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MARCH 2020

ISSUE 20-3

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

A SUGGESTED READING FOR 2020: IN SEARCH OF THE COMMON GOOD BY JAKE MEADOR

From Pastor Chad

Do you watch any of the twenty-four-hour news stations? All of them, no matter which side of the cultural or political spectrum they lean toward, seem to major in peddling disdain, distress, and distraction. If you were hooked to a blood pressure monitor while watching their programming, what would your heart tell you? How many of us have a renewed sense of the call of Christ to love our enemies (in this case, those who do not see the world as we may see it) after viewing our favorite talking head? How many of us turn the television off at the end of a report or an opinionated diatribe with a hope that is rooted in Christ? Maybe it's not a news channel that gets your blood pressure skyrocketing so much as some form of social media. Perhaps you first got onto Facebook, or some other social media, to connect with family and friends, but most of the time, you find yourself dumbfounded, insulted, or infuriated by the posts and comments of others. Do you feel a greater connection with all of your "friends" on social media, or do you walk away feeling like your relationships are more fractured than you realized? It all seems to be heightened even more in 2020 because of the looming election.

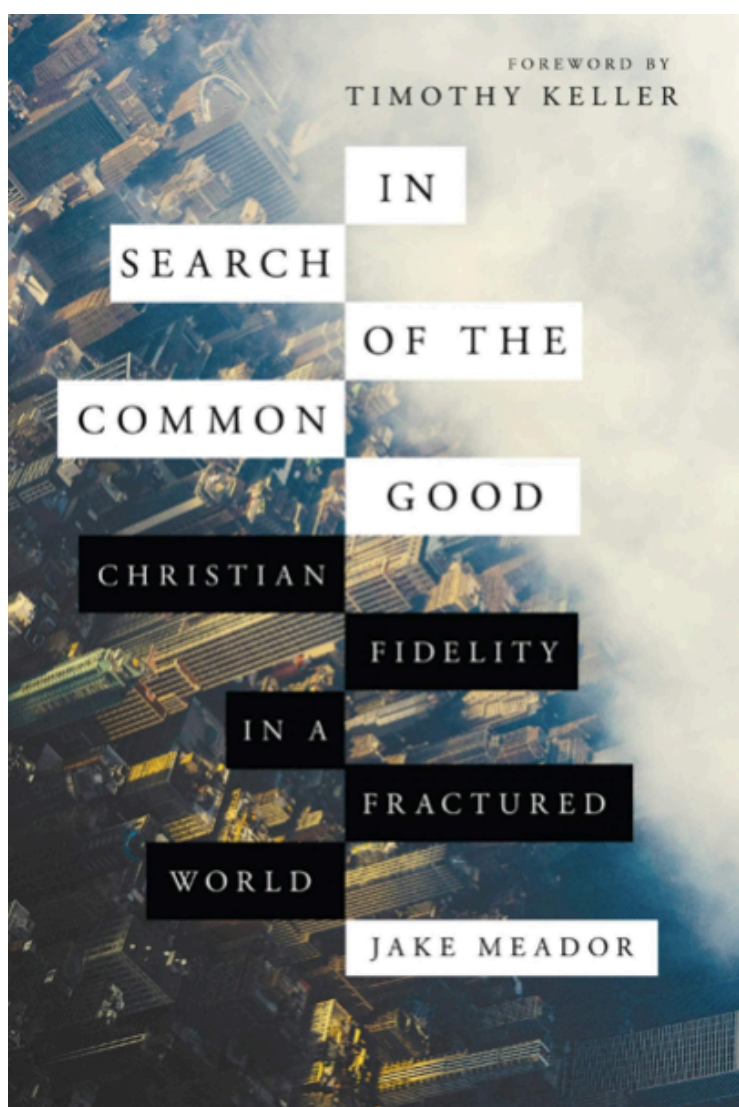
In his foreword to Jake Meador's recent book, *In Search of the Common Good*, Timothy Keller writes the following diagnosis,

"Not only is mainstream culture moving farther away from Christian beliefs, but it also seems to be weakening and fragmenting. There is enormous dissatisfaction with the political establishments, and people are willing to vote for candidates both right and left that even ten years ago would have been considered too extreme.

We have resurgent socialism as well as blood-and-soil populism. U.S. life expectancy has dropped three years in a row - an unprecedented phenomenon outside of wartime. There is an agreement that loneliness and isolation, suicide and addiction, are growing alarmingly as community and communities break down."

