



SEPTEMBER 2021

ISSUE 21-9

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.”

AT A GLANCE

Pg. 2, Leadership

“A Resourceful Refresher on Family Worship,” Session Highlights, Prayer Focus

Pg. 4, Discipleship

The Hub, Rock On Wednesdays

Pg. 5, Music Ministry

Charles-Marie Jean Albert Widor

Pg. 6, High School & Middle School

Summer 2021

Pg. 7, Children’s Ministry

“Holy Spirit and Humility”

Pg. 8, Church Family

Milestone Celebrations

Leadership

A RESOURCEFUL REFRESHER ON FAMILY WORSHIP

From Pastor Mackay

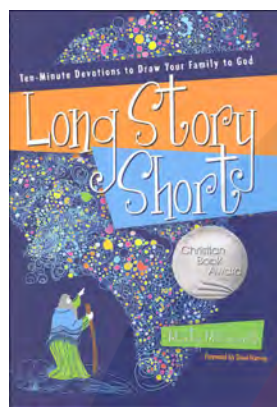
Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

-Deuteronomy 6:4-9

As we settle back into our rhythms of the academic year, has your family considered its rhythm of family worship? The world around us is yearning for something secure. We must tell one another again and again of the solid foundation we have in Jesus Christ. Whether your house abounds with little ones, or you meet the Lord as an individual, here are a few reminders of resources that can help you as you seek the Lord at home.

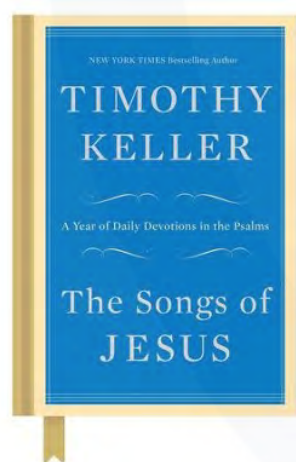
Long Story Short and Old Story New: 10 Minute Devotionals to Draw Your Family Closer to God

by Marty Machowski
Want a one-stop, sustainable, long-lasting family worship plan? This is it! Each volume (one moves through the Old Testament, the other the New) contains week after week of short, engaging lessons. Filled with illustrations and object lessons, they are detailed enough to simply read aloud, but open enough to include your own applications and ideas. (Personal note: With three young ones, the Smith family is loving this book right now!)



The Songs of Jesus: A Year of Daily Devotionals in the Psalms

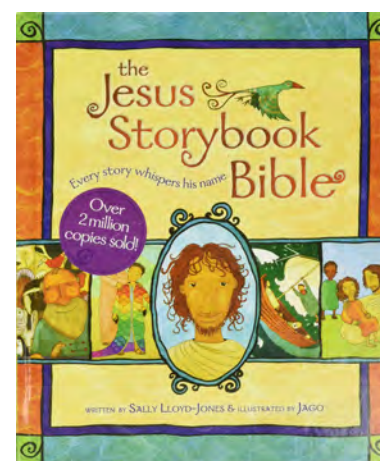
by Tim Keller
This devotional book moves through the entire Psalter over 365 days. Each day includes a Psalm reading, a short reflection, and a prayer.



The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name

by Sally Lloyd-Jones

There are so many children's storybook Bibles out there, but many offer simply a quaintly illustrated collection of disjointed Bible stories. This can fail to engage the major themes of the Bible: creation, fall, and redemption in Jesus. Lloyd-Jones offers all of the above. Great illustrations surround understandable paraphrases of the Bible narrative. This is written for children, but adults will also love the experience of seeing the "big picture" of the Bible.



The Biggest Story

by Kevin DeYoung

This is an even shorter summary of the Bible narrative, laser-focussed on the central story-line for God's redemption in Jesus. DeYoung has a gift of taking sin seriously (something that children's books often omit), but doing so with grace and hope. This book will keep your family's eyes on Jesus! It can easily be read in a single sitting, or divided into its component chapters.



The Trinity Hymnal

Great Commission Publications

How many commercial jingles do you remember from your early days? Music aids memorization in remarkable ways. So, replace the tune about a neighborly insurance company with a song proclaiming God's mercy in Jesus, and you get a lifetime aid of remembering Bible truths. You should have a hymnal in your house! The one we use is *The Trinity Hymnal*, published by Crown and Covenant.

