

We are a church with one mission: to grow followers of Jesus through grateful worship, genuine community, and generous service to each other and our world. We believe by loving God and loving people we can have an impact that really matters, and would like to tell you more about that. If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing with us, or just have some questions, **fill out the contact card** or ask the person next to you. **Please feel free to call or email too if you have any questions.**

FAMILY NEWS AND NOTES

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GOD'S FAMILY TIMES

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—9:30 am Sunday

WORSHIP
Building—10:30 am Sunday

GROWTH GROUPS

Suspended for the summer
Grose's -- 6 p.m. Sunday
Irwin's -- 6 p.m. Sunday

BIBLE CLASSES
Building—7 pm Wednesday

Homemade Ice Cream Social: THIS Saturday August 12th at 7 p.m. at the Kirk's. Churn your favorite flavor or bring desserts and drinks.

Family Picnic: Sunday August 27th at Blue Spruce Park; Pavilion 4 (on the right) after services.

Thanks to Gail Gromley and Brenda Antonio for organizing the Give Away yesterday.

Ron Duriez is “retiring” from being the coordinator of scheduling and making sure that we have men to serve in the worship services on Sunday morning and Wednesday nights. So by the end of August we need someone to step up and serve the body in this capacity. Please see Ron for any questions and if you can serve in this way.

Trina (Hill) Flamm is asking for donations of old towels and washcloths. Please see Trina if you can help.

The Fasanyas will be moving to a new unfurnished apartment in August. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board if you can donate any item(s) that are still needed. Sally Duriez is also taking monetary contributions to buy them 2 new mattresses. You can't image how much this is appreciated. Thank you all.

Happy Birthday

8/5 Emma Sesock
8/9 Larry Kruszka
8/10 Brenda Antonio
8/15 Doris Ruffner

Happy Anniversary

8/6 Jim & Sharon Yurky
8/10 Cliff & Vera Brown
8/16 Gary & Regina Minser
8/20 Henry & M.J George

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

ITS:

family have now moved to North Africa from Lyon, France. Pray for a smooth y into their ministry there.
's asylum request to be granted and for the girls as they are in the USA without father. Also for Ezekiel as he is in Nigeria without his wife and daughters.

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FAMILY MATTERS

Indiana

Church of Christ

724.463.7240

August 6, 2017

Exodus: Why Americans are Leaving Religion—and Why They're Unlikely to Come Back (part three)

Perceptions of Religion and God Among the Religiously Unaffiliated

Perceptions of Organized Religion

Overall, religiously unaffiliated and affiliated Americans hold significantly different views about the merits of organized religion, both for themselves and for society as a whole. About two-thirds (66%) of unaffiliated Americans agree “religion causes more problems in society than it solves.” In contrast, a majority of white evangelical Protestants (78%), black Protestants (74%), white mainline Protestants (72%), and Catholics (66%) disagree. Members of non-Christian religions are closely divided on this question (48% agree, 49% disagree).

Americans who are unaffiliated also reject the notion that religion plays a crucial role in providing a moral foundation for children. Approximately two-thirds (66%) of unaffiliated Americans believe it is not important for children to be brought up in a religion so they can learn good values. Overwhelming numbers of religious Americans, including white evangelical Protestants (92%), black Protestants (86%), Catholics (81%), white mainline Protestants (78%), and mFew unaffiliated Americans are actively looking to join a religious community. Only seven percent of the unaffiliated report they are searching for a religion that would be right for them, compared to 93% who say they are not.

In fact, relatively few unaffiliated Americans report they regularly devote much time to thinking about God or religion. More than seven in ten (72%) unaffiliated Americans say that in their day-to-day life, they do not spend much time thinking about God or religion. By contrast, a majority (54%) of Americans, including majorities of black Protestants (81%), white evangelical Protestants (80%), Catholics (54%), and white mainline Protestants (52%), disagree. Members of non-Christian religions are roughly divided on this question (51% agree, 49% disagree).embers of non-Christian religions (59%) believe religion is important in instilling good values in children.

God, Morality, and Doubt

Despite their lack of connection to formal religious institutions, most unaffiliated Americans retain a belief in God or a higher power. A majority of unaffiliated Americans say God is either a person with whom people can have a relationship (22%) or an impersonal force (37%). Only one-third (33%) of religiously unaffiliated Americans say they do not believe in God. Strong majorities of Americans who belong to the major Christian religious traditions hold a personal conception of God. Compared to Christians, Americans who identify with a non-Christian tradition are Religiously unaffiliated Americans are also less likely than religious Americans to link belief in God to moral behavior. Only about one in five (21%) unaffiliated Americans say it is necessary to believe in God to be moral and have good values. More than three-quarters (77%) reject this idea, including 61% who strongly reject it. A majority of black Protestants (78%), white evangelical Protestants (59%), and Catholics (59%) agree believing in God is a necessary precondition for moral behavior. Notably, fewer than half of white mainline Protestants (43%) and those who identify with non-Christian religions (43%) agree.

Sharing Religious Identity and Views about Religion

Although previous research has shown that atheists are viewed quite negatively among the public, most religiously unaffiliated Americans do not have qualms about sharing their religious beliefs or views about religion with their friends