So, what are we, as individual Christians and the Church corporately, to think and do and be in the midst of such a cultural tragedy? Keller suggests that a great "starting point" for lovingly engaging the culture anew is to read *In Search of the Common Good* by Jake Meador. I concur. Meador's work is worth the read as an individual but let me also suggest that it would be of even

greater worth to be read and discussed together with others (family, fellow believers, a neighbor, a coworker, etc.). Meador's thoughts, while not perfect, are based on a wealth of knowledge stemming from his reading of and interaction with many philosophers, thinkers, and theologians, such as John Calvin, Thomas Aquinas, Charles Taylor, and C.S. Lewis among many others. He challenges his readers to see the world the way that Christ sees her and to love her as he loves her. Check it out for yourself. You can order a copy from Kathryn's Bookstore (a ministry of the Lake Wales Care Center located in downtown Lake Wales) today.



For a fuller, more detailed reviews, see:

McClean, John, "Book Review: *In Search of the Common Good* by Jake Meador." September 10, 2019. <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/book-review/book-review-search-common-good-jake-meador/>

Dillehay, Justin, "Christians Need a Better Story Than Liberalism." October 7, 2019. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/search-common-good/> ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 2020 Session Highlights

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are some highlights from the February 23 meeting.

- The Session considered chapter 9, “Free Will,” from the *Westminster Confession of Faith* for its devotional before the meeting.
- The Session discussed its ongoing shepherding ministry to the people of FPC, sharing news from recent contacts that were made with numerous members. Prayer was offered on behalf of those members.
- The Session approved its annual report to the Florida Presbytery and the General Synod. Stewardship and Finance reported that as of the end of January 2020 tithes and offerings toward the church’s 2020 general budget are at \$103,252, which is 11% of the 2020 budget. This is above the average of 7.73% (2015-2019) our church has historically received by the end of January. Our expenses were \$76,376, 8% of the budget, for a net gain of \$26,876. Praise was given to God in prayer for His financial blessing.
- The Session approved new members to several of its committees.
- The Session approved an article written by Rev. Mackay Smith that communicates more details and information about Rev. Chad Reynolds’ upcoming sabbatical. The article can be found in the current issue of *The Diligent* (see below).
- The Session approved a one time financial bonus to Rev. Mackay Smith to be dispersed at the completion of Rev. Chad Reynolds’ sabbatical as a show of appreciation for his faithful service during that time.
- 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

MARCH 1 - Iglesia en Movimiento-
Church Plant in Lake Placid, FL

MARCH 8 - Wheaton College

MARCH 15- The Persecuted Church

MARCH 22 - Camp Joy Florida

MARCH 29- The Ministry of Word at FPC

FROM OUR SESSION

In May 2019, on the occasion of his 10th year as the Senior Pastor, your Session gave Chad the gift of a 16-week Sabbatical. When it was announced to you in June 2019, the summer of 2020 seemed far away, and yet now we are at the doorstep! Here are some reminders of the information shared last year, and further details on the upcoming Sabbatical season.

Why a Sabbatical?

Elder Stewart Hurst gave this as part of an announcement from the lectern in Morning Worship in June 2019:

“1 Tim. 5:17 says, ‘Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.’ We want to honor Chad for his service. We also want to celebrate what God has done through him. Most of all, though, we want to take this occasion to invest in Chad’s future ministry. We can think of no better way of doing all of these things than by giving him the gift of a Sabbatical in the near future.”

...continues on page 4

Continued from page 3...

So, the Sabbatical is given chiefly as an investment in Chad's future ministry at First Presbyterian. Our church will be blessed to be served by a man who is rested and energized for ministry. Secondly, the Sabbatical is given to honor Chad's many years of service, and to celebrate the work God has done here through him.

What are the dates of the Sabbatical?

May 11 - August 31

Chad's final Sunday before the Sabbatical will be May 10, 2020. His first Sunday back in Sunday worship will be September 6, 2020, and his first Sunday preaching September 13.

What will Chad be doing on Sabbatical?

The Session has directed Chad that the Sabbatical is to be a time of rest; "structured, but without labor." Neither Chad nor the Session view this Sabbatical as a four month vacation. He is being entrusted with this time for him and his family to intentionally seek spiritual, emotional, and physical refreshment. His initial plans include some time out of state with family and some reading and writing projects.