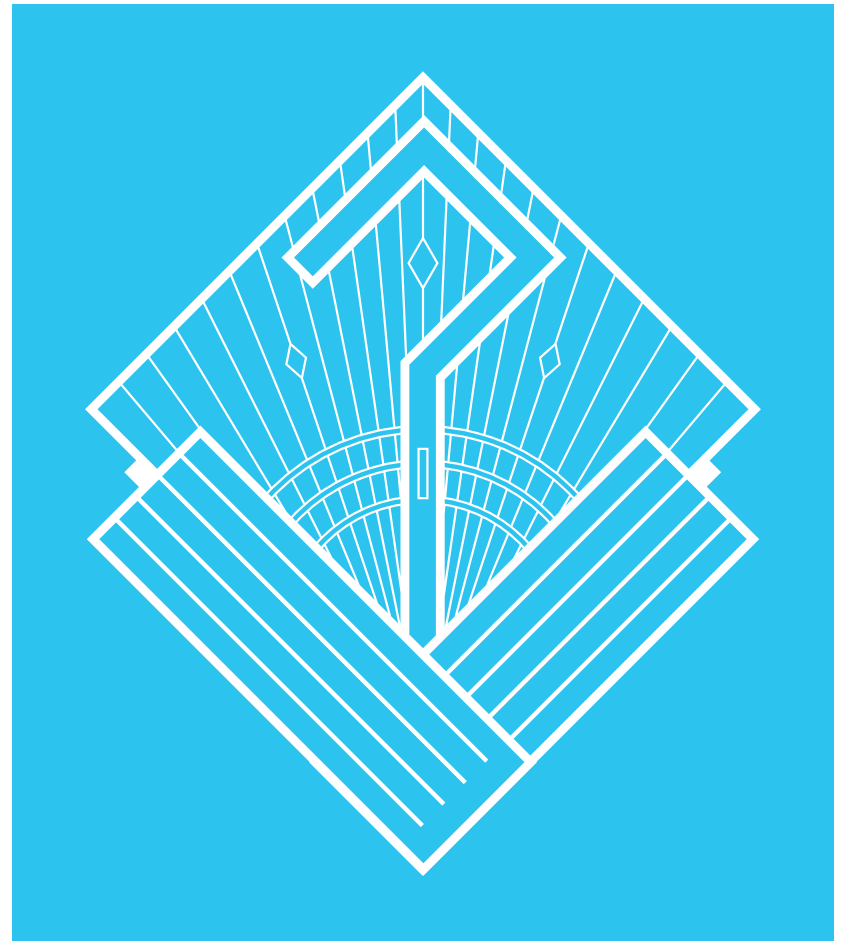


I'd love to talk with you about how the Smiths do family worship. We are far from perfect, and wiggly little ones always make things a challenge, but we pray God will bless our efforts, knowing from experience (and more importantly from God's Word!), that when a child is trained in the way he should go, he will not depart from it. ■

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The elders of First Presbyterian Church meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday. The following are highlights from the meeting on August 24.

- Prayer was given for the needs of our congregation and the ministries of our church. Elders prayed specifically for members with whom they had interacted in the days preceding our meeting.
- Dick Miller was received into church membership. He transfers in from the Lake Osborne Presbyterian Church in Lake Worth, FL.
- The Session discussed the current COVID situation and updated its guidance to the congregation: The Session discussed the recent increase in COVID cases. As our ministry activities continue, the Session encourages our congregation to pray for a God-honoring conscience and for the strength to follow that conscience. Alongside these prayers, the Session asks that everyone be aware. Know your situation, your vaccination status, and the risk level for yourself and those around you. Be compassionate. As God's Word instructs us, consider others more important than yourself. Pray for a heart desiring to submit to Jesus, and not a heart desiring others to submit to you. The Session encourages face coverings to be worn by leaders and students in youth and children's ministry events. All participants are welcome. If you are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19, please do not attend any church events until an appropriate period of isolation/quarantine is complete. Finally, pray that God would bring this disease to an end, all diseases, and sin and death for his glory.
- The Pastor Search Committee reported that they are currently accepting resumes through the church website.
- Stewardship and Finance reported that as of July 31, member contributions were at 53% of the annual budget, and expenses from the general fund were at 51%. Thanksgiving was given for God's provision.
- Each committee reported on their work. Noted was the success of our 2021 Vacation Bible Music Camp, which welcomed 32 students.
- The process to receive church officer nominations for 2022 has begun. Congregation members are encouraged to submit officer nomination forms by Sunday, September 12. ■



