

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
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Minister

Sam Dilbeck	903-229-8415
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Contacts

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

Attendance last week:

Sunday am - 82
Sunday pm - 29
Wednesday - 21
Contribution- \$2,794.25

Sunday Schedule Morning

Welcome	Ron Jensen
Song Leader	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....	Chris Peterson
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Marc Moran
Assistant.....	Chris Jatko
Assistant	Marcos Celaya
Assistant.....	Kaden Dunham
Assistant.....	Les Tucker
Scripture Reading.....	Ronn Eudaley

Hos 2:14-15

Lesson	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....	Dale Bishop

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....	Kevin Dunham
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Marc Moran
Lesson.....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....	Ivan Stewart

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class.....	Sam Dilbeck
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Service Times

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



February 27, 2022

Spiritual but not Religious – pt. 1 Sam Dilbeck

I first heard it in 2002 on the campus of Texas A&M University in Commerce, Texas after a government class. I struck up a conversation with a few other students, and our conversation followed us outside. As we talked, we approached our point of departure where we would splinter to go to different classes.

That point of departure took on a symbolic meaning when conversation turned to occupations. A pall settled over our conversation when I said I was a preacher. On cue, they each explained why they didn't go to church. One lady said, "I'm spiritual, but not religious." She might as well said she was a unicorn without a horn, or a duck without webbed feet. My slack-jawed expression warned them to avoid me. The rest of the semester, none of them spoke or interacted with me again, out of fear I might try to proselytize them or turn them into a newt.

In a CNN report, John Blake interviewed several spiritual-but-not-religious people (SBNR). One respondent, Heather Cariou, explained, "I don't need to define myself to any community by putting myself in a box labeled Baptist, or Catholic, or Muslim...When I die, I believe all my accounting will be done to God, and that when I enter the eternal realm, I will not walk through a door with a label on it." Blake also cited Huffington Post blogger, BJ Gallagher, who said "organized religion inevitably degenerates into tussles over power, ego, and money."

To them organized religion appears to be drunk on power and ritual—sing, stand, pray, sit, kneel, repeat. The orderliness is more constrictive than an English schoolmarm. Blake summarized their common beliefs, “There’s nothing wrong with people blending insights from different faith traditions to create what [Gallagher] calls a ‘Burger King Spirituality—have it your way.’”

In a press release issued on April 23, 2009, Ian Lawton, a denominational minister, announced the launch of sbnr.org, “the home of Open Source Spirituality.” Founders and designers created the site as a web community dedicated to serving spiritual-but-not-religious people. According to Lawton, they expect to bring more than 50,000,000 SBNR Americans together. Fifty million!?! Have fifty million Americans tasted the milk of religion only to find it soured, clotted, and months past its expiration date? Certainly, some have, but research suggests that many are simply rebelling against perceived stereotypes of religion.

Dr. Linda Mercadante, a professor of theology at Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio, has interviewed many SBNRs for her current research project, *Unfettered Belief, Untethered Practice: Thinking Theologically about “Spiritual but not Religious.”* According to press releases, Mercadante has observed only a small percentage of interviewees claim a negative church experience led them to reject organized religion. In an email to the Christian Post, she explains, “The reality is that many of my younger respondents don’t have any actual experience with organized religion.... And even when my older respondents have experience with organized religion, it’s not routinely negative. So, this thing is more of a ‘cultural ethos’ that is passed around by word of mouth, so many people never venture into the world of organized religion to find out for themselves.” These observations have prompted Mercadante to write, “I’m suggesting that a new ‘meta-narrative,’—in other words, a new theological world-view—seems to be emerging.”

[This is the first of a three-part series on this subject. Look for the next parts in upcoming bulletins.—sd.]

Announcements

Prayers

Althea Moran’s nephew, Alan, died recently of cancer. Prayers for the family as they mourn his passing.

Linda Shelton’s daughter, Angie, who had been in a serious car accident, will be back in Fort Morgan on March 2nd. She still needs prayers for her nerve pain and general healing.

Chris Welsby is on oxygen since he had COVID. He also was to have shoulder surgery but it was postponed because his white blood count is high and the doctors don't know the cause. Prayers please.

Joe Baker, Kristi Dunham’s father, is in need of prayers for his health.

Continued Prayers

Eleanor Jatko— recovery from a stroke

Bill Wolordidge, the Austin’s friend—cancer

Jane Hanavan-heart issues

KD’s supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage

Sam Sims— health problems

Elmo Wilson— recovery from a stroke

David Bryant— broken pelvis recovery

News and Notes



Updated Address

Anna Hanavan, Sara, and Emma’s new address is:

84 Wheatberry Drive

Brighton, CO 80601

Bible Classes

Since COVID, our Bible classes have suffered in attendance. However, classes have always been a tremendous benefit to the church. Classes are where subjects are explored on a deeper level and ideas are shared between Christians. With this in mind, we want to reintroduce everyone to this wonderful resource. On April 3, the Brighton Church of Christ will host a Family Bible Class Day. Everyone is encouraged to attend Bible classes that morning and experience their benefit. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbor’s kids, and yourself to class on that day. Then make it your new habit.




Baby Wiley

Baby Boone Wiley (we think)...8.48 lb. 19.68 inches made his way into the world February 14th at 12:26 pm after almost 46 hours of labor...a little Valentine baby!

Unfortunately, he has some health issues and is in NICU. Please pray for his health complications to be manageable so Abigail and Cody can bring him home soon. They are grateful for the prayers already offered on their behalf.

(The Wileys have been visiting with us on Sunday nights)

Birthdays and Anniversaries 		
February 27	Virginia Hazlet	Birthday
February 27	Bryson Dewell	Birthday
February 27	Sharley Picon	Birthday
March 1	Jennifer Jensen	Birthday