Where will Chad be during Sabbatical?

Where will the Reynolds worship?

For the most part, the Reynolds will remain in Lake Wales, but 4-6 weeks will be spent out of town. Chad and family will worship at a different church during the Sabbatical season.

How will life at First Presbyterian be different while Chad is away?

1. The Session has committed to trust God's provision while Chad is away by establishing a boundary between Chad and the ministry of First Presbyterian. Chad will not be available for pastoral care matters, counseling, weddings, or funerals. The Session believes this is crucial for the effectiveness of Chad's Sabbatical rest.
2. During the Sabbatical, Mackay will assume Chad's normal role in Sunday worship, with a rotation of Elders and others performing Mackay's normal role.
3. Mackay will continue to undertake normal pastoral duties at church, as well as moderating the Session in his role as vice-moderator.

How can I love the Reynolds well during the Sabbatical season?

First, the Session encourages you to join us in making your thanksgiving known to God and to the Reynolds for Chad and his ministry. God has used Chad mightily here. We also ask you to join us in praying that Chad's time away will enable many more years of effective service to First Presbyterian. If you wish, you may contribute financially to a Session-approved Sabbatical Fund to assist with related expenses, and such is discretionary and confidential. There are plans for a church-wide reception for the Reynolds family prior to the May 11 start date. More will be announced later as we look forward to this time of fellowship.

When you see Chad, Laney, and the family around Lake Wales, we certainly encourage you to greet them as you normally would. You don't have to hide behind the melons at Publix or a tree on the walking trail! However, we do ask that, as best you can, you focus your conversation away from any recent goings-on of the church (births, deaths, events, news, etc.). Rest assured that the Session will ensure any need-to-know information gets where it needs to go. Further, there is plenty of time for social calls (dinners, etc.) with the Reynolds both before May 10 and, Lord willing, after Sept 1, and we encourage you to schedule those times outside of the Sabbatical season. Finally, we ask you to give Laney and the family space, and not ask them to serve in any FPC ministries during the Sabbatical.

A Sabbatical is a special gift from the church to its pastor. It is an honor and a bridge. Honoring past service and bridging to future ministry through dedicated time to recharge. Though it may not be 40 days in the wilderness, it is time with God so as to rededicate the minister to shepherding his flock. All the while expressing our thanks for being a faithful disciple of Christ. Good job thus far, Chad!

If you have any questions regarding the Sabbatical, feel free to ask an elder or speak with Mackay. We ask again that you pray with us for fruit to come from this time!

In Christ,

The Session ■

Discipleship

THE WEAKNESS OF OUR PRAYERS

From Pastor Mackay

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

-Romans 8:26

Imagine a professional golfer struggling through a tough round. What sort of feedback does he long for in those moments? I'm sure each golfer differs, but I imagine many would turn to his caddy for some inspiration. The caddy's job is to remind him of just how good of a golfer he is. The player just needs to reach down and find that fire and spirit that have brought him to the pinnacle of the sport. The caddy may take his partner by the shoulders, look him square in the eye, and say, "You can do it!"

When we think through our spiritual lives, perhaps we may feel the need to take the same tack. All Christians, at times, get discouraged at our seeming fruitlessness, and nothing can challenge us more than our shortcomings in prayer. None of us truly grasp the gravity of our privilege to approach the God of the universe, yet even when we are "praying our best," we can seem to fall short.

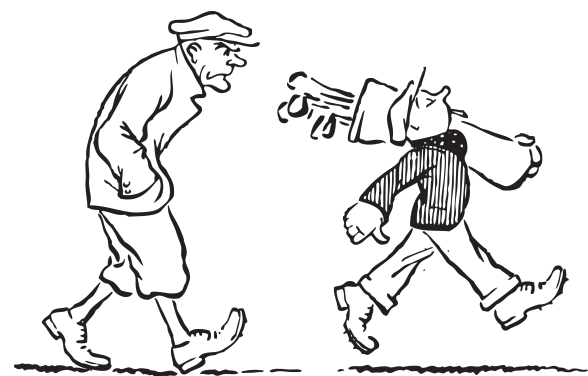
So, do we need a prayer pep talk? The Bible encourages us to draw near to God with our requests (see Heb.10:22, Philippians 4:6). After all, the mighty salvation that Jesus has bought brings us confidence before the presence of God.