PRAYER FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 5 - Wednesday Night Church Programs

SEPTEMBER 12 - First Responders

SEPTEMBER 19- Trinity Presbyterian Church Particularization, Rev. Justin Westmoreland, pastor

SEPTEMBER 26 - Bridge Europe Team

Discipleship

ROCK ON WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday in Fellowship Hall

Weekly Schedule

6:00 - Supper in Fellowship Hall
6:30 - Celebration of Community / Dismissal of Students
6:30-7:30 - Children's Program / Youth Program
6:45 - Main Program Rotation (See Below)
7:25 - Conclusion

Fellowship Meal Schedule:

On the first Wednesday, we will have a potluck dinner. FPC provides the main dish and dessert; you and your family are invited to bring a side dish to share.

All other Wednesdays, dinner will be provided by our kitchen crew. Please sign up each week. Donations are welcomed; the suggested donation is \$5/adult and \$2.50/child (\$15 family maximum).

Program Rotation

1st Wednesday - Potluck and Fellowship

2nd Wednesday - Breakout Night

Main Seminar: Church History - a brief sketch of our origins as a denomination and local church.
In All Things - Women's Book Study led by Rachel Smith

3rd Wednesday - Hymn Sing and Prayer Meeting

4th Wednesday - Bible Study

5th Wednesday - The Rock on Wednesday will NOT meet on 5th Wednesdays.

Fall Dates The Rock on Wednesday will NOT meet:

Sept 29, Nov 10 and 24, Dec 22 and 29

LARGE GROUP

THE HUB

Adult Large Group Class

The Hub meets Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall following the worship service. If you do not currently have a small group and are interested in exploring our Sunday morning adult discipleship, join us at The Hub for a sermon discussion led by a pastor or elder, fellowship, and refreshments. All are welcome!

Music Ministry

CHARLES-MARIE JEAN ALBERT WIDOR
1844-1937

From Vince Treadway

Perhaps the name above does not “ring a bell” for you, but if you have been at FPC for long, you will have heard one of Widor’s organ compositions every Easter for the past 11 years —the Toccata from his Fifth Symphony! Unfortunately, that is often the only piece some have heard of Widor. However, he also wrote ten symphonies for organ, stage works, sacred and secular vocal works, orchestral works, and miscellaneous instrumental works.

When I was studying organ, I asked one of my organ professors what a good life-long study would be. His reply was, “Go buy the best editions of all ten organ symphonies of Widor and learn them, and do the same with the Vierne symphonies.” So, being a dutiful student, I did just that! I learned all ten symphonies of Widor and have performed quite a few of them, although some are much more to my liking than others.

Widor came from a family of organ builders and showed great musical ability at a young age. He became an organist in Lyons, France, at the age of eleven! The great organ builder of Widor’s time was Cavaille-Coll, and he recommended that Widor study with Fétis and Lemmens, and so he did. Widor succeeded Louis Lefebure-Wély at St. Sulpice in Paris and served as organist there for 64 years! Widor trained some of the most prominent organists of his time, including Tournemire, Lebert, Vierne, Schmidt, Schweitzer, and Dupré.

Widor was known to be

witty, energetic, warm-hearted with natural reserve, demanding as a teacher but dedicated to his students. He was a virtuosic organist and played with rhythmic authority, accuracy and clarity. He was also a great improvisator. One can’t really talk about Widor without also mentioning Aristide Cavallé-Coll (1811-1899), who built the wonderful organ at St. Sulpice in Paris. Cavallé-Coll was one of the greatest innovators in organ building and made it possible to expand the size of organs greatly. Cavallé-Coll’s organ at St. Sulpice remains there today in its original state with the exception of electric blowers to provide the air rather than man-powered bellows.

