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FEBRUARY 2020

ISSUE 20-2

The Diligent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ARP LAKE WALES, FL

“...a Christ-centered fellowship of believers devoted to glorifying God through true worship, personal evangelism, discipleship, and servanthood.”

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Leadership

LET US CONSIDER...

From Pastor Chad

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

-Hebrews 10:19-25

In Hebrews 10:19-21, the author notes that we as believers in Christ (1) have confidence to “enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus” and (2) have a “great priest over the house of God.” These two statements are summaries of the teaching found in Hebrews 5:1-10:18, where Jesus is shown to be both the once and for all, perfect sacrifice to make atonement for the people of God and the high priest at the right hand of God who makes eternal intercession for us. Since we have these two truths in Jesus, we might ask, how now should we live? Hebrews 10:22-25 gives an answer that includes three key resolutions. Since Jesus is who he is and has accomplished salvation for his people, we who are his should draw near to God with faith (v. 22), hope (v. 23), and love (v. 24). The focus of this article is on the latter - the call to gather with our fellow believers in Christ that we might stir up one another to love and good works.

The author calls us to “consider how to stir up one another to love and good works” (v. 24). The word “consider” here is a call to deep thought and careful attention to the matter at hand. The call to love others within the Church requires more than just a passing thought in the mind of the Christian. We must give great weight to the consideration of our care and responsibilities to one another. Our prayerful consideration towards our fellow believers should begin with remembering how Christ humbled himself for them by taking on flesh and by submitting himself to death on the cross

for them. We should consider that they are God’s people because of their union with Jesus by grace through faith. All of this means that in Christ their worth in God’s eyes is of eternal value.

Considering God’s love for our brothers and sisters in Jesus should lead us to spend time with them, and in that time to speak and act in such a way that stirs up within them the resolve to love God and others in Christ through good works.

One of the chief and simplest ways that we stir up one another to love is by “not neglecting to meet together” (v. 25). The Greek word for “not neglecting” is actually quite strong, with the literal translation being something like, “not forsaking the gathering [of God’s people].” Is that how you view it when you do not attend worship, or small group, or Ekklesia? Do you see it as forsaking God’s people? Of course there are legitimate reasons to occasionally miss times of gathering together with the Church, be it illness, travel, or the like. The greater concern in view here is the habitual practice of absence from the worship and fellowship of the Church (“as is the habit of some,” v. 25). All of our habits are an outflow of the attitude of our hearts. Do we love the people of God in our hearts and seek to regularly be with them in their times of gathering or do we harbor apathy, contempt, or the like towards the Church? It is such sinful attitudes of the heart that will lead us to forsake our brothers and sisters in Christ by avoiding the practice of regularly gathering with them for worship, discipleship, and ministry.

Not showing up at all is a sinful habit, but it is also possible to make a regular practice of being present for the various gatherings of FPC without giving prayerful consideration to how you can use that time to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to love and good works. You can come, sit in your pew, and walk out after a worship service without engaging others in love. Let me encourage you, stir up within you, a resolve to prayerfully consider others (those whom you know well and those with whom you are less familiar) when you come to a gathering of God’s people. Consider them in the light of the person and work of Jesus, who died to free both you and them from sin and death that he might make you a people for himself. Draw near to God by regularly and purposefully gathering with the people he loves. We should do this all the more in light of the approaching return of Christ (“as you see the Day

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drawing near," v. 25), when he will gather all of God's people together with him (2 Thessalonians 2:1).

Let me make a couple of quick applications. First, if you have fallen away from the habit of worshiping together with the people of First Presbyterian Church, start coming again. If you have some hesitation about this, reach out to me, Pastor Mackay, one of our elders, or someone to help you renew the practice of worshiping with the church. Second, get more involved in the body life here at FPC. I often highlight small groups (10:45 am Sundays) and Ekklesia (6:00 pm Wednesdays) during the announcements on Sunday mornings. It would be easy to hear that announcement simply as a call to attend a program of our church. Let me encourage you to consider those ministries more deeply, to see them as gospel opportunities to gather with other believers that you may stir up one another to love and good works. These are gatherings where you can get to know each other better, encourage each other with the Gospel, pray for one another, and identify areas of service in the church and our community where you can minister alongside of one another, to the glory of God. You will need to be intentional about this practice of stirring up one another. It will not happen on its own. It may not always be comfortable, and it will not come easily. But, in time, the Word assures us it will be a blessing in Christ for both you and others.