In speaking of prayer, the English theologian John Owen tells us that the Holy Spirit of God provides what may seem like counterintuitive assistance to believers. Instead of giving us a "You can do it!" pep talk, Owen writes, "the Spirit of Christ reveals to us our own needs." The believer, "finds... where he is dead, where dull and cold, where unbelieving, where tempted above his strength." So, it seems that for believers, it is the very Spirit of God that convicts us of our prayerlessness! The Spirit unsettles us when it comes to our natural abilities. Instead of saying, "You can do it!" the Spirit points out our weakness.

Should we scoff at the Spirit as an unwelcome counselor? Many are tempted to do just that and prefer to seek "Christian" authors who tell them that they are already fine just as they are. Let us not, however, reject this sweet grace of God. For the Spirit reveals our weakness, "so that we can take these needs to Christ... A sense of need is the spring of desire. So without the help of the Holy Spirit, there is neither desire nor prayer." Our inability, then, reveals by God's Spirit, further places our confidence exactly where it needs to be: in God's ability.

Yet, we can say more. The Spirit is not simply a bearer of bad news; he is with us to help us pray. The needs that the Spirit reveals are deep, in fact, far deeper than our words can convey. Yet, the Spirit (see Rom 8:26 above), helps us to convey the depths of our needs to God.

We see that God's Spirit directs us to pray according to the mind of God. He mercifully reveals our weaknesses and assists us to ground our hope in God. This is the only firm ground on which we have to stand. Let us be grateful for a God who helps us pray! ■



DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND

Thanks to everyone who helped and attended Discipleship Weekend! Dr. Reid's lectures on "Discovering the Exodus" are available on audio CD from the church office.

EKKLESIA

Our Adult Bible Study of Hebrews has begun and will carry us through to the end of our 2019-2020 Ekklesia season in May. Join us!

EKKLESIA

Look for updated Adult Small Group information in the church narthex.

Missions & Outreach

MEALS ON WHEELS: DELIVERED TO NEIGHBORS BY NEIGHBORS

From Kaitlyn Nelson

Since 1988, the Meals on Wheels program has been a service of the Lake Wales Care Center to the Greater Lake Wales area. Last year 14,865 hot, balanced meals were delivered to 157 recipients throughout Lake Wales, Dundee, and Indian Lake Estates. Smiles, as well as hot meals, are delivered Monday through Friday throughout the community through eight different routes driven solely by volunteers.

This program is designed to allow people with factors such as age, surgery, or disability to receive a prepared, hot balanced meal. Some neighbors need meal assistance for a temporary period while others receive assistance on a more permanent basis. The cost is \$5 per meal and there are no income limitations. There is a sliding scale fee is available for those who may need financial assistance. AdventHealth Lake Wales prepares the meals daily with specialized entrees for individual dietary needs. Volunteer drivers meet the Meals on Wheels coordinator at AdventHealth Lake Wales to pick up the meals and receive information about their designated route. Drivers become more than delivery agents; they become reliable friends who recipients look forward to seeing every day.

The Meals on Wheels Program is more than a ministry of providing a hot meal to shut-ins but also a ministry of demonstrating Christ's love to those who are homebound, sick, or elderly with no local family. This program makes a difference in people's lives daily. Care Center is always looking for more drivers. If you are interested in becoming a driver for a route daily, once a month, or even as a substitute, please contact our Meals on Wheels Coordinator at emily.lwcc@gmail.com or call Care Center at 863-676-6678 ext. 1205 for more information!

If you are unable to drive but want to help make a difference, there are two fun and exciting events coming up this spring! Our 5th Annual Clay Shoot is March 20th! This event supports all of Care Center's outreach programs, and 100% proceeds

go directly to supporting these programs, such as Meals on Wheels, Transitional Housing, Basic Needs, Lake Wales Free Clinic, and Choices Pregnancy Center. To learn more about the clay shoot, please visit our website at lakewalescarecenter.com/2020-clay-shoot.

The Run Like You Care 5k/10k on April 4th directly supports the Meals on Wheels Program! All registration fees go directly to supporting this impactful program. Run Like You Care is a family-friendly event, you can run, walk, or even push a stroller! There is also a free kids fun run for kids 12 and under. Visit our website for more information about the race at lakewalescarecenter.com/run-like-you-care-2020.

