

## 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 - 103  
Sunday pm - 40  
Wednesday - 18  
Contribution- \$5,410.00

## Sunday Schedule Morning

Welcome ..... Ron Jensen  
Song Leader ..... Ron Jensen  
Opening Prayer.....Coby Mendoza  
Lord’s Supper Leader.....Ivan Stewart  
Assistant.....  
Assistant .....Sam Dunham  
Assistant.....Marcos Celaya  
Assistant.....Brett Reitmair  
Scripture Reading.....

Psa 7:8-11

Lesson..... Sam Dilbeck  
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....Ernest Kite

## Sunday Evening

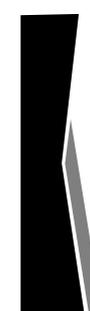
Song Leader.....Ron Jensen  
Opening Prayer.....Ernest Kite  
Lord’s Supper Leader.....Ivan Stewart  
Lesson.....Sam Dilbeck  
Closing Prayer.....Tim Parker

## 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

May 22, 2022

## Disunity: The Downfall of Christianity Sam Dilbeck

A friend of mine sat in a sociology class and listened while the professor explained why sociology is a science. He said that in natural sciences one forms a hypothesis; performs experiments; gets results; and draws conclusions. In social sciences the process is the same. He went on to speak of something called reliability. Reliability is the extent to which an experiment or measure provides consistent results. “Science,” he said, “is true because it is reliable—that is, it produces consistent results...regardless of who is performing the experiment or where the experiment takes place.”

The instructor then set out to give an example of how these go together. He said, “Consider Science versus Faith/Religion. Look how many religions there are. Look at how many churches there are. They can’t all be right. . .there are too many inconsistencies. But Science is consistent...it produces consistent results. It is reliable.”

His conclusion was that science was reliable, but religion was not. His foundation for this conclusion was the fact that so many denominations exist. The denominational attitude is that diversity in religion is good. They revel in the fact that each denomination is different, thus offering individuals the opportunity to choose the one that most closely resembles what they want to believe. However, religious diversity is actually a sign of inconsistency. According to the professor’s thinking, this inconsistency makes religion unreliable and thus something to be rejected in favor of rational science.

Jesus Christ drew the same conclusion was almost two thousand years ago, “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:20-21). Jesus prayed unity would prevail among believers so the “world may believe.” This implies disunity among believers fosters disbelief in the world. The professor’s understanding exemplifies Jesus’s concern.

We have to admit that the professor’s reasoning was right. Who can rationally look at all the religious division embodied in different “churches” and religions and think, “They all must be right”? After all, there is only one Bible, one God, one Savior, one body, one Spirit, one hope and one baptism (Eph 4:4-6). Even the humanistic sociology professor knows better than that. He, like others, rejected religion because of its inconsistency and disunity.

For the church, this is not a problem because we teach that denominationalism is inconsistent and false just as Jesus taught, the professor taught, and the evidence demands. Right? No. There is a problem! Unfortunately, disunity abounds in the church too. Church journals and publications are often dedicated to combatting one another. They do little else but contribute to division and disunity. Many small communities struggle to support several ineffective congregations because their efforts are divided. Yet, these churches exist because of divisions over personal conflicts, political ideas, and even cultural preferences that have nothing to do with the doctrine of Christ. In larger cities the number of congregations soar, often refusing fellowship with each other or just ignoring each other as they turn their focus inward.

When the dust of division settles, it reveals continued bickering. From the world’s perspective, we are disunified, contentious, and inconsistent, just like the denominational and secular worlds we seek to save, and it turns people away from God, not towards him. Our efforts are spent on being dysfunctional, disorganized and disunified, instead of drawing closer to one another and reaching out to the lost. The downfall of Christianity in the modern age will be ushered in by inconsequential debates and divisions over “non-fellowship issues.”

Are you helping or harming?

## Announcements

### Prayers

Robert Sanchez, Linda Sanchez’s brother-in-law lost his battle with cancer May 15th. Please keep the whole family in prayer as they mourn his loss.

### Continued Prayers

- Elmo Wilson-home hospice care
- Eleanor Jatko– health problems
- Jane Hanavan-heart issues
- KD’s supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage
- Sam Sims– health problems
- The Wiley family– baby son with health complications
- Kristi Dunham’s father, Joe Baker, health problems
- Brett Reitmair’s father, Bernie, heart attack.

### News and Notes

#### Summer Food Drive

Please see the table in the foyer for a more complete list of items they need. When you shop pick up an item or two for them and bring it to the building by **June 12th**. They always appreciate the gift of love. Please make sure the items are not expired.

#### **Shopping List:**

- Individual chips/ snacks for lunches
- Granola bars, King bars, Cliff bars, Belvita Breakfast bars
- Carnation Instant breakfast/ Breakfast Essentials/ Cereal
- Kool Aid / Fruit juices Apple, Orange, Cranberry
- Bisquick
- Salad Dressing Ranch Italian French Poppy Seed
- Non Stick cooking spray / shortning
- Vinegar
- Ibuprofen, Acetamiphoen, Allergy Medicine
- Paper towels



### Vacation Bible School

We are having a Vacation Bible School this year. The dates are Wednesday, July 13th— Friday, July 15th. Plans and progress are already in progress. Please let Mark Thacker know if you will be able to help or bring children. We’ll be better prepared if we have an idea of how many will attend. There is plans for a teen event as the same time.



### Summerfest 2022

We have reserved a Summerfest booth this year. We are again in need of volunteers to man the booth. We hand out flyers about Vacation Bible School and answer any questions passers by might have about the church or about Vacation Bible School. If you are able to work for a few hours on June 4, 2022 at Carmichael Park please see Mark Thacker.

### Free Material from WVBS:

There are some free reference items from World Video Bible School on the desk in the rear of the auditorium, as well as their current catalogue. WVBS offers some valuable resources in print form and a great deal of free online content. Take a moment to become familiar with what they offer and help yourself to the free material.

Birthdays and Anniversaries		
May 25	Meredith Long	Birthday
May 26	Ruth Wilson	Birthday