So, join me in this resolution. Let us consider... ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 2020 Session Highlights

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The following notes are some highlights from the Session meeting on January 28.

- The Session considered chapter 8, "Christ the Mediator," from the *Westminster Confession of Faith* for its devotional passage before the meeting.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of December 2019, tithes and offerings toward the church's general budget totaled \$888,073, which is 93.3% of the 2019 budget. This is slightly below the average of 93.9% (2014-2018) our church has historically received by the end of December. Our expenses were \$908,440, which was 96% of the budget, resulting in a net shortfall of - \$20,367. We were able to cover the shortfall from our cash balance from the net surpluses of previous years. Praise was given to God in prayer for his financial blessing.
- The Session approved the transfer of letter request from J.C. Simmons to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermilion, OH. Prayer was given for J.C.
- The Session approved new members to several of its committees.
- The Session approved the dates of May 11 - August 31 for Pastor Chad's previously approved sabbatical. More details about the sabbatical will be shared with the congregation in the coming weeks.
- The chairmen of the committees of the Session gave reports of the work and ministry they are overseeing. Prayer was offered after each report, asking for the Lord's guidance and blessing.
- A season of prayer was had for various needs within our congregation, community, and world. ■

PRAYER FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2 - FPC Discipleship Ministries

FEBRUARY 16 - Erskine College and Theological Seminary

FEBRUARY 9 - Healthy Marriages at FPC

FEBRUARY 23 - World Witness- The missions agency of the ARP church

Discipleship

NO NEUTRAL GEAR

From Pastor Mackay

Our 2019-2020 Discipleship theme is "Centered on Christ."

"Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity..."
- Hebrews 6:1

One fateful night, I started my car to discover that the linkage between the gear shift lever and the transmission had broken. Unable to shift from "park," I had to enlist the help of a tow truck the next day. As the technician assessed the situation, he delivered bad news: "Since we can't shift it into neutral, I'm going to have to drag it." Sure enough, it was not a pretty picture. Because the wheels couldn't turn, the car protested its trip onto the truck, grinding and scraping the entire way.

In Hebrews 5 and 6, God's inspired author exhorts his hearers as to a problem. They have, as it were, become *unstuck*... from Jesus! They have "become dull of hearing," and in their inattention have seen their growth in grace atrophy. They should, the author says, be teachers of the Gospel. They should be leading others in the journey Godward. However, because their skills in the word and powers of discernment have not been in action, they are yet children. One commentator puts it bluntly, they should be teaching Sunday School but they need to be signed into the nursery! The danger for the Hebrew hearers is not blatant blasphemy or salacious sin, but their life of milquetoast mediocrity. They have been living in neutral.

We all know the results of unused skills. If you play guitar, you know that neglecting your instrument makes the next time you play it a painful ordeal! The callouses on your fingers have faded. If you skip several weeks at the gym,

your muscles become sluggish. How many of us memorize phone numbers anymore?

So, what of our journey toward Jesus? We often try to content ourselves with a neutral gear. We may maintain only a bland attachment to church life, reasoning that we will never fully commit, but we will never let ourselves reach the point where someone could say we, "don't go to church." We may remember a single spiritual experience early in life and figure that has to still count for something. I personally remember arguing as child to my parents the Sunday after Christmas that we went to church twice last week, so surely we can take this week off!

But it's clear from Hebrews that the Christian life is not like a video game in which you can save your progress and come back to the same point whenever the mood strikes. Inattention isn't just neutrality, it's backsliding. And if one's entire life is characterized by such malaise? Warning!

