

Central Courier

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April 2025

Minister's Moment—Knock, Knock! Who's There?

When I was younger I used to love knock knock jokes. The play on words and the unexpected answers cracked me up. Even today a good knock knock joke brings a smile to my face. Today, however, I want to talk about a knock on the door that is no joke. This knock actually saddens me. Take a look with me.

Revelation 3:20 - "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

You might be wondering what is so sad about this text, Jesus is knocking on the door of our hearts? What makes me sad is the context of this pursuit by Jesus. Jesus is knocking on the hearts of Christians. Jesus is speaking to the Church in Laodicea. Christians should have already had their hearts open to Jesus, shouldn't they? They should have already been fellowshiping with the Lord and growing in their friendship. Yet, here we find Jesus knocking at the door of their lives wanting to be invited in. How can this be? To answer that question we need to look closer.





Revelations 3:14-18 - "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation: "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see."

These Christians had become lukewarm in their faith, neither hot or cold; they weren't healing or refreshing to those they came into contact with. They weren't having an impact on the world around them. They had defaulted to a place of complacency and self-satisfaction. Apparently they didn't even realize how far away from Jesus they had drifted. So Jesus is knocking at their hearts wanting them to renew their love, intimacy, and commitment to Him.

Okay, but what does this have to do with me? That is a good question. To answer it you have to answer a different question; does Jesus have your heart? Don't be too quick to answer, I am sure the Christians in Laodicea would have originally said absolutely, but they would have been wrong. The real evidence of who has your heart is who or what controls your life. If you are on fire for the Lord, making a difference in people's lives, and always looking to grow closer to God then I am sure you could answer; Yes, Jesus has my heart. But if you are sitting back and not trying to benefit and serve others, if you have gotten comfortable and complacent in your walk with the Lord, if you are simply going through the motions, then maybe the answer needs to be; let me open the door to my heart and life to Jesus once again.

So let me ask you a question; Knock, Knock! Who's there? Jesus. Jesus, who? The punchline is actually completely up to you. Who is Jesus to you really? Is He Lord, Savior, and Friend or is He simply a get out of hell free card and an addendum to your life each week if you have time?

April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 
6 9:00am-Worship/Kid's Worship 10:35am-Worship/Sunday School 6pm-Bible Study in the auditorium (Various Connection Groups)	7 5pm-Men's Bible Study	8 5am-Men's Study 7pm-Young Adults Group	9 4pm-Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm-C4 Family meal 6pm-Youth Group 6:30pm-Wednesday Worship & Bible Study Children's Class	10	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">—Central Fundraiser at Bristol Races— (See Lee Morrow or Josh Carter with questions)</div>	12
13 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Bristol Races Fundraiser</div> 9:00am-Worship/Kid's Worship 10:35am-Worship/Sunday School 12pm-"What We Believe" Class 2:30pm-Feeding the Homeless in JC 6pm-Bible Study in the auditorium (Various Connection Groups)	14 5pm-Men's Bible Study	15 5am-Men's Study 10am-Ladies Craft Group 7pm-Young Adults Group	16 4pm-Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm-C4 Family meal 6pm-Youth Group 6:30pm-Wednesday Worship & Bible Study Children's Class	17	18	19 1pm-Easter Egg Hunt 
20 EASTER Sunday 7am-Sunrise Service (Followed by breakfast)  10am-Combined Worship	21 5pm-Men's Bible Study	22 5am-Men's Study 7pm-Young Adults Group	23 4pm-Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm-C4 Family meal 6pm-Youth Group 6:30pm-Wednesday Worship & Bible Study Children's Class	24 5:20pm- 	25	26
27 9:00am-Worship/Kid's Worship/SS Class 10:35am-Worship/Sunday School 6pm-Bible Study in the auditorium (Various Connection Groups)	28 5pm-Men's Bible Study	29 5am-Men's Study 7pm-Young Adults Group	30 4pm-Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm-C4 Family meal 6pm-Youth Group 6:30pm-Wednesday Worship & Bible Study Children's Class			



