

To the weary, the doubting, the unseen

Recently, someone posted this on social media:
To all who are weary, Christ says, "Come and I will give you rest."
To those who are thirsty, Christ says, "Come and drink the living water."
To those who are hungry, Christ says, "Come buy bread without cost."
To those who are longing, Christ says, "Come and see what I have done."
To those who are doubting, Christ says, "Come and touch my wounds."
To those who are hopeless, Christ says, "Come



NANCY KENNEDY

and be made new."
Those words stirred something in me, and I found myself going back to the red-letter words of Jesus — his real, spoken promises — to see what else he says to people like us. Here's what I found:
A man with leprosy came to Jesus saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."
Jesus touched him and said, "I am willing. Be clean."
Another man asked Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant, and Jesus said, "I will go and heal him."

Then, in a crowd, a woman reached out to touch the hem of his garment, hoping to be healed. Jesus said to her, "Take heart, daughter. Your faith has healed you."
So often I doubt God's willingness, but again and again, Christ assures his people: "Let not your heart be troubled. I am willing."
To his terrified disciples, when they thought he was a ghost walking on water, Jesus said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
In fearful and uncertain times, Christ still says, "It is I. The Maker of heaven and earth, the One who controls the wind and the

waves — it is I who holds your eternity." Even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need not fear, for he is with us.
That is my greatest comfort whenever I am afraid. "Don't be afraid. It is I," Christ says.
The disciples once asked Jesus, "What is the work God requires of us?"
To those who strive to earn God's favor, Christ says, "The work God requires is this: to believe in the One he has sent."
Christ also says, "Whoever believes in me... has eternal life and will not be condemned. Whoever believes in me... streams of living water will flow from within... will never walk in dark-

ness, but have the light of life."
That's all that's required—hear him, believe him, follow him.
Jesus says his sheep hear his voice, and he knows them. To those who long to be known, fully and without condemnation, Christ says, "I know you, and I love you."
To the insecure, Christ says, "No one can snatch any of my sheep from my hands." His words bring assurance that we are securely held and eternally safe.
On the day of his resurrection, as Mary Magdalene wept at the empty tomb, Jesus appeared and asked, "Why are you weeping?" And then he

said her name: "Mary."
I love the compassion in his voice—and how, in a culture that devalued women, he spoke her name with tenderness.
To those who feel unseen, especially in their grief, Christ says your name in a way that reaches the depth of your hurting heart.
So, to all who have ears to hear, Christ says, "Take heart. I am willing. I know you. Don't be afraid. It is I. Come and see what I have done. Come and be made new."
Contact Nancy Kennedy at 352-564-2927 (leave a message) or email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

In battle of wits, ventriloquist's doll isn't the dummy

You may recall the old joke about the ventriloquist who was performing with his dummy on his lap. He was telling hillbilly jokes when Bubba jumped to his feet, one gallous of his old faded bibbed overalls unfastened and flapping.
"What gives you the right to stereotype hillbillies that way," he demanded. "What does the place I choose to live have to do with my worth as a human being?"
Flustered, the ventriloquist tried to stammer out an apology.
"You keep out of this," Bubba yelled. "I'm talking to that little jerk on your knee."



ROGER ALFORD

For whatever reason, some people have always tended to look down on others because of where they live. People from the central Appalachians or the Mississippi Delta region are too often painted in an unfavorable light. In New Testament days, that was true for people who lived in Samaria. So, I always loved the fact that Jesus often made the Samaritans the heroes of the stories he'd tell.
The Jewish leaders were especially prejudiced against Samaritans. They openly scorned them. So, imagine their reaction when Jesus told the story of the Good

Samaritan. You remember, a traveler had been beaten and robbed and left in the road half dead. A Jewish priest traveling that road walked right on past the injured man, offering no assistance whatsoever. A Jewish worship leader who came along did the same thing. But then came a Samaritan who leapt into action when he saw the man lying there helpless. He tended to the man's injuries, then he took the man to an inn so that he could recover. They didn't have hospitals at that time. Remember, the attackers took all the man's clothing and any money that he would have had. So, the Samaritan paid for the man's room and board and medicines and clothing.

The Jewish religious leaders, who thought of themselves as holy and righteous, had to be offended by that story. Sometimes, it's when we're offended, that we learn to be better people.
The story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan came in response to a question from a lawyer who asked about God's command to love thy neighbor. The Good Samaritan served as the perfect example of how we are to love our neighbors, by helping them when they have a need.
I think even Bubba, who argued with the ventriloquist's dummy, could figure that one out.
Reach Roger Alford at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com.