Widor presided over that instrument and became renowned for his wonderful performances utilizing all of the power and color available on the amazing instrument at St. Sulpice. The organ, installed in 1862, has 101 stops, five manuals (keyboards), and the pedalboard. Widor’s compositions for the organ reflect all of the wonderful color and drama of the organ at St. Sulpice and are orchestral in nature. Many church musicians who have studied organ have learned registration (how to

set stops), pedaling, fingering, and improvisation using Widor’s compositions as a model. I had the privilege of performing a recital on the organ at St. Sulpice a few years ago, and it was a marvelous experience! I would encourage you to go to Youtube and listen to performances on the organ at St. Sulpice—they’re wonderful!

I am so grateful for the music and the wealth of knowledge that can be gained by studying Widor’s music. What a wonderful gift to the church, to musicians, and to music lovers alike! ■



SUMMER 2021

From Shane Miller

Last year, I had to make the difficult announcement that we would not be participating in any camps during the summer of 2020. It was a blow of disappointment for our students who look forward to these camps all year long. Emma Harrington, our summer intern, was a great help in planning summer events to compensate for the loss of camps. We were faithful in the difficult context of a pandemic, having to do youth ministry without actually meeting together. The Lord was gracious and blessed us greatly.

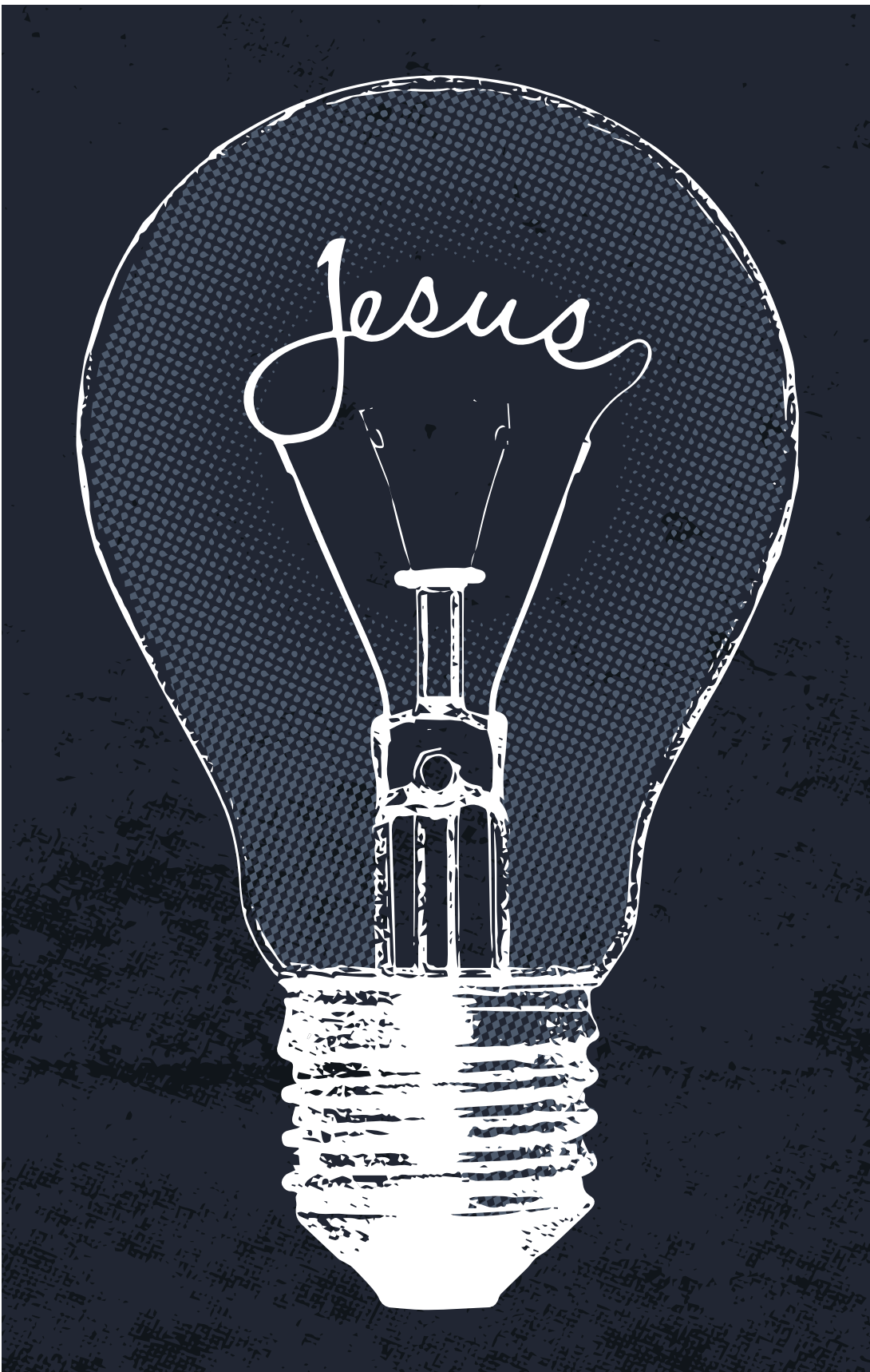
This year, though, I had the pleasure of announcing that camps were in session. There was a great response from the students. We took

