

Church of Christ

534 Sixth Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY	
Bible Classes	9:00 A.M.
Worship	10:00 A.M.
Evening Worship	5:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes	7:00 P.M.



August 25—Amy Hague
August 27—Jared Isner, Justice Miller
August 28—Delores Badgley, Carter Brown, Jacob Holdren
August 29—Joe Dailey, Craig Legleitner
August 30—Stephanie Hall
August 31—Sarah Schafer, Barb Thompson



August 31—Paul & Sheri Miller

Church of Christ

August 25, 2024 Sixth and Washington Sts., Marietta, Ohio 45750...Office Phone (740) 373-3240, M-Th 9-2



MINISTER
Bill Deem

ELDERS
Tom Eddy Kurt Harrison
Todd Hague Lloyd Westbrook

DEACONS
Michael Morgan Alan Ralston
Paul Jacoby TJ Wells
Tim Loughry

The Moon Hoax and the Authenticity of God’s Word

On August 25th, 1835 “*The Sun*,” a newspaper based in New York City began publishing a series of articles that has become known as the “Moon Hoax.”

It was revealed that Sir John Herschel, a prominent astronomer of the time, and his travelling companion, Dr. Andrew Grant had made some groundbreaking discoveries about our closest celestial neighbor. Before moving on, it must be noted here, that Herschel was an historical figure, but Grant was a fictitious character.

Moving on, “*The Sun*” reported that these two men were using an “immense telescope of an entirely new principle.” It was transported from England to South Africa. It was colossal in size. Its lens measured “24 feet in diameter and 7 tons in weight.” It was the largest telescope in existence.

Aside from the unbelievable dimensions of the telescope, there were two other subjects that many found particularly interesting. The first was the lunar landscape and geography. The Moon was depicted in these articles as a lush

Continued on Page 3

SCHEDULE September 1, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kurt Harrison

SONG LEADER

AM: Jim Zetterberg
PM: Michael Morgan

WAIT ON THE TABLE

AM: Dennis Dye
PM: Greg Cline

PRAYER

AM: Christian Bettinger
Randy Feisley
PM: Joe Crone
Adam Burkhart

SCRIPTURE READER

AM: Greg Ludolph
PM: Carter Brown

CONTROL ROOM AM/PM/Wed.: Eric Brown

Wednesday—September 4, 2024

SONG LEADER: John Forshey

PRAYER: Tim Loughry/Tom Eddy

Devo: Dennis Dye

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Kurt Harrison

STATISTICS-August 18, 2024

Sunday Bible Class	73
Morning Worship	180
Evening Worship	85
Wednesday Classes	71
Contribution	\$3,633

OFFICE PHONE (740) 373-3240 CARE LINE (740) 373-3909

BIBLECALL (740) 651-2400 or (304) 420-2416

WEBSITE www.sawcoc.org (Please note that videos from our sermons are now available on our website)

PANTRY ITEMS OF THE WEEK—Toilet Paper

TODAY’S SERMONS

AM: The Greatest Commands: “Love”
Minister: **Bill Deem**
Reading: Leviticus 19:17-18

PM: Christ our Advocate
Minister: **Bill Deem**
Reading: I John 2:1-6

PROGRAMS

WJAW FM 100.9—Sunday 8:30 a.m.
WJAW AM 630—Sunday 9:00 a.m.
WMOA AM 1490—Sunday 10:00 a.m.
SEARCH—WTAP—Sunday 7:30 a.m.

SICK

Memorial: **Robert Coil**-ICU
OSU James: **Alicia McIntyre (Herma Eddy’s** granddaughter)
Lloyd Westbrook is recovering at home from surgery.
Please keep **Lisa Westbrook Smith (Lloyd & Shirley’s** daughter) in your prayers. She was fitted Wednesday for a headpiece to begin radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

PRAYER LIST

Jayden Pratt
Lester Ralston (Alan’s brother)
Heather Ray (friend of **Karen Thompson**)

PANTRY ITEM OF THE WEEK

Saltine Crackers

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Sandi Witzling**. Memorial services are incomplete at this time.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Terry Varner**. Memorial services were held Thursday at the Hillview Terrace church of Christ.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Phyllis Bowersock (Susie Patterson’s** mother). Memorial services were held yesterday at the McClure-Schafer-Lankford funeral home.