The preacher says that there are those who may be "enlightened" to the good things of the faith (6:3), who may have "tasted the heavenly gifts," and even may have "shared in the Holy Spirit." Yet, it is possible for these, in the end, to prove that they have fallen away from God, holding

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EKKLESIA

Adult Bible Study Upcoming Dates

There is no Ekklesia on Feb 5.

Ekklesia will not meet in anticipation of Discipleship Weekend, Feb 7-9.

February 12 - **Organ Crawl**

with Vince Treadway (Sanctuary)

Join Vince for a tour of our Reiger organ and a discussion of worshipping the Lord through music.

February 19 - **Missionary Update**

with Juan Carlos Bonilla

The Bonilla family is on their first home service after five years in Spain; they will update us on God's work there.

February 26 - **A Study of Hebrews**

To center on Christ is no boring exercise but sets us before God's beautiful, life-giving Son.

The author of Hebrews systematically attests to Jesus' greatness, arguing that there is salvation in no other name. We will set ourselves before God's Word together to seek and savor Jesus.

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Jesus in contempt (6:6). How can such things be? Far from arguing that Christians can lose their salvation, Hebrews broadcasts the sober message that there is no neutral gear! Even if your life has seen occasional association with God's people and/or eternal things (note: "sharing" in the Holy Spirit is a far cry from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; see Acts 2:4), failure to move forward indicates that on the final day those associations may prove to have been only outward fancies; not inward saving faith, not an enjoyment of saving grace.

So, what is our response to such things? We must be clear that Hebrews is not giving us a metric to begin to judge the faith of others. Only God can judge the heart (see James 4:12). Rather, we are to look at ourselves and our fellow brothers and sister to ensure that we are all "go[ing] on to maturity." We must never allow our discipleship to lapse into a neutral gear. And, what an encouragement we have to do just that. For, when sin and the devil attempt to pull us back, the author of Hebrews goes on to say that Christians have nothing less than a "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul." (6:19). Jesus sits now in the

throne room of God, continually drawing His people by the power of the Spirit. He has blazed the trail into God's presence, and if we are in Him, we will certainly follow.

Let this warning not discourage us, then, but encourage us to look ever more to Jesus. Pray that God will reveal it to you if your spiritual growth has slacked off. A good diagnostic question is, "How does my walk with Christ look now as opposed to five or ten years ago?" Granted, we can be hard on ourselves, so an even better diagnostic would be to ask a believing spouse, an elder, or a pastor that question. In the end, let us never place our hope in "tastes" of Him, but of full-fledged fellowship with Him by word, prayer, and sacrament. that God will reveal it to you if your spiritual growth has slacked off. A good diagnostic question is, "How does my walk with Christ look now as opposed to five or ten years ago?" Granted, we can be hard on ourselves, so an even better diagnostic would be to ask a believing spouse, an elder, or a pastor that question. In the end, let us never place our hope in "tastes" of Him, but of full-fledged fellowship with Him by word, prayer, and sacrament. ■

DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND

DISCOVERING THE EXODUS, FEB. 7-9, 2020



With Dr. J. Nicholas Reid,
Associate Professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies
Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

On Friday night and Saturday morning, Dr. J. Nicholas Reid, an Oxford-trained Assyriologist and Ancient Near East scholar, will deliver three lectures exploring the Exodus from archaeological, historical, and Biblical perspectives.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 per adult; nursery (birth to 3 years) and a children's program (4 years old to 5th grade) are available for children attending the seminar with their parents.