a group of middle schoolers to Bonclarken, the ARP conference center located in Flat Rock, NC, for the middle school conference, Quest, and a group of high schoolers for the high school conference, Horizon. Additionally, the First Pres youth were able to attend the Care Center's Stay-At-Home Work Camp. I can certainly tell you it was worth the two-year wait. We had a blast. We spent late nights at diners, we discovered Hot Dog world, we zip-lined, we hiked, and we dove through waterfalls.

But most importantly, our students grew in their love for Jesus and his church. One text kept going through my mind during the three weeks of summer camps: "What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither

he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" (1 Cor. 3:5-7). For the past three and a half years, we have been planting the seeds of the gospel in these students. I cannot express the wonder of seeing another person water the seed that has been planted (maybe by the conference speaker giving a message or a seminar leader saying the right word at the right time) and God giving growth. When gospel light bulbs turn on in the minds and hearts of our students, it is reason to praise and give thanks to the God who is graciously turning on those light bulbs. The Lord worked in truly magnificent ways this summer.

I want to thank you for your prayers, for God to bless our summer. Please continue to pray for us as we gear up for another school year of youth ministry. Pray that our students would continue to grow in maturity in their love for Jesus and others. Pray that the gospel would be the abiding anchor of their souls. Pray for a blessing on our volunteers that the Spirit would equip and guide our students to minister to our students effectively. And also pray that God would raise more youth volunteers from our congregation. Most of all, pray that God would be glorified in the hearts of our students as he builds them up through his gospel. ■



Children's Ministry

HOLY SPIRIT AND HUMILITY

From Kelly Harrington

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

-Philippians 2:1-2

All relationships require work. Hopefully, this is something we figure out early in life. Our earliest relationships with family and friends are fertile learning grounds for figuring out how to get along with others. These first relationships reveal that we have a strong basic instinct for taking care of ourselves first, which can easily cause us a lot of stress and break down relationships when we don't get our way.

As children, it doesn't take long for us to figure out that the primary interest of everyone else is not taking care of me! Perhaps this is why a few of our "playground" lessons become such significant memories for us! Our inherent "me-first" nature indeed gets us fed and cared for when we are babies, but pretty quickly is confronted when we start to build relationships. (If your memory is a little foggy on this, stop by the church nursery for a few minutes to watch a few of our toddlers.)

We learn pretty quickly that we do not like *not* being first or getting our way. Fast forward many years and we figure out that we never really do, and we probably never will. It doesn't feel natural to put others first or to submit to what someone else wants. That's because it's not. It's not natural; it is supernatural! When we lay aside our wishes and wants for the desires and interests of others, it is the work of God in us; the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit to yield ourselves to the wants, needs, wishes, and benefit of others.

