

The Communicator

First Christian Church, Russellville, KY September 2019

website: www.fccrussellville.com find us on facebook.



Dear Frightened Saints,

October brings thoughts of Halloween, ghosts, haunted houses, and other frightening experiences. Indeed, movie channels will abound with thriller after thriller designed to disturb a good night's sleep. Some are more frightening than others. Most of these thrillers are based on a fear of an outcome of which one is aware. In other words, we know there is something behind the door that is terrifying, yet we tremble in anticipation of the door opening, cover our eyes, and scream when it does. So it begs to ask the question: Where did Halloween and its dark and demonic themes come from? What is its relationship to All Saints' Day, and should Christians celebrate Halloween? I mean really let's face it Halloween has become increasingly popular in America and other countries and marketed as a harmless dress-up night for kids and an excuse to party for adults.

Here is what I found about the Origins of Halloween. "The Celtic festival of Samhain is probably the source of the present-day Halloween celebration. The Celts lived more than 2,000 years ago in what is now Great Britain, Ireland, and northern France. Their new year began on November 1. A festival that began the previous evening honored Samhain, the Celtic lord of death. The celebration marked the beginning of the season of cold, darkness, and decay. It naturally became associated with human death. The Celts believed that Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return to their earthly homes for this evening." (*The World Book Encyclopedia*, 1990, article "Halloween").

It seems costumes of animal heads and skins played a part in their celebration, as well as fortune telling using the remains of the animals that were sacrificed. So how did this gory pagan holiday become associated with Christianity? "Many of the customs of the Celts survived even after the people became Christians. During the 800's, the church established All Saints' Day on November 1. ... The people made the old pagan customs part of this Christian holy day."

So it turns out that in spite of its marketing as innocent entertainment for children, Halloween remains a celebration of evil. Is this a fitting holiday for Christians to celebrate? This is why many Churches have a Harvest Fest or "Trunk or Treat" on the night before Halloween. Well I know you are dying to know what I personally think.

To be honest with you, I have mixed feelings about Halloween. On the one hand, I find many aspects of this holiday deeply disturbing, including its traditional emphasis upon ghosts, witches, devils, evil, and the occult. I am very uncomfortable with the "darker side" of Halloween.

On the other hand, certain features of the modern observance of Halloween strike me as being nothing but harmless fun. Children love dressing up, and I see no reason to stop them as long as their costumes are tasteful and non-occultic in theme. Children also enjoy getting candy and goodies from the neighbors (who wouldn't?) and showing off their outfits. From my perspective, there's nothing objectionable about *this* part of Halloween. It's hard to imagine a more innocent or childlike activity than trick-or-treating. This of course is all with the assumption that parents take precautions to provide safety and reliable supervision. I would strongly encourage your children not to take any candy or food that is not wrapped unless it's from Family. Our church will be participating in the "Harvest Fest" with other area churches on Wednesday before Halloween in the Town Square COME JOIN US!!!

Pastor Bill

Bible Study

The Unshakeable Truth

Tuesday: October 1

Part 2 Begins

October 22nd

Make Plans to Attend,

All Are Welcome

Good Samaritan Food Drive

October

Donate!



Potato Bar

Sunday, October 13th

Lunch provided to Congregation

By Ray & Paula

Any donations go to BRADD

Fellowship Hall doors

Will be open for

Parade Participants

Saturday, Oct. 12th

CWF MEETING

Wednesday, Oct 23rd, 6pm

All women of faith are

Encouraged to attend

Will be rock painting!!

“Harvest Fest”

Treats On the Square

Wednesday, Oct 30

Sponsored by Local Churches



Halloween Treats

at the Fellowship Hall Doors

Thurs, Oct 31st

Candy donations

Can be brought to Church

First Christian Church

201 West 7th Street

Russellville, KY 42276

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Pastor: Bill Clement

Email:

billclement99@yahoo.com

Secretary: Sharon Fuller

fccsharon.fuller@gmail.com

Moderator: Shannon Gorrell

Moderator-Elect: Gayle Goley

Treasurer: Ellen Nealy

Secretary: Vicki Kemp

Accompanist: Shannon Gorrell

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Veterans Program

at First Presbyterian

Tuesday, October 29th 6pm

Serving in October 2019

Elders: Billy & Gayle Goley

Deacons: Linda Robertson, Barbara Wilkins, Rita Dilliha

Greeters: Volunteers

| Prayer Concerns: | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Danny Anderson | Jean Gragg | Micky Hicks | Lana & Bud Lawson |
| Bob & Patricia Hedges | Donna Riley | Jean Kirkpatrick | Lauren Riley Stafford |
| Connie Brown | Ken Mercer | Sara Grayson | Donna Greer |
| Cindy & Paul | John Blandford | Lori McClure | Katlyn |
| Joyce Parrish | Danny Kondracki | George Whitson | |
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