

AND THE PEOPLE CAME... - Week of April 27, 2024 -

Sunday School	9
Sunday Morning Service	32
Sunday Eve. Service	17

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE... - Week of April 27, 2025 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 693.87
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 110.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/27/25:	\$ 803.87

- Week of April 20, 2025 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,776.21
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Love Offering Income	\$ 2,000.00
Media Ministry	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/20/25:	\$ 5,776.21

- Week of April 13, 2025 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,127.28
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/13/25:	\$ 1,127.28

- Week of April 6, 2025 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 3,583.79
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 96.80
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/06/25:	\$ 3,680.59

- Week of March 30, 2025 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 453.53
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund	\$ 96.80
Media Minsitry	\$ 195.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/30/25:	\$ 745.33

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,700.00

TITHING



- 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.

LISTEN TO -



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SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
23 EAST WELLS BOULEVARD
SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA
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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Sundays -
9:45 a.m. ----- Sunday School
10:50 a.m. ----- Morning Service
6:30 p.m. ----- Evening Service

Wednesdays -
7:00 p.m. ----- Evening Service

Bi-Monthly -
11:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. ----- Ladies Bible Study
- 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

Church Directory

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



Worship In The Dark: Why I Avoid Blacked Out Churches

I have a confession:

I struggle to sit in a worship service these days.

Churches no longer resemble churches. Curtains are drawn to block out natural light.

The spotlight is on the singer at the front. Some churches take it a step further and include smoke machines, a light show for the stage and a background screen showing various camera angles of the worship team (in case you can't adore them enough from your perspective in the pew).

- ☐ How did we get here?
- ☐ How did this become acceptable in mainstream Christianity?
- ☐ Should we blame churches like Hillsong and Bethel for popularizing rock concert Christianity?

It's become such an issue for me that I often walk outside during worship and get some sunshine while the congregation worships in a blackened hall.

The symbolism is striking.

I thought I was alone in thinking like this but a quick Google search brings up many results of people concerned about the same thing so I know it's not just me.

THIS IS MY TIME WITH GOD!

I've posed the question of darkened worship to numerous church leaders. This is the most common response I hear:

"It allows worshippers to focus on God without getting distracted."

At first glance, this sounds logical - let people focus on their intimacy with God.

But - is that what Christianity teaches? When did corporate worship become about "your intimacy with the Lord" and "avoiding distractions" from people around you?

Here's the truth:

Church should be 100% about you getting distracted. The people sitting around you should be a welcome distraction - that's what you're there for. You're there to be part of community and to break bread with fellow believers. In fact, a truly authentic church service should be almost entirely a group of people engaging with each other in conversation, prayer, and a meal.

Church Today Has Become a Selfish, Self-absorbed, Feel-good Experience.

The music (including the lyrics to most modern worship songs) and the lighting are all designed to make you feel completely disconnected from the community around you. Community has become a "distraction" from the fuzzies we get from our intimate God time in the dark.

(continued inside)



Traditional Churches Saw the Beauty in Natural Light

Compare today’s architectural trends in churches with some of the old, beautiful churches and cathedrals.

HOW DID PREVIOUS GENERATIONS VALUE LIGHT IN WORSHIP?

Some of the most beautiful and ornate stained glass windows were positioned above the altar and all around the building to let as much natural light into the building as possible.

Natural Light.

They rightly included sunlight as part of the worship experience - *sunlight reminds us of the glory of God.*

Even today, when you stand in a centuries old cathedral and look up at the stained glass artwork with the sun shining through it, it takes your breath away.



IT INVOKES AWE.

Why Have We Moved Away from This?
Don’t Put Your Lamp under a Bushel -
“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house” (Matthew 5:15).

We still (for now) live in a time where public worship is legally permitted. Why not open the curtains and let the lost see people worshipping God together, breaking bread, and loving each other?

On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, scripture says there was a crowd outside that heard what was going on, and were **“all amazed and marvelled” (Acts 2:7).**

So - that means that wherever the believers were having “church”, outsiders were able to spectate.

Now, I want you to imagine this:

Imagine if the believers were in a dark room, hidden away from spectators who couldn’t witness what the Holy Spirit was doing in the meeting - *would those three thousand people have*

been saved that day?

GOD IS LIGHT. WE ARE CARRIERS OF THAT LIGHT, AND THE CHURCH SHOULD NEVER BE A PLACE OF DARKNESS.

- Donovan Nagel

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ **EVANGELICALS HAVE ONLY PRAISE FOR POPE FRANCIS, NO WARNINGS, NO EARNEST CONTENTION FOR THE FAITH** - In a survey of evangelical news sites, I could find only praise for the late Pope Francis, who sat on the seat of apostasy and preached a false gospel to multitudes. I could find no biblical warnings, no earnest contention for the faith once delivered to the saints.

This is evidence of the rapid formation of a one-world “church” created by the rejection of biblical separation and the resultant blending and merging of evangelicals with Catholicism and ultimately every other ism. *Christianity Today*, which was founded by Billy Graham in 1956, published eulogies entitled “Pope Francis, Friend to Evangelicals” and “An Evangelical Considers Pope Francis.” There was no clear warning about the Pope’s great heresies, beginning with the mythology of the papacy itself and the false gospel of salvation by sacraments and works.

❑ **ABORTION PILL FOUND TO HAVE SEVERE ADVERSE EFFECTS FOR 1 IN 10 WOMEN** - Mifepristone is FDA approved to kill a helpless little baby up to 10 weeks after pregnancy. At that time, the baby’s first tooth buds are developing under the gums, the stomach is producing digestive juices, the kidneys are functioning, bones and cartilage are forming, knees and ankles are taking shape and “tiny elbows are already working” (“10 Weeks Pregnancy,” Whattoexpect.com).