Paul surely knew this when he opened the discussion of humility in Philippians 2. Before he gives the powerful instruction for us to yield to the interests of others, to put others before ourselves, he aligns this teaching with the work of the Holy Trinity already at work in us. "If there is any encouragement from Christ, any comfort from love (...God is love; 1 John 4:8), and any participation in the Spirit..." (v. 1), as such are the necessary means by which Paul knows we need for godly

living. Put another way, without this union, we are highly unlikely to be of "the same mind, having the same love, and being in full accord and of one mind" (v. 2). Only by this divine power at work in us are we able to confront our natural selfishness and "do nothing out of selfish ambition and conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves" (v. 3).

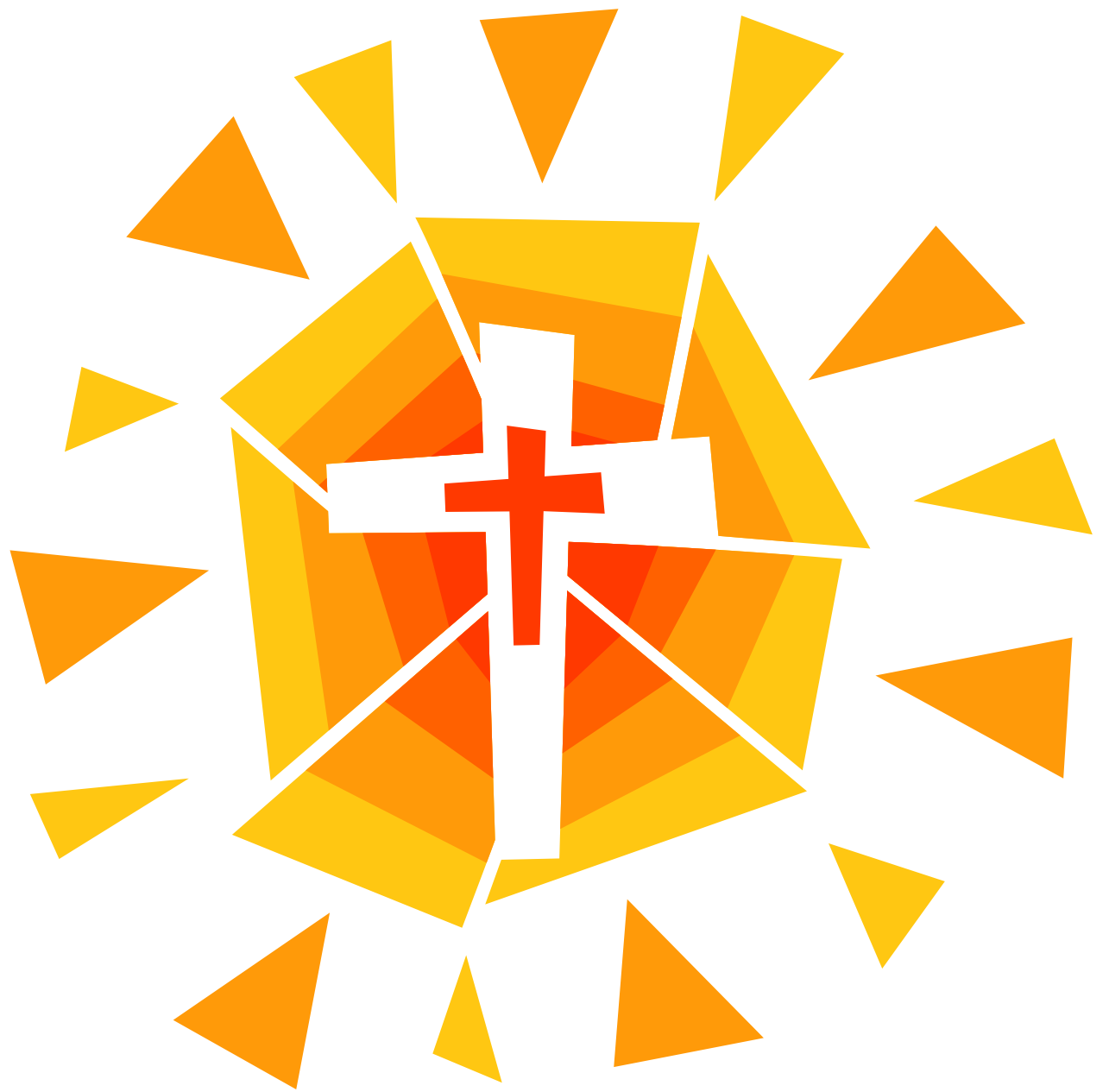
When we struggle to find unity, community, and peace in a relationship, it is often because we hold the other person responsible for our sense of security. We expect for the someone else to give us what we need and want so that we will be okay, secure, or happy. Jerry McQuire offered our culture a great lie! No one person has the power to "complete" anyone! The "you-complete-me" relationship, whether with a spouse, brother, daughter, coworker, or church, will inevitably fail to provide the security we hope to find.

