

Macedonian Call

June 2019

The assault on religious liberty and Christian values, in particular, has seemed to pick up steam over recent weeks. At every turn those who scream tolerance the loudest are demonstrating their intolerance of biblical values by imposing legislation that attempts to silence the Christian voice. One of the most recent attempts is in the way of legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, May 17th. The legislation is harmlessly labeled the “Equality Act.” On the surface that may sound like a good thing—equality for all. But in reality, it’s simply another effort by secular progressives to force the LGBTQ agenda upon those who view the adherence to that lifestyle as immoral. The so-called ‘Equality Act,’ is a measure that will have disastrous consequences for women, children and people of faith – essentially for all Americans. The bill also adds ‘sexual orientation and gender identity’ (SOGI) to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to many other federal non-discrimination laws. It redefines ‘sex’ in those federal laws so that it no longer means the biological reality of being ‘male or female.’ Instead, ‘sex’ would include subjective categories such as sex stereotypes, sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill brings the full force of the federal government against those who believe the scientific truth that humans come in two [biological] types: male and female. Additionally, the bill labels Christian beliefs about marriage, sexuality and family ‘discriminatory.’ It empowers the federal government to punish citizens who disagree with modern SOGI ideology. The legislation has no religious exemptions. In fact, it explicitly states that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act may not be used as a defense for violations. Similar SOGI laws have been passed in many states and local municipalities, so we already know some of the negative consequences of this invasive, coercive act. Here are just a few of the egregious consequences:

- Private facilities – dressing rooms, showers and restrooms – would be open to those who believe they are the opposite sex.
- School children would be introduced to transgender ideology and concepts such as sexual orientation as early as pre-school.
- Biological males would be permitted to compete against women in school, amateur and professional sports.
- Faith based charities who work with federal agencies – such as adoption agencies or homeless shelters – would be forced to violate their religious beliefs.
- Medical professionals and institutions would be forced to provide drugs, hormones and surgery to those suffering from gender dysphoria – against their scientific, medical or conscience-based objections.”

We need to be mindful that while these moves to mainstream the LGBTQ lifestyle, normalize abortion and now even infanticide, are usually fought by politicians, they are really not political issues. They are moral issues that have been co-opted by political parties. In fact, I believe one of the primary reasons the church has lost its voice against these matters is because many professing believers view these dangerous movements as political rather than moral. In his book, *A Practical Guide to Culture*, John Stonestreet has written: “Christians must at times confront culture. God hates evil. As His people, we can do no less. . . . Throughout history, from the British abolitionists to modern-day pro-lifers, Christians have honored God by opposing evil. . . . Whatever evil we can stop, we should.”

Focus on the Family, email@email.fotf.com, received 05/13/19

John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle, *A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2017), 337-38.



CARE

Every second Wednesday of each month is C.A.R.E. Night. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for

“Christians Actively Reaching Everyone.”

We have a meal each C.A.R.E. Night beginning at 6:00 pm and ministry opportunities follow at 6:30 pm. This month C.A.R.E. Night is June 12th. Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship and ministry.



Journey Through the Story-line of Scripture in Sunday School @ 9:45 am. We have classes for everyone nursery through senior adults.

Children’s Church is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on June 2nd, 9th & 23rd during our morning worship service.



AWANA Celebration

Sunday, June 2nd

6:00 pm in the Worship Center

Come celebrate the accomplishments of our club members for the year!!



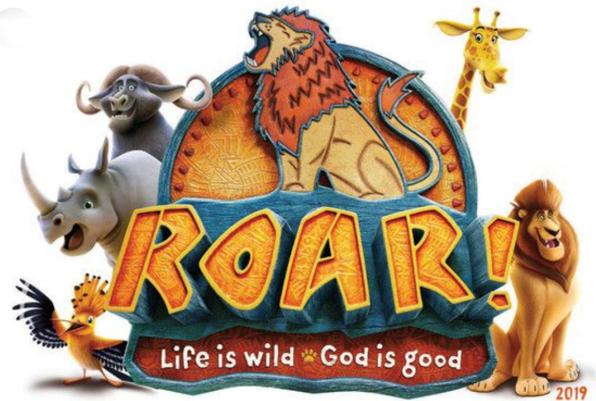
**Children’s Summer Camp
South Mountain Baptist Camp
June 17—21**

(Parent / Guardian information meeting June 2nd @ 5:15 in the 1st & 2nd grade classroom)



The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

This verse is a great encouragement to me because I don’t know about you, but I sure need His mercies every morning. In this struggle against sin and the flesh, it is a blessing to know our Lord’s love is steadfast and faithful no matter what. We have ups and downs; we struggle every day, but the Lord remains steadfast. We have no need to fear because we don’t have to wonder if He is or if He can, that isn’t even questioned when we truly know Him. This verse is a reminder that we need His fresh mercies every day. I’ve learned not to try to live on yesterday’s mercies but to experience them in His presence every morning. An everyday, constant intimacy with our Lord is essential for us to serve and live faithfully. ~ Pastor Jeremy



**Vacation Bible School
June 23rd—June 28th**

We will have two VBS work nights for anyone who would like to come help get everything set up. The first will be June 12th (CARE Night) and the second will be the following Wednesday, June 19th at 6:30 pm.



**Sunday Evenings
@ 6:00 pm in the
Youth Room**

**Weekly Youth Bible
Study
Wednesday @
6:30 pm**



**Graduate Recognition
Sunday, June 2nd during the
morning worship service.**

**Congratulations
Class of 2019!**



Serving God By Serving Others

**Mission Mondays
Beginning June 24th
Opportunities to serve
God and show His love in
our community!**

**Terrific Tuesdays!
Beginning June 25th
Kindergarten—6th grade
(Pre-K if accompanied by an adult)
Fun days filled with activities**



**Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
All kids pre-k—6th grade**

**Super Summer Sundays
6:30 pm each week
Pre-K—6th Grade**



It is 9:00 am on Tuesday morning, May 22nd and I am sitting in my dad's home to keep him company. But what I see as I sit across from him is uncontrollable sobbing and I hear him praying, asking the Lord to please take him home to be with my mom. Nothing I say brings comfort. What can I do? My mind is void of any solutions, no ideas, so I just sit here. Then God brings this promise to my mind. 1 Thess. 5:16-18 *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in ALL circumstances for this is the will of God for you."* Also Job 23:10 says *"He knows the way I take and He refines me as gold."* Did you hear that? He makes me as priceless as gold! So now I sit here this same morning and rejoice in the God of my salvation. I am now praying and giving all my circumstances to Him. Dad is still crying, but I have a peace that our great and awesome God cares, loves and has a plan that will bring Him glory. Hope you feel the same. Together in Life ~ Pastor Joe

**JOY Ministry Weekly Bible Study
Thursdays at 11:00 am**



**Thursday, June 6th @ Noon in
the Fellowship Hall. All senior
adults are invited to join us for
this good time of fellowship!**



**Narrowway Productions
"Geronimo"
A triumphant story of hope!
June 22nd Matinee
Dinner & Show
\$25 per person
We will leave the church at
10:30 am and return about 4:00 pm.
Sign up at the Welcome Center!!**