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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2-Brayden Phillips | 18-Connor Kelly |
| 8-Christy Burrough | 18-Haley Rice |
| 8-Betty Fernandes | 20-Fetty Judge |
| 8-Karen Robey | 22-Keith Ray |
| 9-Tony McKeehan | 24-Heather Hendrix |
| 10-Todd Franklin | 24-Mitch Cornett |
| 10-Judah Norman | 25-Dylan Marks |
| 10-Tom Turbyfield | 26-Brandon Kelly |
| 11-Josh Forbes | 29-Janae Asche |
| 12-Bethany Markley | 30-Landry Hughes |
| 12-Alex Middleton | 30-Zoey Townsend |
| 15-Brad McKeehan | 30-Lori VanDyke |



- 9-Luther & Nancy Cox
12-Brandon & Amy Wandel
25-Jeremiah & Allison McClain
25-Richard & Myra Norris



April 2025

Workers' Schedule

Children's Ministries

Preschool/Nursery 1st Worship:

- 6: Maddie Kelly, Abigail Kelly
& Sharon Hammons
- 13: Theresa King, Mikkayla King
& Julie Yunker
- 20: Lori Whitson, Sarah Turbyfield
& Olivia Tuminello
- 27: Becky Kelly, Elizabeth Kelly
& Nancy LeMay

Nursery 2nd Worship:

- 6: Karen Robey & Summer Hyden
- 13: Lori Whitson & KC Wolfe
- 20: Combined Worship
- 27: Jennica Norman & Shelby Canosa

Preschool 2nd Worship:

- 6: Leora Hendrix
- 13: Carolyn Caraway
- 20: Combined Worship
- 27: Connie Wade

Preschool Helpers 2nd Worship:

- 6: Jenny Turbyfield
- 13: Lori Smith
- 20: Combined Worship
- 27: Lori VanDyke

Kid's Worship:

- 6: Jeremiah & Allison McClain
- 13: Allen & Tasha Dykes
- 20: Family Sunday
- 27: Julie Murphy/Keira Wolfe

Worship Ministries

Communion Meditations:

Worship #1 & 2

- 6: Lee Morrow
- 13: Jamie Lundy
- 20: Tom Caraway
- 27: Bill Turbyfield

Sound Room:

- 6: Josh Carter, Matt Wolfe
& Levi Wolfe
- 13: Josh Carter, Jeff Whitson
& Lori Whitson
- 20: Wayne Turybfield, Josh Carter
& Daniel Hill
- 27: Josh Carter, Matt Wolfe
& Levi Wolfe

Brew Crew:

- 6: Jessica Greene
- 13: Larry & Sharon Hammons
- 20: Combined Worship
- 27: Billy Murphy

Medical Attendant:

- 6: Jill Hughes
- 13: Steve Strazay
- 20: Allen Dykes
- 27: Bonnie Hoover

Worship #1 Greeters:

- 6: Steve & Julia Strazay
- 13: Tom & Terry Turbyfield
- 20: David & Theresa King
- 27: Tim & Karen Robey

Worship #2 Greeters:

- 6: Larry & Sharon Hammons
- 13: Chauncey & Betty Fernandes
- 20: Everett & Lori Smith
- 27: Bob & Fetty Judge

Welcome Team

- 6: Dan & Nancy LeMay
- 13: Betty Fernandes & Susie Wolfe
- 20: Jeremiah & Allison McClain
- 27: Bryan & Jill Hughes

Service Attendants:

- 6: White Team
- 13: Green Team
- 20: Blue Team
- 27: Orange Team



Family Ministry Moments

Day of Service

All our youth and children (K-12th grade) put their faith into action on March 26th. Over 25 young people participated! The younger children brightened the day for residents at the Courtyard Apartments by handing out treat bags. Meanwhile, the Youth Group was busy packing essential bags for our church's upcoming homeless ministry meal on April 13th. We are so proud of our students for embodying the hands and feet of Jesus!

