

Invitation

Welcome everyone. We pray you will be strengthened by your visit with the Brighton Church of Christ. You are not just our guest, but you are welcome and wanted right here. Join our family of imperfect people perfected in by the blood of Jesus. Restrooms are located across the foyer near the front of the auditorium on the upper floor. If you need assistance in any way, ask any member for help.

Mission

The Brighton Church of Christ is a spiritual family with a focus on going to heaven. We are determined to honor God, to strictly follow the teachings of the New Testament, and effectively make that teaching available to the city of Brighton and the surrounding areas.

Leadership

Elders

Ron Jensen 303-655-8498
Ivan Stewart 720-270-1057
Mark Thacker 303-655-1982

Deacons

Kevin Dunham 303-807-5974

Minister

Sam Dilbeck 903-229-8415

Contacts

Church Phone: 303.659.1420
Email: info@brightonchurchofchrist.org
Website: brightonchurchofchrist.org
Facebook: facebook.com/brightoncoc

Attendance last week:

Sunday am - 83
Sunday pm - 30
Wednesday - 35
Contribution- \$3,458.00

Sunday Schedule Morning

Welcome Ron Jensen
Song Leader Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....Chris Warner
Lord’s Supper Leader.....Marc Moran
Assistant.....Kaden Dunham
AssistantJim Learned
Assistant.....James Slagle
Assistant.....Coby Mendoza
Scripture Reading.....Chris Welsby

1 Pet 3:18-22

Lesson..... Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....Chris Peterson

Sunday Evening

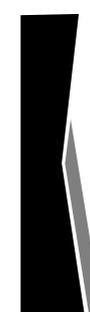
Song Leader.....Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....
Lord’s Supper Leader.....Marc Moran
Lesson.....Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....Kaden Dunham

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class.....Sam Dilbeck

Service Times

Sundays:
Morning classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening worship 6:00 pm
Wednesdays:
Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm



BRIGHTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Brightonchurchofchrist.org ♦ facebook.com/brightoncoc

September 18, 2022

When Strings Decay (Part 1) Sam Dilbeck

According to the Pew Research Center, America is witnessing a common problem among Millennials—the term given by sociologists to people of the generation born after 1981. The problem is string decay. “Religion” comes from the Latin ligāre, meaning to tie back or fasten again, and for many Millennials, those strings are rotting away. As a result, churches look for ways to draw Millennials back to God. The Pew report reveals that 1 in 4 young adults do not affiliate themselves with any religious group. In comparison, when Gen-X (1965-1980) was 18-29 years old only 20% were unaffiliated, and Baby Boomers (1946-1964) were about 13% at the same age. So, with each successive generation, more and more young adults say they are unaffiliated.

While statistics for churches of Christ show more positive trends, it would be irresponsible to ignore the fact that Millennials often leave their faith with Mom and Dad when they leave home. A few generations ago we said, “We’re losing our kids! Start more programs. Do more activities. Make church more entertaining.” Churches hired youth ministers based upon their ability to calculate dog to bun ratios, instead of their ability to inculcate the word. In the end, there were a lot of fun activities, very few hotdogs without buns, and almost no Bible teaching. Gimmicks failed to stop the bleeding.

One factor leading to the disappearing age group is biblical illiteracy. When Moses neared death, he spoke passionately to the people in a series of sermons recorded in the book of Deuteronomy. He declared the unique divinity of God, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” (Deut. 6:4). Then he emphasized the importance of teaching God and his statutes to each new generation (6:6-9). Instruction and indoctrination would save the nation, but ignorance would destroy them (Hos. 4:6) Similarly, the survival of the spiritual nation of Israel—the church—depends on biblical literacy.

Life requires guidance and instruction. Parents and teachers fill the primary and secondary roles of life educators. However, their curriculum fails to include practical Bible education. Kids learn the story of the ark and hear about the life of Jesus, but are never taught to study, dig, learn, and apply the message to their lives. When the world challenges them, their paper-thin faith shreds. Few Millennials have the ability or desire to repair that faith, instead they discard the tatters.

Another factor to the Millennial Exodus is the inability to transition from teen to adult. Many churches use bait-and-switch tactics to draw kids into the church. They offer games and play dates that build a false sense of spirituality. After a while, this entertainment focused youth ministry gives way to the reality of congregational life. Real spirituality involves worship, and the integration and application of the Word in real life. Many young adults do not mature because church is not “fun.” Not finding enjoyment in Christ, they leave the church altogether.

This leads to another cause for the church losing its young adult population—disconnection. One study found that over 7 and a half hours a day are spent blogging, texting, and watching. In our instant-gratification culture, time spent in worship does not just slow down, it moves backwards. Churches often elect to stay a generation or two behind technology. To the tech savvy, this makes the church seem out of touch and irrelevant.

Research, however, shows some positive trends. Many Millennials who stay connected to the church are more biblically based than previous generations. They are leaving the razzle-dazzle of gimmickry for the solid foundation of traditional worship. Additionally, they cling to an action-oriented faith, employing what they believe. They serve the poor and homeless and seek ways to inject their faith into their jobs, schools, and peers.

Another positive trend is that churches are becoming more tech savvy. Many congregations incorporate electronic media into their worship, like visual sermon presentations, projected songs, and even video clips. Additionally, some churches livestream their services or make them available through video archives. The church’s presence on the web is growing too. Blogs, podcasts, and social media help churches move into the wired world. These changes invite Millennials to stick around, plug in, and stay engaged.

(Next week, we will look at some things churches can do to attract Millennials and the maturing Gen Z crowd.)

Announcements

Prayers

Jennifer Sandstede’s mother had surgery. Pray that all went well. Also, her aunt is having serious issues with her kidney, which has failed and was replaced in the past. Prayers for the best outcome.

Sherry Derbigny’s friend **Daisy and family** were in a bad car accident. They are doing better but still are recovering. Prayers for them on this road to recovery.

Chris Jatko is asking for prayers for his **Uncle Ralph Holso**. Ralph has cancer and is undergoing chemo.

Linda Buck, a former member of Brighton, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers as she walks the road to recovery.

Continued Prayers

Paula Stewart— car accident recovery

Sherry Derbigny’s Uncle, Tommy Barber –health problems

Eleanor Jatko— health problems

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

Sam Sims— health problems

Brett Reitmair’s father, Bernie, heart attack.

David Bryant’s mother— stroke recovery

News and Notes



Fall Food Drive

It is time to start gathering items for the food drive. If we all pick up a few items each week there will be plenty for the drive pick up. Please see the list on the table in the foyer to see what they need. The pick up date is October 9th. They always appreciate what is sent.

Farewell Potluck



Farewell Potluck

Next Sunday, September 25th, is a potluck right after morning service. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer. The sheet is a visual to see what foods are coming. Don’t miss this opportunity to wish the Dilbecks the best as they start their new adventure.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 23

Jane Hanavan

Birthday