In his book *The Meaning of Marriage*, Timothy Keller said that our disputes are the evidence of our self-centeredness. Many people think that selfishness is cultivated by abuse, wounds, and other relational problems, but Keller says that our human nature is entirely and wholly selfish on its own. He makes the point that all of our wounds and past hurts only aggravate our self-centeredness. The challenge is submitting our selfish nature to God and allowing him to transform us through faith in Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. Keller says the Christian principle that needs to be at work is spirit-generated self-less-ness.

To live in unity takes work! It's not my work on you or your work on me, but the work of the Holy Spirit to transform us into the likeness of Christ to reflect the glory of the Lord (1 Cor. 3:18). Consider how our relationships will be transformed when we surrender our hearts to the leading of the Holy Spirit and securely rely on his guidance to help us confront our self-centered perspective and look to the interest of others. I cannot emphasize enough that Paul set up his charge to humility by *first* reminding us of our union with the Holy Trinity! As we look to serve one another and consider the interests of others, let us remember the power we have through the "love of the Father, the encouragement of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit." May God's blessing be with us as we strive to live in unity with one another and reflect his glory in all that we do! ■

BIRTHDAYS

September 1, Elaine Rawlings
September 2, David Caldwell
September 3, Maggie Hunt
September 5, Patty McKeeman
September 5, Ed Lamar
September 7, Rachel Miller
September 8, Emma Harrington
September 8, Ger Lippert
September 8, Kay Klinefelter
September 9, Golda Carson
September 9, Kathleen Violette
September 10, Donald Krpata
September 10, Jaden Youmans
September 11, Babe Warren
September 11, Jan Lewis
September 12, Sam Wunker
September 13, Maija Baynes
September 13, Debbie Pace
September 14, Cecilia Smith
September 14, Tim Abele
September 14, Karla Campbell
September 16, LauraLynn Berkau
September 16, Dionne Kohl
September 17, Joe Swanson
September 18, Samuel Rode
September 20, Jill Smith
September 21, Kerry Klinefelter
September 22, Ed Lamb
September 24, Colton Bass
September 25, Hailey Hunt
September 25, Ron Campbell
September 25, Ella Harrington
September 27, Todd Sebring
September 27, Lorin Bice
September 27, Vicki Flint
September 28, Von Wilson
September 29, Isaac Miller
September 30, Donna Carter



ANNIVERSARIES

September 1, Dale & Carol Bourdette
September 6, Steve & Georgianna Sorensen
September 12, Edward & Kathy Enz
September 18, David & Cindy Caldwell
September 20, Loren & Nancy Furland
September 22, Jimmy & Jan Kahler
September 23, Charlie & Cindy Henry
September 23, Tom & Trish Kohl



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CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

2021

Mike Berkau
 Paul Benner
 Pat Frankenburger

2023

Scott Crews
 Doug Pace

2022

Frank Hunt III
 John Matteson
 Vince Treadway

2024

Daniel Hunt
 David Nelson
 Andy Hunt

DEACONS

2021

David Caldwell
 Michael Kahler
 Carl McCollum
 Tony Thomas

2023

Susan Coyne
 Bob Hulen
 Michael Matteson
 Karla Campbell

2022

Bea Meeker
 Aaron Nelson
 Mary Youmans
 Laura Hunt

Moderator: Rev. Mackay Smith
Clerk of Session: Doug Pace
Chairman of Deacons: Bob Hulen
Deacon Secretary: Susan Coyne
Chm. of the Congregation: Josh Behr
Treasurer: Michelle Hurst (2020-2021)
Asst. Treasurer: Daniel Hunt (2020-2021)