Mark your Calendars!

Get ready for summer fun! Now's the perfect time to start planning for Vacation Bible School, Camp, and other exciting summer events. Here are a few key dates to put on your calendar. Stay tuned for even more details and additions to our summer schedule!

- ⇒ **June 8-12: VBS (Entering Prek-12th Grade)**
- ⇒ **June 15-20: Junior Week at ACC (Entering 4th & 5th)**
- ⇒ **July 12: Day Camp at ACC (Entering K-1st Grade)**
- ⇒ **July 13-18: Student Ministry Retreat (Entering 6th-12th)**

Have Questions for Jeremiah?

Reach out to him!

Call or Text:
423-707-4011

Email:
jeremiah@jesusiscentral.com



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 19th! We will be over in the pavilion. There will be different egg hunts setup for each age group. Everything begins at 1PM! See you there!



Wednesdays
at 6:00pm

Wednesdays
at 6:30pm



April Lesson Schedule



Adults/Youth:

- April 6: Unit 36 Session 3 — Worshiping our Resurrected Lamb (Revelation 4-5)
- April 13: Unit 1 Session 1 — God Created Humanity (Genesis 2)
- April 20: Combined Worship
- April 27: Unit 1 Session 2 — Humanity Disobeyed God (Genesis 3)

Children:

- April 6: Unit 36 Session 3 — We Will Be Part Of The New Heaven and Earth (Revelation 21-22)
- April 13: Unit 1 Session 1 — God Created the World (Genesis 1-2)
- April 20: Combined Worship
- April 27: Unit 1 Session 2 — Sin Entered the World (Genesis 2-3)



Easter Schedule Sunday, April 20

**7:00am-Sonrise Service (Followed by
Breakfast)**
10:00am-Combined Worship at the Pavilion



Church Work Day
On Saturday, April 5th we will have a Church Work Day starting at 8am. There is plenty that needs to be done inside and outside the church. Come any time and stay for as long as you can! Come out and lend a hand!

On Sunday morning, April 20th, following our Sonrise Service at 7am we will have a breakfast provided by the church before our combined worship at 10:00am. Plan now to join us as we celebrate the season!



On Sunday, April 13th, we will feed the homeless in Johnson City. Meet at the church at 2:30pm to prepare food, deliver it and serve it. If you want to serve, see Billy Murphy!



There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer to volunteer to help at the Bristol Spring Races!

This is a fundraiser for the church, the more people we have to volunteer, the more we raise. The dates are April 11th-13th. The church van will depart immediately after first worship on that Sunday, April 13. If you have questions, see Lee Morrow or Josh Carter.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

On Sunday, April 13th, following 2nd worship we will have our "What We Believe" class. This class is for anyone who wants to know more about what we believe as a congregation. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Come join us!

It is time to collect prefilled Easter eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th, at 1pm. We usually invite the community to participate, so we need lots and lots of eggs! There will be a box in the foyer to bring your donations!



On Thursday, April 24th will be our first Thursday Serveday of the season! We will gather at 5:20pm that Thursday and head out to serve together in the community! Bring tools, gloves, etc. If you are interested in serving and want more information, contact Lori Whitson or Josh Carter!



Change for Change

Don't forget there is a big jug in the foyer to collect change for an additional van! As the children and youth programs grow, we have found a need for an additional van and also to help with the summer food route.



Come join us at our Family Meals at 5:30-6 each Wednesday!

- 2: BBQ, beans, chips, slaw and banana pudding
- 9: Baked potatoes w/fixings and salad, brownies & cookies
- 16: Meatball subs, chips, and ice cream bar
- 23: Hamburgers & hotdogs, beans, chips and Éclair cake
- 30: Corndogs & Tater tots and ice cream bar



**EAST TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
HOME & ACADEMY**

**ETCHA Needs for April:
Trash bags (33, 13 & 8 gallon), Gallon Zip lock bags**