Friday, February 7

6:00 p.m. - Supper (Fellowship Hall)

7:20 p.m. - Keynote 1 "The Exodus: A Paradigm of Salvation" (Chapel)

8:10 p.m. - Q & A w/ Dr. Reid

8:30 p.m. - Dismissal

Saturday, February 8

9:00 a.m. - Gathering, Coffee, and Welcome (Church Parlor)

9:20 a.m. - Keynote 2 "An Introduction to Biblical Archaeology" (Chapel)

10:15 a.m. - Break w/ Refreshments (Church Parlor)

10:45 a.m. - Keynote 3 "The Exodus and Archaeology" (Chapel)

11:40 a.m. - Q & A w/ Dr. Reid

12:00 p.m. - Dismissal

Sunday, February 9

9:30 a.m. - Dr. Reid will deliver the Sunday morning message (Sanctuary)

Missions & Outreach

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

ATTENTION YOUTH! (AND YOUNG AT HEART!)

From John Miller

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

-Ephesians 2:8-9

There is nothing we can do to earn God's grace and love. We should just realize and accept the gift of what Jesus's life on earth, death, and resurrection actually means for our eternity, and for our day-to-day *struggles*. "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Wow! So if and when we daily ponder this gift to us, it should have an impact on how we organize our thoughts and free time, day-to-day. We should become cognizant of opportunities to demonstrate our love of Jesus through our words and actions to others. "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead" (James 2:14-17).

Everyday there are many opportunities to serve other people and to extend God's kingdom. This could be as simple as exhibiting genuine concern and love for others, looking into someone's eyes, asking how they are doing, and actually hearing the response. If God puts someone on our hearts, we could take a brief moment to call or text to say we are thinking about them or say,

"Thank you for being a friend." Sometimes there are organized opportunities to serve others, and it can be a good thing to get involved. Your service, however grand or small and **if given as an offering to the King who loves you** with sincerity of heart, is a good thing and is fruit of your growing faith. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24).

If you are thinking, "Who could use me?" Consider calling The Boys & Girls Club, the library, the city government office, the public school office, the hospital, a nursing home, our church, the foster care system, or a prison. Just remember, **you don't have to do anything and you can't do everything**. Relax. Super Christian not needed! **You can do something (and you should)**, particularly in the area in which God has gifted you uniquely (talent, time, money). Be still, pray, and think about what is around you and how God has uniquely gifted you.

Listed below are some real opportunities to serve others from the Lake Wales Care Center. If interested, contact the Care Center at (863) 676-6678.

- receiving and sorting inventory at either thrift store
- serving at a community kitchen
- organizing and checking out inventory at the warehouse
- yard work and/or painting at transitional housing facilities
- making cookies and visiting shut-ins from the meals on wheels program
- cleaning at any of the facilities
- maintaining community garden
- course monitors at our 5/10 K run on April 6
- ride shotgun on our pickup and delivery trucks during Spring Break ■

Music Ministry

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP: EXALTATION, EXPRESSION, AND OBEDIENCE

From Vince Treadway

One of the greatest joys of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and trusting in his Word as the best guide for life is recognizing that the commands in God's Word are for our good and not for our harm. Even those commands that seem to impinge on our natural desires are put in place by a holy and loving God to protect us—praise the Lord!

The Shorter Catechism puts it well in question one: "What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." The *whatever* includes music! "Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts" (Psalm 33:2-3). In our worship we praise the Lord with singing and instruments. We declare God's many wonderful attributes such as his glory and strength, "Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness" (Psalm 29:1-2); his faithfulness, "For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness" (Psalm 33:4); and his enduring love, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).

We express many emotions by singing and playing music in worship as well. Joy, thankfulness, longing, sorrow, and other emotions are expressed in the Psalms and in many other Scriptures. In Psalm 42 the Psalmist speaks of his longing for the Lord and how his tears have been his food day and night. Mary expresses her praise and adoration for God in what is known as the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-56. We are reminded that singing is a

commandment, but a joyful commandment as found in Psalm 66:1-4, "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.'"

