

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
Jerry Casey
Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Clint Smith Jr
Robby Stocksdale
Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Missions

Panama Pablo & Myra Sanchez
Panama Denicio & Carmen Miranda

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and
Free Bible Correspondence Courses
For further information please contact us
Phone: (812)-284-3125
Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org
Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader	Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer	Irvin Williams
Scripture Reading	Clint Smith III
Sermon	Eric Welch
Lord's Supper Message	Joe Sweeney
Table Attendant	Art Patrick
Table Attendant	Jerry Montgomery
Closing Prayer	Clint Smith Sr

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader	Rick Martin
Bible Reading	Nathaniel Welch
Selection	55
Opening Prayer	Jerry Casey
Sermon	Eric Welch
Closing Prayer	Ethan Welch

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements	Leon Stocksdale
Lord's Supper Prayer	Clint Smith Jr
Offering Prayer	Robby Stocksdale
Usher	Harold Tincher
Count Offering	Harold Tincher
Assist Count	Marc Owens

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning

Does God Exist? *Part 2* – Romans 2:14-15

Sunday Evening

Christ's Example of Humility – Philippians 2:1-11

Last Sunday

Offering: \$3,363 Attendance: 108

The Worker

Hamburg Pike church of Christ

3108 Hamburg Pike
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
Ph. (812) 284-3125

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

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They Were “Only” Fishermen!

Why does it seem like being a disciple of Jesus is so challenging? Why does it seem like such a difficult undertaking? I think there are several reasons behind this. Sometimes I think it could be a lack of commitment. Sometimes I think it is because we are unwilling to give ourselves completely to Jesus. Sometimes I think we don't truly understand what it means to be disciples. Sometimes I think that we just don't make time for Jesus and following him.

Each of these could be legitimate or they could be a combination of each. Each person is a complicated array of experiences and mistakes; misunderstanding and rebellion, sinner and saint. To just assign a person to any one category is short-sighted at best.

The problem that plagues us the most is not any of these (although they can be true and often plague us). I think the problem we face most often is that we don't think we can be good disciples.

We have allowed Satan to convince us that we are sinners, not saints. Or that we cannot be a disciple because we are simply not good enough. This causes us to look at the people of God, read the stories, examine their lives, and teachings only to conclude that we will never be like them.

Satan says,

- You're a sinner because you sin daily!
- Your identity is connected to what you've done (sin = condemned and rejected).
- Your identity comes from what others think about you (just like everyone else).
- Your behavior dictates what you believe about yourself (discouraged and defeated).

Christian, don't ever accept these lies from Satan. Instead, chose to listen to what God says about you. He will not lie to you nor try to lead you astray. You are His beloved child. Believe it!

God says,

- You're a saint (Eph. 1:1) declared righteous in Jesus (Rom. 4:1-5).
- Your identity is connected to what God has done (John 3:15; Rom. 5:8).
- Your identity comes from what God thinks about you (Eph. 2:4-10; Gal. 3:25-29).
- Your belief about yourself determines your behavior (Rom. 8:1-2, 28, 31-39).

Just like the first disciples of Jesus (Matt. 4:18-22), who were simple fishermen, Jesus can make you into something you never dreamed possible if you are willing to allow Him to have his way. Give yourself completely to Him and by faith, let Him lead.

Matthew 4:19 "... Follow me, and I will make you..." (ESV)

- Jeff Arnette preaches for the Central Haywood church of Christ, Clyde, NC. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <https://centralhaywoodcoc.com/>

Leaven

Eric Welch

Have you heard the story about a father who brought his son to the ER for having nudged a tire from one of his toy trucks up his nose? The EMT reassured the embarrassed dad that it happens often. The tech removed the tire, and the father and son left. Shortly afterward, the dad returned and asked to see the EMT in private. The father explained that on his way home, he looked at the little tire and wondered how his son got it up his nose. He then explains why he had come back. It only took a few seconds to get the tire out of Dad's nose. There are some things that do not belong in your nose. They might fit and they might be pain free, but they do not belong.

Indeed, certain things do not belong in our bodies. There are certain things that do not belong in our minds. There are certain things that do not belong in our homes.

The Israelites understood it well with the annual spring cleaning of their dwellings. In preparation for Passover and the feast of unleavened bread, the whole family went in search of any crumb of leavened bread that they could find and remove it. The week commemorated God's rescue of Israel from Egyptian slavery. The feast was also a spiritual reminder that God gave freedom, but He also required action on Israel's part, to remove some things from their lives.