PHONE LINES

Our phone lines are now working. Thank you for your patience.

THANK YOU

Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer from **Ruth Otto** and **Donna Moseley**.

TEACHERS

Bible school material for fall quarter is in the library. Fall quarter begins next Sunday, September 1st, and Wednesday, September 4th. Class promotions will be September 1st. Classes are available for all ages:

Young Children (Infant—3)
Pre-Elementary (3-Kindergarten)
Elementary (Grandes 1-4)
Middle School (Grades 5-8)
High School (Grades 9-12)
Adults

SUMMER SERIES-CONGREGATIONAL SING

Please join us Wednesday, August 28th, at 7:00 p.m. for a congregational sing for the final night of our 2024 Annual Summer Series. At 7:45 p.m. we will be dismissed to the multipurpose room for cookies and coffee while the Junior Summer Series class sings a song they learned.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

world with forests, oceans and sandy beaches. These imaginative landscapes captured the imagination of the readers and blurred the lines between fact and fiction.

The second subject of interest was the fauna that Sir Herschel and Dr. Grant discovered with their enormous telescope. The claim was made that there was bison grazing on the lunar plains. Single-horned goats roamed the hills on the moon while miniature zebras galloped across the moonscape. Unicorns pranced about gracefully, and bipedal, tail-less beavers constructed lunar temples, It was said that soaring through the skies of the moon was “Vespertilio-homo” or “man bats” (Batman? Maybe we should change the name of the Moon to Gotham!)

As you can imagine, there were many who bought into the hoax, but there were many others who were skeptical. The point, that will serve our purpose for this entry, though is this: it is easy to deceive humanity. In this case, the articles were written by a reporter named “Richard Adams Locke.” Initially, his name was not revealed, adding to the mystery of the whole thing.

Two things worked against an unsuspecting audience. Many people will trust the press without much thought, the same mechanism is at work when we see people indulging in gossip. The other thing that was at play, was that nobody had anyway of disproving what was written. Though told otherwise, not even Sir Herschel had a telescope of such magnitude! But the readers did not know this, and so many walked away thinking that the moon was full of life.

There are many things that we could say and make a lot of parallel’s with today – for we can only know what others tell us when it comes to these things. We would like to think that they are telling us the truth, and so most choose to believe – but maybe we should consider responding with skepticism. “Believe half what you see and none what you hear” is a good adage to live by, even now with new technologies that can so easily deceive the unexpecting.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

There is also a deeper biblical application that we need to make.

Pray for wisdom and discernment: James tells us that if we are lacking in wisdom, then we ought to ask God for it, who will give it (James 1.5). We are also told to “*test everything; hold fast to what is good*” (1 Thessalonians 5.21). The hardest deceptions to uncover are those that are filled with ½ or even ¾ truths. Such lies can serve to inoculate us from what is certain. “The Sun” did this in a couple of ways with these articles. One was to use the well-known name of Sir John Herschel, but also to drop the fictitious name of Dr. Andrew Grant. Be cautious. Satan, the great deceiver uses this method as he fires his flaming arrows of temptation towards us (cf. Genesis 3, Matthew 4 and Luke 4).

Consider the Might of God: While the “Moon Hoax” was false, that does not deter from the beauty and wonder of God’s creation. Think of God’s creativity, and reflect on Psalm 19.1, “*The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*”

Give Thanks for the Truth of God’s Word: While we may know more about the moon than our predecessors of 1835, it is likely that our successors of 2235 will know more about it than we do. However, if they are anything like us, and like those who came before us, they too will be easily deceived if they lack wisdom and discernment. “Scientific facts” are always changing based on new discoveries. But the veracity of God’s Word is unchanging, and our faith is anchored in that solid bedrock of truth. May we ever be authentic witnesses to it, and share the genuine hope that we have in Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Bill

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS
SUMMER SERIES

Our thanks to **Dennis Dye** for teaching this morning, and to all the men of the congregation that taught our 2024 Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class Summer Series.