The following is from “*Abortion Pill*,” *Fox News*, Apr. 28, 2025:

“A new study has exposed ‘serious adverse events’ linked to mifepristone, also known as the ‘abortion pill.’ Mifepristone is a ‘pregnancy blocker’ that is used in combination with another medication, misoprostol, to terminate pregnancies, according to Mayo Clinic. Research by the Ethics & Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. [EPPC], has revealed that the rate of serious side effects is 22 times higher than what is indicated on the FDA-approved drug label. After going through an abortion assisted by mifepristone, nearly 11% of women--more than one in 10--reported experiencing ‘infection, hemorrhaging, or another serious or life-threatening adverse event,’ according to the study summary. The study used insurance claims data that includes more than 865,000 medication abortions prescribed between 2017 and 2023, resulting in what is described as the largest-ever dataset on chemical abortion. ... The study authors--Jamie Bryan Hall, EPPC’s director of data analysis, and Ryan T. Anderson, EPPC’s president --called the results a ‘truly shocking and sad reality.’

...Based on the study, the researchers are calling on the FDA to reinstate the original safety protections that they required when they approved mifepristone, stating that ‘women deserve the

truth.’ Christina Francis, M.D., CEO of the American Association of Pro Life OBGYNs, who is based in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, was not involved in the research but commented on the significance of the outcome. “The findings of this study, which analyzes nearly 900,000 drug-induced abortions, align with what I have seen in my two decades of practice as an OB-GYN, during which I have cared for many women who have been lied to about the safety of abortion drugs and suffered significant complications from them,” she told Fox News Digital.”

❑ **TRUMP’S TASK FORCE TO ERADICATE ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIAS** - The following is excerpted from *Standing for Freedom*, Apr. 24, 2025:

“On April 22, Attorney General Pam Bondi convened the inaugural meeting of the *Task Force to Eradicate Anti-Christian Bias*, a bold step toward restoring the religious liberty that has been under siege for far too long in our once-Christian nation.

Established by President Donald Trump in February through Executive Order 14202, titled ‘Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias,’ this task force signals a seismic shift in how our government will treat Christians.

Christians are, without question, the most persecuted religious group in America. During 12 of the last 16 years under the anti-Christian Obama and Biden regimes (with a four-year reprieve during Trump’s first term), Christians were explicitly and relentlessly targeted by the life-crushing power of the government. If it wasn’t the feds, it was hostile blue states like Colorado, Virginia, New York, and others that did the devil’s dirty work. And if it wasn’t the feds or the states, it was universities, corporations, and the media. So, for conservative Christians and First Amendment fans everywhere, this isn’t just a policy win being put into action--it’s an answer to prayer. God is closing the mouths of the lions and opening the door out of the den (at least for the next four years).

... The previous administration weaponized federal agencies like the Department of Justice, FBI, and IRS against believers, while turning a blind eye to vandalism and violence against churches and pro-life centers. The task force, Bondi vowed, would ensure that ‘abuse would not continue and that American tax dollars were not used to support the weaponization of our legal system to target Christians.’ From what I can tell, this task force is no abstract bureaucratic exercise nor is it simply a talking point offered to satisfy Trump’s evangelical voting base. The meeting featured gut-wrenching testimonies from Christians persecuted under Biden’s watch.

... Dr. Scott Hicks of Liberty University detailed how Christian institutions like his and Grand Canyon University were intentionally targeted and slapped with punitive fines for their biblical worldview. These are not isolated incidents but part of a deliberate campaign to marginalize Christians, a campaign that Bondi’s task force is now poised to dismantle. Again, the past two decades have felt like a slow-motion crucifixion of our values.

... Obama’s DOJ also argued against religious liberty in landmark cases, such as *Obergefell v. Hodges*, prioritizing secular

ideology and the radical LGBT agenda over faith. Biden doubled down, with his DOJ prosecuting pro-life Christians under the FACE Act, resulting in multi-year prison sentences for peaceful protesters, including a Catholic priest and a 75-year-old grandmother. Meanwhile, over 400 attacks on churches since 2020 have gone largely unprosecuted.

The secular culture, amplified by Hollywood, academia, and media, has mocked and vilified Christians, painting us as bigots for holding to biblical truths about marriage, life, and gender. This is the context in which Trump’s task force emerges, not as some act of favoritism towards Christians but as a necessary corrective to a government that has trampled on the First Amendment and, specifically, the religious liberty rights of Christians. This is a much-needed correction.”

❑ **ARCHEOLOGISTS DISCOVER EVIDENCE OF JOSIAH’S BATTLE OF MEGIDDO** - The following is excerpted from “*Archaeologists Discover*,” *Christianity Daily*, Apr. 12, 2025:

“Archaeologists have discovered new evidence that supports the biblical account of the Battle of Megiddo, which is detailed in both 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Recent archaeological findings include pottery fragments in the area that suggest there was an Egyptian presence around the time of the battle, which occurred in 609 BC.

Israel Finkelstein, an archaeologist at the University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University, and the lead author of the study describing the findings, stated that in addition to Egyptian pottery, remnants of Greek pottery were also discovered, likely due to the practice of hiring Greek mercenaries by the Egyptians during that period. The Battle of Megiddo is noted as the cause of death for King Josiah, who is recognized in the scriptures as a pious king and is also mentioned in the New Testament as an ancestor of Jesus.”