Leaven, or yeast, became a symbol for the influence of sin. Jesus said in Luke 12:1 "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 5:6, "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? We too must be diligent to remove the leaven of sin and create an environment in which our children can grow up free from the influences of the world.

One example is the leaven of the LGBT community. My hometown is in Monterey, Putnam County Tennessee. The county seat is Cookeville. Last week, the county library located in Cookeville allowed a man dressed as a woman (a "drag queen") to read to elementary-age children. Perhaps you have seen this perversion reported in the news and happening in large liberal urban areas. We would not expect this practice in the relatively rural south, yet we see how big cities can spread its leaven.

I am unsure why parents would even allow their children to attend this event. Perhaps they thought it was cute or funny. Sin is no laughing matter. Just as putting dangerous substance at home within reach of your children is no laughing matter.

Would you not protect your children from any harmful materials found in your house, such as rotten food, lead paint and dangerous chemicals? We would remove anything that would physically harm our children. How much more diligent should we be in protecting them from anything that would harm them spiritually?

How can we protect our children from the leaven that does not belong in their minds? We can start by monitoring the media our children are exposed, even down to the smallest crumbs. Producers of media are very subtle in how they introduce ungodly material, especially in their cunning use of politically correct language and images. We can monitor the friends they keep, especially as they get older. We can do things that are positive and pure—having daily devotionals, eating meals around the table, spending more recreation time outside and, of course, attending all the assemblies of the church, for starters.

The only place safe for our children is in the arms of Jesus (Mat 19:14-15). What are you doing to keep the leaven of sin out of your home?

Hamburg Pike Happenings

An abbreviated worship service is scheduled for Sunday evening January 20th. The Elders plan to present the 2019 financial budget immediately following.

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday January 21st at 6:30 p.m. the meal theme is Pizza.

The ladies' Bible class will meet Saturday, January 19th 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship room.

Attention all youth K to 5th grade. Our Junior Leader program for Lads 2 Leaders is meeting Sunday January 20th 4:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. All pre-K youth are welcome because our puppets will be giving performances. If you have any questions please see Ashley or Cassie.

The Lads 2 Leaders groups Providers and Keepers will meet Sunday, January 27th 4:30 p.m. at the church building. The guys will learn about basic car maintenance with Eric, and the girls will learn about first aid and home safety with Alicia and Stephanie. If you want to receive an award for participation at the 2019 convention in Louisville, you must attend this meeting. Any questions, participants can see Stephanie.

A Fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday January 27th after the morning worship. The meal theme is soup, sandwiches and salads. Drinks will be provided. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

God's Providence? Perhaps...

During the first century, a runaway slave fled from the city of Colossae all the way to Rome, more than 1300 miles away. Apparently, he didn't want to get caught! It was while he was in Rome that he happened to hear and be converted by the imprisoned, Apostle Paul. In a letter that Paul wrote to Philemon, Onesimus' former master, Paul entertained the idea that this entire event (i.e. Onesimus running away, running all the way to Rome, meeting Paul, and becoming a Christian) was all a part of God's providence. Was he certain of it? No, but he said, "perhaps" (Philemon 15). What an amazing set of circumstances, and possibly all orchestrated by God!

But let me remind you of something. God's providence is as active in today's world as it was in the days of the apostle Paul. God still works good on behalf of those who love and seek him.

Enter Ron and Zona Hogan. Ron and Zona are good friends of mine who live in the remote town of Kotzebue, Alaska (take the time to look it up on a map). For years, Ron and Zona have faithfully worshiped in their home, inviting others in their small community to join them.

Recently, a couple named Precio and Joseline, moved to Kotzebue from the Dominican Republic. Ron and Zona struck up a friendship with them, despite the language barrier (English/Spanish). Joseline, who was already a Christian and her husband began worshiping with and studying with Ron and Zona. Last week, Precio told Ron that he wanted to be baptized into Christ. Ron contacted a Spanish speaking friend in Texas and had her translate the words he was going to say prior to baptizing Precio. So, Ron was able to speak to him in his native language and hear Precio say, "Jesucristo es el Hijo de Dios." (Jesus Christ is the Son of God).

Now, what are the odds that Ron Hogan, from Kentucky, would meet Precio, from the Dominican Republic, in Kotzebue, Alaska? Is this any less amazing than Paul's unlikely meeting with Onesimus? Not at all. Was this the providence of God at work today? I'll answer that question as Paul did 2000 years ago, "Perhaps!"

- Steve Higginbotham preaches for the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN. He may be contacted through the congregation's website at <http://www.karnschurch.org> Copyright © 2018 MercEmail