Thank you for supporting Care Center and caring for your local community. We are very thankful to be a part of such a caring and generous church community for the past 35 years. ■

MISSIONS REPORT FROM NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

From Justin Westmoreland

Church Planting: It was the best of times and the worst of times. At Trinity Presbyterian Church of Norman, Oklahoma, we meet for worship in a borrowed building on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM. We recently added a Sunday night bible study. We have almost quit doing Sunday school because of a lack of interest from our families. We have seen people visit our church once and never return. We have seen people join our church and never attend. We have seen people refuse to visit because of preconceived notions about Presbyterianism or because of other dumb reasons. We have gained converts to Christianity. We have made gospel-centered resilient disciples. We have seen families and students wrecked by alcohol and divorces and abuse. We have felt irrelevant. We have grown in influence. We have seen people burned out and leave our church plant. We have seen people move away. We have seen lots of sin. We have seen baptisms of babies and adults.

The Finish Line: We have now gathered a core group. We have begun leadership training. We hope to nominate and elect elders and deacons soon. This is huge! It is not easy to plant a church thousands of miles from the closest church in one's presbytery, but someone had to go first. We are exploring adding another church in Sapulpa, Oklahoma from another denomination, and once we have a few more families attending, we hope to hire an administrative assistant and associate pastor who could become the next church planter.

Same Mission: We preach the gospel every week, Sunday mornings, Sunday night, Tuesday morning men's bible study, daily notifications from our app, on social media, and in our families and neighborhoods. Jesus is Lord over Norman,

Oklahoma...and one day everyone will know that...we pray that many will hear the gospel and believe so they will join us in longing for and celebrating the return of our King Jesus. Recently, our prospective leaders and I collaborated to get clear on what we mean when we say: the gospel. I am attaching what we came up with. No matter if it is best of times or worst of times, our job to minister this gospel remains the same:

The Good News:

Jesus, God's only son, born of a virgin, became fully human, without sin, fulfilled God's law, died on the cross for sins, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day, according to Scripture. In love, God saves everyone who repents of their sin and trusts him alone for salvation. By grace through faith in Jesus we are redeemed, adopted sons and daughters, justified as if we had always obeyed God, & transformed to follow Jesus in gratitude progressively more all of our lives. King Jesus will return on the last day bringing all who follow Him into the glorious, eternal Kingdom of God.

I hope that encourages you. Let's get clear on the good news. Our church plant is 0.75 miles from

what I believe is the darkest part of the University of Oklahoma and in the center of a community of 250,000 people. 57% of those do not attend any kind of church. Of the 43% who do go to church many are not clear about what the gospel is. We are well-

positioned to relationally and intentionally lead others farther along with Jesus as we minister the gospel to bring others along on our mission of glorifying and enjoying our God.

I thank you for your prayers and support in this adventure!

Justin ■

Music Ministry

BUXTEHUDE AND BACH, CAUSE AND EFFECT

From Vince Treadway

To say that Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was influenced by the performances of Dietrich Buxtehude (ca. 1637-1707) could be compared to the statement that the Pope has influenced the Catholic Church. Bach was looking for a new experience in music at the time he went to hear Buxtehude in October of 1705, an experience that would awaken his creativity in ways not yet realized. Bach was so determined to hear and see this phenomenon he had heard so much about that he walked over two hundred miles and was willing to jeopardize his job by overstaying his sabbatical to do so.

Bach was exposed to the flamboyant and spectacular playing of Buxtehude, as well as the harmonic freedom and recitative like sections in his organ works. Buxtehude's composition style served as a model to free Bach's creative energies and was developed much further by Bach than was ever done in Buxtehude's compositions. The impressions made by Buxtehude on Bach were so deep that they were immediately felt upon his return home. The congregation complained about his hymn playing saying that there were "too many curious variations which were confusing to the congregation."

Buxtehude is the father of the pedal solo, and it was his brilliant pedal solos which helped to inspire Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C BWV 564. (check it out on Youtube!) Bach gained freedom in using more ornate figurations, arpeggios, and imitation by using Buxtehude as a model, although Bach's style was much more developed than Buxtehude's. Buxtehude's 24 Praeludiums have been described as "shreds of ideas with little or no connective tissue," whereas Bach developed his musical ideas throughout his compositions.