Not only are we to praise God with music, but we are told to do it skillfully (Psalm 33:3), loudly (Psalm 95:1), joyfully (Psalm 100), and with instruments (Psalm 150). A great joyful command for corporate worship is found in Ephesians 5:18b-21, "...but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." How blessed we are to have such a marvelous vehicle for praising our Lord, who is worthy of our praise! Even more wonderful is the hope of praising our Lord and Savior forever and ever with him in Heaven! Praise the Lord! ■

2019-2020 CONCERT SERIES SPIRITUS ON FEBRUARY 16

Spiritus, the Southeastern University faculty piano trio, boasts graduates of the Eastman School of Music, Peabody, and Juilliard in its members, Annabelle and Ronald Gardiner and Charles Hulin. Together they will present classic works for violin, cello, and piano by the great masters. Join us in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. for this enjoyable concert, followed by a brief reception in the parlor to greet the musicians.



High School & Middle School

LOVE AND RESPECT

From Shane Miller

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

-Ephesians 2:18-22

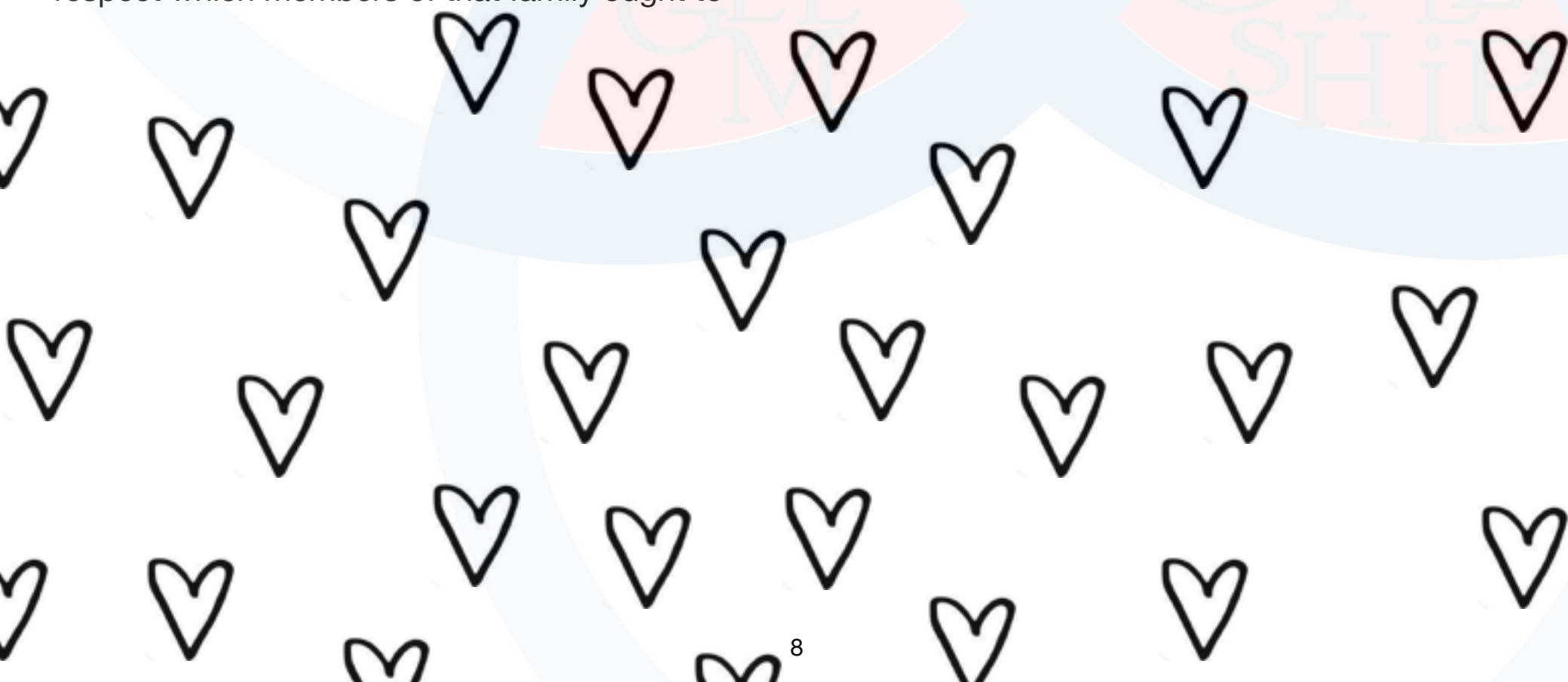
Paul, in the second chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, reminds believers of the incredible truth that all who have put their faith in Christ have become part of a family- the family of God. Paul, in this text, mentions that we are 'members of his household', a reality most significant for Gentiles who were formerly without hope and without God in the world. This being the case, Church ought not be simply viewed as a weekly event in which we participate, but a family we have been placed into through the gracious provision of Christ's atonement. In Christ, then, Christians enjoy a fellowship and eternal union with other believers that can sometimes surpass the depth of relationship they might enjoy with their biological families.

