhonda's brother and Jerry's son.
- Remember to pray for Richard Beiber, Darlene's father, of West Palm Springs, FL.
- Keep praying for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock and their search for a preacher. They are very small and need encouragement.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.

If you don't know where you're going, you'll never recognize your destination when you arrive.

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:14*