What this means for listeners today is that

the ideas that Bach gained from Buxtehude were vitally important to the wonderful breadth of music that we now enjoy in the compositions of Bach, particularly for the organ. For a fun comparison, go on Youtube and listen to Buxtehude's Praeludium BuxWV139, then Bach's Prelude and Fugue in G major BWV541. You will see and hear quite a difference, and while they are both delightful pieces, Bach's piece is much more complex, and his ideas are developed to a greater extent. I am grateful for both Buxtehude and Bach as they both contributed wonderful music that we now use in the church to glorify God. ■

CONCERT SERIES, MARCH 8 THE WHEATON COLLEGE MEN'S GLEE CLUB

We are excited to welcome this 50-member choir on their second date of their Florida tour. The choir will perform a wide range of repertoire including spirituals such as "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" arranged by J. David Moore, contemporary pieces like Lithuanian Composer Miškinis' Cantante Domino and Mealer's "I Saw Eternity," as well as beautiful works by Dan Forrest "And Can it Be," and Craig Courtney's Psalm 23.



Dr. Philip Ryken, President of Wheaton College will preach for us on March 8. Philip Ryken is the eighth president of Wheaton College. Following his graduation from Wheaton in 1988, Dr. Ryken earned an M. Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary and a PhD from the University of Oxford in historical theology. He preached at Philadelphia's Tenth Presbyterian Church from 1995 until his appointment at Wheaton in 2010.

President Ryken has published more than 50 Bible commentaries and other books. He serves as a board member for the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the Lausanne Movement. He and his wife Lisa have five children.

High School & Middle School

QUEST AND HORIZON

From Shane Miller

Every summer, our Church participates in the summer youth retreats of Quest and Horizon put on by Christian Education Ministries (CEM) at Bonclarken, the conference center of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The summer retreats are each a "week-long opportunity for spiritual growth and development, fellowship, and teaching on pertinent information from God's Word. The goal of this conference is to send young people out into their world, spiritually nurtured, fed, and equipped to live out their faith and share it with those around them." These retreats have been awesome opportunities for our students to spend a week in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina and be continually confronted and encouraged by the good news of Jesus. If your son or daughter has never gone, I encourage you to consider one as a summer activity for them. Quest, the middle school retreat, is June 15-20; Horizon, the high school conference, is June 22-26.

While retreat costs for this year have not been given to us yet, last year the cost was about \$500 per student; I will let parents know about those costs as soon as I receive them. We are aware that some students who desire to attend will need scholarships to help pay for the retreat. Students may apply for scholarship money for these retreats, for which they must participate in one or more of our scholarship workdays to be eligible. Workdays will be Care Center service projects on the third Saturday, March through May (March 21, April 19, May 17). If there are scheduling conflicts for middle schoolers that make volunteering on these scheduled dates impossible, please let me know and we can work something out. High schoolers also have the option to serve up to 18 hours volunteering for the Care Center at any time that best fits into their schedules. (I have volunteer sign-up forms for high school students who choose this option.)

Additionally, I encourage high school students to work for scholarship hours by volunteering for an incredible camp ministry of our denomination during spring break. Camp Joy Florida is a co-ed Christian camp serving those with special needs," held at Lake Aurora during spring break.

If you would like more information on this volunteer opportunity, please let me know. After the volunteer hours are completed, our youth council will meet to decide scholarship amounts for the students.

Lastly and most importantly, please be in prayer for our students as we begin to embark upon our summer retreats. Pray that as our students hear the gospel of Jesus, they will grow in their faith and love for him. Pray also that God would give leaders opportunities to disciple students effectively and for safety for the drive to and from Bonclarken. Again, I am open and available for any questions that you might have about our summer retreats. Please don't hesitate to ask!

-Shane Miller
(863) 604-5204 ■



Children's Ministry

LEARNING TO FORGIVE OTHERS

From Kelly Harrington

And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.

-Matt. 6:12

Teaching our children to forgive others is an essential part of Christian discipleship, but not necessarily an easy one. The fact is, forgiving others is counterintuitive to our emotionally wired children who do not yet have the cognitive or spiritual development to fully understand the concept. You have likely witnessed this truth if you have ever intercepted two battling kids and prompted them to apologize, forgive one another, and return to peaceful play. They may have obediently done as they were told, but it is highly unlikely that either one of them let the issue go and allowed reason to reckon with their emotions. If they chose to obey, it was not for the good of the offender but rather their preference to please you and stay out of trouble. Either way, their emotions did not lead them to forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not intuitive; it has to be learned. It is, as a matter of fact, a cognitive exercise of letting go of wrongdoings that we engage in by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, both as offenders who need forgiveness and wounded subjects who need to extend it to those who hurt or offend us. An abundant grace from God, forgiveness restores relationships both with himself and among his people, and without it, we are lost. The difficulty we find with it is that our intuitive feelings have to be dealt with and subdued by reason for forgiveness. Thanks be to God that he has not left us alone to do this on our own but has given us his Spirit to guide us along the way.