A consequence of the familial bond that believers enjoy is the subsequent love and respect which members of that family ought to

show to one another. Even in a worldly sense, brothers and sisters, at their best, defend their siblings. At their best they repel the bully, they are not the bully themselves. At their best, they treat their siblings with dignity, value and respect. And as the family of God empowered by the Holy Spirit, we ourselves are enabled to display an even greater form of love, the love that God displayed for us in the sacrifice of His Son upon the cross. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:10-11)

This is why the youth ministry of First Pres strives to make everyone within the ministry itself to feel safe, respected, and loved. I want to let parents know that more official documentation will be coming soon touching upon guidelines and house rules regarding respect for leaders, for other students, and for Church property. These guidelines will be especially pertinent for events such as Winter Retreat, Quest, and Horizon. But for now, we will be reminding our students of these guidelines through loving discipleship on Wednesday nights.

As a youth director, I truly love doing what I get to do. What we have in our ministry is truly a family. God has blessed the past two years tremendously and has made an awesome gospel centered community in which students are loved, nurtured, and disciplined. Please continue to pray for us as we grow as a group and as a family, that we would continue to mirror and display the love of our big brother, Jesus. ■



Children's Ministry

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

From Kelly Harrington

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
-John 13:34

With Valentine's Day on the horizon (as seen by the deluge of red hearts, flowers, and stuffed animals in the stores), I started thinking about how I can use this particular holiday to best teach our kids about the kind of love Jesus modeled and taught for us in contrast to the kind of love that is for sale for next two weeks.

Now, please don't mistake my thoughts here as anti-Valentine's Day (I like chocolate and flowers just fine), but when it comes to the sensational power of tempting displays of candy, flowers, and toys, I just wonder how misleading the stores might be to our kids (and us) about how to give love. Since it is not a practical option to never take our children into the stores or avoid going out into the world completely (I tried, it didn't work), it is important for us to intentionally disciple our kids in the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ and teach them to love with his love. Equipped with the truth about love, our kids can navigate the world's messages about love with an understanding that there is so much more to it than the self-seeking, emotional rush that comes from receiving gifts and goodies from someone special on Valentine's Day.

So, consumerism love aside, what does it mean to love one another like Jesus? Jesus, himself, is a gift of love from God, the Father, who modeled and taught us exactly what true love looks like. Jesus showed us love that is giving, forgiving, accepting, and honoring.

True love is giving. In giving his life on the cross, Jesus modeled sacrificial, giving love. "Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). In doing so, he gave everything he had so that we could be called children of God and participate fully in his family. We, too, should love in this way; we should seek to

give everything we can possibly give and not to receive.

True love is forgiving. Jesus modeled forgiveness for us when he hung on the cross and prayed for those who crucified him: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Throughout his ministry, he forgave those who sinned against him and against others, he taught his disciples to pray for forgiveness, and preached forgiveness to the multitudes. "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you" (Mt 6:14).

True love is accepting. Jesus modeled love that accepts everyone; there is no one unworthy of his love. When we accept others without reservation of who they are, what they have (or don't have), what they've done (or not done), we model Jesus' love to them. Just as importantly, we model it for those around us who watch us love others without reservation and teach them how to love others, too. "Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God" (Romans 15:7).

