

**October 19, 2025**

**9:30 AM Worship**

Song Leader – Chris Travis

582- To God Be the Glory

Woke Up This Morning

200- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Opening Welcome and Prayer – Jeff Burney

Highly Exalted

923 - Give Thanks

Lord's Supper/Contribution –

Will Pendleton

756 – When We All Get to Heaven

Dismissal to Junior Disciples

Reading: Rev 18:1-10 – Keith Crouch

Sermon: Revealing Babylon's Fate -

Mike Peters

380 – Just As I Am

863 – I Love You with the Love of the Lord

Closing Prayer – Wayne Pinckley

Nursery – Tracie Mayberry

Greeter – Liz Mitchell

Junior Disciples (2yr-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

**Bible Class – 10:45 AM**

Cradle Roll

2-4: Edwin & Amanda Rutherford

K-5<sup>th</sup>: Brad & Thea Moser

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Seth Riley

Nehemiah (Auditorium) – Wayne Pinckley

Against the Grain (Class behind Auditorium) – Mike Peters

**Wednesday Bible Class – 7PM**

Auditorium – Donnie Mitchell

Men's Class – Mike Peters

Ladies Class – Tonya Crouch

2-3's:

4's-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Teens: Seth Riley

**Internet Guest Password: 1John4:4**

**Visitors, please use this QR code to let us know you are here.**



**Pulpit Minister**

**Mike Peters - (901) 334-6772**

**Family Minister**

**Seth Riley - (740) 710-6863**

**Secretary**

**Tonya Crouch – (615) 710-7841**

**Elders**

**Jeff Burney - (615) 618-3886**

**Bruce Gibbs - (615) 330-7144**

**Brad Moser - (863) 860-1767**

**Wayne Pinckley - (931) 263-4060**

**Tim Shivers – (615) 627-8710**

**Chris Travis – (931) 206-0699**



# Ashland City Church of Christ

110 Cumberland St.-Ashland City, TN 37015-(615) 792-4740-[www.acchurchofchrist.com](http://www.acchurchofchrist.com)

*The Best Place To Be On The Best Day Of The Week*

## The Mark of the Beast: Understanding Loyalty in a Divided World

The number 666 strikes fear into many hearts, even among those who know little about the Book of Revelation. Some worry when their grocery receipt totals \$6.66 or when they encounter this number in daily life. But what if our fear is misplaced? What if we're missing the deeper, more sobering truth that this passage reveals?

To understand Revelation 13, we must recognize that John is using symbolic language familiar to his first-century audience. The beast combines elements from Daniel's visions, pointing clearly to Rome for John's readers. But John reveals that this beast represents any empire that exalts itself to the place of deity and demands worship from its people. It's Rome, but it's also Babylon, Persia, Greece, and any kingdom that enriches itself by exploiting the world and demanding ultimate allegiance.

Many first-century Christians had bought into Roman imperial propaganda. Rome had brought peace and prosperity, and some believers saw no conflict between following Jesus and giving loyalty to the empire. John had to reveal the truth: Rome was a monster that devoured and exploited, demanding worship that belonged only to God. The mark on the right hand or forehead isn't about microchips, vaccines, or literal tattoos. It's about loyalty and allegiance. This passage likely parallels Deuteronomy 6, where God's people were told to bind His word on their hands and foreheads as a sign of devotion to Him.

The mark represents giving your loyalty to the empire so you can participate in economic life—you couldn't "buy or sell" without showing allegiance to Rome. The number 666, likely referring to Nero Caesar through gematria, represents the name of the beast—the empire and its leaders who demand worship. Revelation 14:1 presents the contrast: people have either the Lamb's name or the beast's mark on their foreheads. The choice is clear—either your loyalty belongs to the empire or to Jesus. There's no middle ground. John forces his readers to choose: Will you follow the beast or follow the Lamb?

While John wrote to first-century Christians facing Roman imperial pressure, the principle applies to every generation. We face the same temptation to give our ultimate loyalty to political parties, nations, or leaders rather than to Jesus. The mark symbolizes self-preservation through compromised allegiance—the temptation to preserve our comfort or livelihood by dividing our loyalty between Jesus and worldly powers.