Neither has he left our children on their own to figure it out. By his grace, his Spirit will come on them when they come to believe and trust in him. Until then, we must guide them in the cognitive practice to overcome their feelings of hurt, resentment, and retaliation and guide them with reason to an understanding of forgiveness. The best things we can do is help them identify their hurt feelings and remind them of God's love and care for his children, teaching them of their need for God's forgiveness that they can receive by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In time, they will understand their need for forgiving others, just as they are forgiven, "as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive" (Col. 3:13).

Last, they will need practice. When they are very young, or the concept is very new, they will need coaching with their words and appropriate emotions. In time, they will be able to take fewer cues from us and do more of it on their own; the Holy Spirit will be their ultimate coach! Remember, this is not the apologizing side; this is the forgiving side. We are helping them let go of wrongs done to them and choose grace, mercy, and compassion for another instead. Our children need our guidance all along the way, so stick close!

All of us know that even with decades of practice, many of us can still find it hard to forgive others as quickly or as often as we should. The deeper the hurt, the higher the cost may feel to us. We cannot, however, argue with the extravagant price that Jesus Christ paid for our forgiveness. "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). ■



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

Church Family

BIRTHDAYS

March 2, Jonathan Smith
March 4, A.J. Bennett
March 4, Patti Roe
March 6, Ardy DenBesten
March 8, Ruth Miller
March 8, Monty Harrington
March 9, Jay Hershberger
March 9, Carole Miller
March 10, Larry Adams
March 10, Penny Wright
March 12, Marilyn Fisher
March 14, Carol Grimes
March 14, Ethan Behr
March 15, Libby Matteson
March 15, Marie Hasse
March 17, Michael Matteson
March 18, Contessa Michalkiewicz
March 18, Jane Jackson
March 19, Kathy Enz
March 20, David Bass
March 20, Marilyn Newell
March 20, Mason Hixenbaugh
March 22, Rob McCollum
March 23, Joan Dick
March 24, John Miller
March 24, J.B. Wynn
March 24, Rick Wright
March 25, Janice Brandies
March 27, Jim Ayers
March 27, Mary Kunkel
March 28, Daniel Roe
March 28, Debbie Tyus
March 31, Andy Bennett
March 31, Morgan McCollum

ANNIVERSARIES

March 15, Jim & Shelley Underwood
March 20, Donald & Kathleen Krpata
March 21, John & Charlee Dubois
March 21, Tom & Alison Freeland
March 26, Frank & Laura Hunt

Church Workday on March 7

It is time to give our campus a little TLC and many hands make light work! Please join us here at 8:30 am on Saturday to help us catch up on some much needed cleaning and light repair such as garden cleanup, changing light bulbs, painting curbs, and pressure washing, just to name a few. Stay as long as you like and enjoy church family fellowship while we get things done!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour (1:00 am to 2:00 am) before retiring on Saturday evening, March 7!

CAMP JOY FLORIDA CALL OUT FOR COUNSELORS

Camp Joy is a five-day overnight Christian camp for teens (over 15 years old) and adults with intellectual disabilities. Camp Joy pairs each camper with a counselor as their special friend for the week of camp and therefore needs many volunteer counselors. Counselors can be teenagers, college students, or anyone who is able and willing to give a week to Camp Joy! There are two Camp Joy sessions this year: March 23-27 (Spring Break Week) and May 25-29. If you are interested in being a Camp Joy counselor, please apply online at campjoycem.com.

The Remnant Online

Have you missed a Sunday? Don't know where your bulletin is? Don't worry! All of the current announcements are posted for you on our church website at fpclw.org on *The Remnant* page. There you will find our weekly prayer focus, a list of the week's meetings, and details about coming events. You can even sign up for Ekklesia dinner with just a few clicks on the web page!





First Presbyterian Church of Lake Wales
 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)