True love is honoring. This goes beyond just accepting others, but additionally shows love by placing others before, ahead of, and above ourselves. Love that shows honor does not hold anything back, just like Jesus showed "though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:6-8). Let us be encouraged to show love that honors God by honoring one another.

So, back to Valentine's Day once again. As the holiday approaches, we have an opportunity to purposefully model and teach the love of Jesus to those around us. Perhaps, we may even use the pretty cards, flowers, and candy in some way to give love, offer or seek forgiveness where needed, show acceptance where we previously have not, and honor one another to the glory of God. Truly loving one another will be a witness to the world of the love of Jesus Christ that is at work in you! ■



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

February 1, David Noriega
February 2, Lee Turnquist
February 3, Micah Sebring
February 4, Laureen Beck
February 4, Katy-Grace Hixenbaugh
February 5, Kelly Harrington
February 6, Mickey Miller
February 6, Ethan Sebring
February 6, Mason Sealey
February 6, Norma Schaffer
February 9, Ann Cone
February 9, Max Keen
February 10, Carl McCollum
February 10, Randy Portwood
February 10, Phyllis Aemisegger
February 11, Albery Balance
February 11, Lori Loveless
February 12, Julia Friend
February 12, Adele Black
February 12, Janet Thullbery
February 13, Roger Campbell
February 14, Grace Sealey
February 15, Albie Stuart
February 15, Cal DenBesten
February 15, Maddie Lippert
February 16, Miriam Rockness
February 17, Ansel Buhrman
February 17, Gerald Lippert
February 17, Vince Treadway
February 18, Stuart Whidden
February 20, Sophia Lewis
February 20, Jim Smith
February 21, Susan Alexander
February 23, Faith Jackson
February 24, Sharon Bevis
February 25, Laney Reynolds
February 27, Brenda Wise

ANNIVERSARIES

February 6, Monty & Kelly Harrington
February 15, Joe & Caroline Swanson

Church Family

INQUIRERS CLASS SERIES

We invite all who are interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church to attend Inquirers Class, a four-week church membership class series led by Pastor Chad beginning on February 9.

Florida Presbytery Women's Retreat March 6-7, 2020

The annual Florida Presbytery Women's Retreat takes place just in our backyard at the FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City. Join with women of our sister ARP congregations for an enriching weekend of fellowship and Christ-centered discipleship as Starla Shattler and Brittney Fann lead sessions on "A Woman of True Beauty." More information and registration forms are available in the narthex, the Family Life Center, and the church office; registration is due by February 24.

World Witness Fellowship Dinner

You are invited to attend the annual World Witness Fellowship Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 21 at Bartow ARP Church. Speakers for the evening include Jeff Allers (missionary to Germany), Juan Carlos Bonilla (missionary to Spain), and Alex Pettett (Exec. Dir. of WW). Nursery will be provided at the church, as well as a special dinner and program for children under ten years old. Make reservations online at worldwitness.org/dinners



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 16 N 3rd St, Lake Wales, FL 33853
 Phone: 863.676.0711
www.fpclw.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2020

John Dubois
 Stewart Hurst
 Ed Lamb
 Fox Rawlings

2021

Mike Berkau
 Paul Benner

2022

Frank Hunt III
 John Matteson
 Vince Treadway

2023

Scott Crews
 Tom Freeland
 Doug Pace

DEACONS

2020

David Bass
 Lynne Hulen
 Rob McCollum
 David Kennedy Nelson

2021

David Caldwell
 Michael Kahler
 Carl McCollum
 Tony Thomas

2022

Bea Meeker
 Aaron Nelson
 Mary Youmans

Moderator: Rev. Chad Reynolds
Vice Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: Ed Lamb
Chairman of Deacons: Rob McCollum
Deacon Secretary: David Kennedy Nelson
Chm. of the Congregation: Jake Cockrell
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst (2020-2021)
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt (2020-2021)