The mark of the beast isn't about avoiding a specific number or fearing future technology. It's about examining where your ultimate loyalty lies right now. The call remains: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes, resist the deception of worldly powers, and remain faithful even when it costs you everything.

## Upcoming Events

10/25 – Trunk or Treat will be from 5-7. We will be having a chili/soup meal. The church will provide hotdogs, buns, chips and condiments. There will be sign up for the chili/soup and toppings. Please bring desserts.

11/6 – Lunch Trip to Que'd Up 615 in Pleasant View. There's a signup sheet in the foyer. It's open to anyone that wishes to go. The church van will leave promptly at 10:45 am.

11/8 – Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am in the FLC. Sausage and Biscuits will be provided. Please bring breakfast sides.

11/23 – Family Meeting with meal after class. The church will provide fried chicken. Please bring sides and desserts.

12/4 – Trip to Pattis 1880 Settlement for lunch.

12/6 - Breakfast with Santa (More Details to Come)

## News

There's a Second Harvest Food box located to the left of the pulpit. Lanelle Craig is collecting nonperishable items for Pleasant View Elementary till the end of October. Here's a list of most needed items: Peanut butter, canned chicken and tuna, canned fruits and vegetables, beans, mac and cheese, pasta, cereal and rice.

*All announcements for the bulletin need to be sent to Tonya by Tuesday at [accocsec@gmail.com](mailto:accocsec@gmail.com) Thank you.*

## Prayer Requests

Louise Beshears has been returned to Vantage Pointe and is doing much better!

Mitch Ledman was able to go home.

Juanita Glasgow has been moved to Riverview room 106 (Formerly Hillcrest).

Melinda Riley the mom of Seth Riley waiting for tests results.

Seth Riley's dad's sister Shelia Chittum passed away.

Karen Bennett Sullivan had a heart attack and was admitted to Centennial. Undergoing further testing.

## Shut-Ins

Louise Beshears (Vantage Point); Juanita Glasgow (Vantage Point); Linda Pewitt; Preston & Dot Tucker (Vantage Point Room 414)

## Birthdays

Renee Crawford 10/19

Paula Quigley 10/19

Darlene Baxter 10/21

Edwin Rutherford 10/23

## Anniversaries

David and Lynne West 10/22

## Stats For 10-19

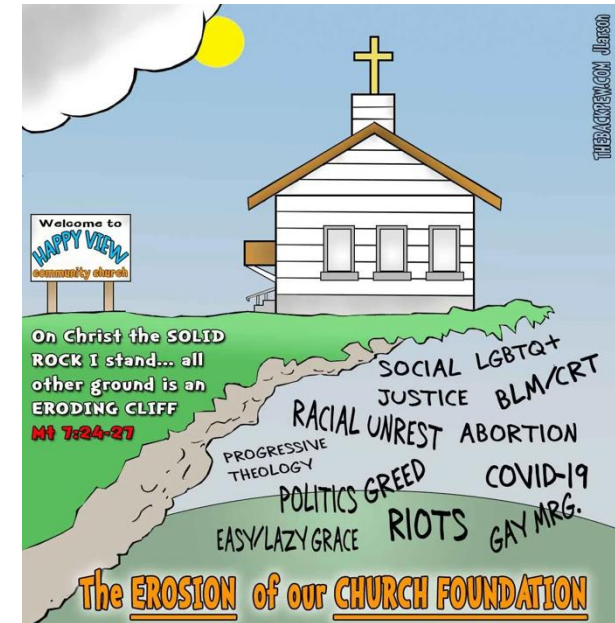
AM Worship – 121

Wednesday – 59

Contribution - \$4326.51

Weekly Budget - \$5731.00

YTD Avg. – \$5412.70



## Continued Prayers for...

Darlene Baxter, Joe Bruggeman, Sr.; Barbara Craig, Joe Demonbreum, Ricky Hackett, J.W. Hymer, Anita Lunn, Kim Mayberry, Lynn Moreland, Char Nicholson, Trudy Thrasher, Ridge Tittle, Dee Shivers, Marilyn Delashmitt