FBC NEWS

BY BRO. BRAD BANKS

Our "The Little Foxes the Spoil the Faith" series continued with dealing with the spiritual saboteur of suffering. The message from I Peter 4:12-19 entitled, "Faithful and Focused in Fiery Trials" dealt with the expecting, exulting in, examining the cause of, embracing, and entrusting your soul to God in Fiery Trials.
Our Back-to-School Gathering will be held this Sunday. We will meet at 4:00pm and prayer walk each of our schools. We will then enjoy grilled burgers, Dunkin' booth, activities, fellowship, and a devotion and prayer emphasis starting at 5:00pm.
Mark your calendar as we host The Erwin Family on Thursday, August 14 at 6:30pm. This gospel singing family is being used all over the nation and we have been blessed by their ministry for many years.

Our students meet each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Our Children's Church Ministry is offered during the 11:00am worship service.
The FLC is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 1:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am – 1:00pm, and Monday/Tuesday/Thursday from 4:00-8:00pm.
Our weekly service times are Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, and 6:30pm. The Sunday School gatherings start at 10:00am. Our Wednesday service begins at 6:30pm.
Our church would like to remind you that you can connect with us through our website at owentonfbc.com, Face Book at FBC Owenton, download our church app, join us on twitter or Instagram. You can also call the church office or email us at office@owentonfbc.com.
God bless you, your family, and our community. See you Sunday!

Public Utility Commission approves new area code for 502 region

BY PAXTON MEDIA

A new area code will be added to north-central Kentucky, joining the current 502 area code to ensure enough phone numbers remain available for residents and businesses, the Kentucky Public Service Commission announced Thursday.
According to a news release from the PSC, the commission has approved an all-services distributed overlay for the 502 service region. The change will allow current customers to keep their phone numbers and the 502 area code, but all local calls will eventually require dialing the full ten-digit number.
The need for a new area code became apparent when the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) projected that the current supply of numbers in the 502 area would be exhausted by the third quarter of 2027. NANPA filed for relief with the PSC on Oct. 14, 2024, leading to the current plan's approval.
The PSC release said the new area code, which has not yet been assigned, will cover the same geographic region as the 502 area code. Created in 1947 as one of the original area codes, the 502 code now serves north-central Kentucky, including Louisville and Frankfort.
Implementation of the new area code will follow a 13-month rollout schedule. Network preparation is set to begin June 1, 2026. A permissive dialing period—where calls can be made using either seven or ten digits—will begin Dec. 7, 2026. Mandatory ten-digit dialing will start on June 7,

2027, and the first numbers with the new area code could be issued as early as July 5, 2027.
The PSC will announce the new area code in a future release once it is assigned by NANPA, the release said.
The full order, a video of public hearings, and additional records related to the case are available at psc.ky.gov, under case number 2024-00333.
The Kentucky PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It oversees more than 1,100 utility providers across the state.

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PHILIP WALKER 2 TRACTS ➡ 13 ACRES & 10 ACRES

ESTATE AUCTION
SATURDAY AUGUST 23rd @ 10:00AM
348 Hawkins Lane, Stamping Ground KY



Tract 1: 348 Hawkins Lane

- House and 13± acres
- Main level: Living room/kitchen combo, 2BR and 1BA
- Basement has a den, 2 bedrooms, half bath w/laundry area

Tract 2: 326 Hawkins Lane

- 10± acres-great hunting land
- Excellent building site
- Mostly wooded

Tracts selling separately and will not be combined.

Any inspection for lead base paint or wood destroying organisms must be done prior to auction date and at the expense of the purchaser. **TERMS:** 10% down non-refundable auction day, close on or before October 7, 2025. Any financing required must be arranged prior to auction date. No Exceptions. **NO BUYERS PREMIUM!!**
Announcements AUCTION day take precedence over written material.

Directions: US 127S 11.2 mi, left on Ky 368S 12.3 mi; left on Ky 227N 0.6mi, right on Bonds Road (1059)2.7 mi, turn left on Hawkins Lane to auction site.

PREVIEW: SUNDAY August 17th 2:00 - 4:00PM and on sale day at 9:00AM

**SWITZER & ASSOCIATES**
Shawn Ritchey, Principal Broker & Auctioneer
Greg Mulberry, Associate Auctioneer
859-234-2911 ~ 859-588-0261
111 S. Walnut St. Cynthiana, KY 41031



For up to date info visit: www.switzerassoc.com & www.auctionzip.com