FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A CHURCHWIDE FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

BY PASTOR ANDREW GILMAN

The life of a follower of Jesus is full of God's grace and purpose both corporately and individually. That's just another way of saying that we are transformed by our relationship with Jesus in how we live together with others in the church as well as in our personal lives. Sanctification that takes place on an individual level works itself out at the community level.

These dynamics of discipleship and spiritual growth are not a one-way street. What we do on Sundays together as a church, listening to sermons, praying, singing, greeting and fellowshipping together. These activities undoubtedly play a large role in our sanctification according to God's plan for our lives. And yet the private time spent with God in study of His Word and prayer are also critical in God's program of transformation to Christ's image for each of those who belong to Him by faith. What we do individually at home in devoting ourselves to Christ individually plays a large role in God's work in our midst corporately as a church. (Cont. pg. 8)

KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER 1

Communion Worship

SEPTEMBER 8

Fall Kickoff

SEPTEMBER 21

Illumination with Matthew West

SEPTEMBER 27

Worship Night with Zack Eswine

SEPTEMBER 28

Fall Retreat with Zack Eswine PAGE 1

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 75. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

A. Sanctification is a work of God's grace for those whom God has chosen to be holy before the beginning of the world and to whom in time the powerful operation of the Spirit¹ applies the death and resurrection of Christ.² They are thus renewed in their whole persons after the image of God,³ have the seeds of repentance unto life and all the other saving graces put into their hearts,⁴ and these graces are so aroused, increased, and strengthened⁵ that they more and more die to sin and rise into newness of life.⁶

- 1. Eph 1.4, 1 Cor 6.11, 2 Thes 2.13.
- 2. Rom 6.4-6.
- 3. Eph 4.23-24.
- 4. Acts 11.18, 1 Jn 3.9, Rom 6.4-6, Eph 4.23-24, Phil 3.10.
- 5. Jude 20, Heb 6.11-12, Eph 3.16-19, Col 1.10-11.
- 6. Rom 6.4,6,14, Gal 5.24



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 | SEPTEMBER 2-6

Colossians 1

□ Colossians 2

Colossians 3

Colossians 4

☐ Colossians 1-4

WEEK 2 | SEPTEMBER 9-13

☐ Colossians 1

Colossians 2

☐ Colossians 3

Colossians 4

Colossians 1-4

WEEK 3 | SEPTEMBER 16-20

Colossians 1

Colossians 2

Colossians 3

□ Colossians 4

☐ Colossians 1-4

WEEK 4 | SEPTEMBER 23-27

Colossians 1

Colossians 2

☐ Colossians 3

Colossians 4

☐ Colossians 1-4

WEEK 5 | SEPTEMBER 30

Colossians 1-4

YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 3:23-25

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. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

BIRTHDAYS

09/01 Ryan Fields

09/02 Ginny Bertram

09/06 Charlene Thornhill

Paul Boyer

09/12 Marnelise van der Walt

09/13 Becky Luce

Mylee Hines

09/16 Shane Gilman

09/23 Sienna Gilman

ANNIVERSARIES

09/01 Kurt & Tina Smith

09/15 Ted & Holly Finnarn

09/24 Frank & Nikki Gilmore



EQUIP Greenville Fall Retreat 2024

Award-winning author, Zack Eswine is coming to FPC to teach YOU! This fall conference is \$20 per person. (Other local churches will be in attendance as they are familiar with Zack's books and teachings.) Visit the church app (FPCGreenville.ChurchTrac.com) on your phone or computer to register today and reserve your spot. Saturday will consist of two sessions with lunch in between: 10am-noon, 1pm-3pm. Join us for an evening worship service the Friday before to kick the weekend off!



ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Dr. Zack Eswine is Lead Pastor of Riverside Community Church near St. Louis, Missouri. He enjoys writing about life and ministry in Jesus, and blogs at preachingbarefoot.wordpress.com.

Zack has written a number of books including, Spurgeon's Sorrows: Realistic hope for those who suffer from depression, Sensing Jesus: Life and ministry as a human being, Recovering Eden: The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes, Preaching to a Post-Everything World, and Kindled Fire: How the methods of C.H. Spurgeon can help your preaching. Zach and his wife, Jessica, live with their three children, as a blended family, in Webster Groves.

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Paige Ervin

FALL KICKOFF

Fall ministries will begin on September 8! The fall term lasts 12 weeks and will wrap up the week of Nov. 24. Sign-ups for fall classes are available NOW at the Welcome Desk. (Confirmation class, Cover the Church, Book of Exodus Study, Women of the Word, Weekend Men's Transformation Study, Pastor's Bible Study, Weekend Women's Study, Tuesday night men's study, Golf ministry, Craft night, Life groups & more!). Volunteer role sign-ups are also at the Welcome Desk and include running the sound booth and livestream, leading Children's Church, caring for the Pre-K and babies, scripture reading, hospitality team with coffee in the Nook, greeters, and other odd jobs! Prayerfully consider where you might serve today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH APP AND ONLINE GIVING

Our church app has a calendar of all upcoming events, a directory of all FPC members (when logged in), registration for events, access to easy online giving and more! Our app is getting updated every week. Visit FPCGreenville. ChurchTrac.com on your internet browser (or scan the QR code on page 12) to access our app today. Giving on the app can be setup directly to your bank account or any credit card of your choosing. See Paige in the office to get help downloading the app, creating an account, or setting up your online giving.

LIFEWISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In a couple weeks, LifeWise (Bible education during school hours) classes will begin for all the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at Greenville. LifeWise's specific needs right now are volunteers to walk the kids to and from the school. The needed timeslots are Monday-Thursday 2:10-2:50pm, and 2:55-3:35pm. (The volunteer commitment would be for one of those days and one of those times each week.) We would love to be a church who is actively involved in this amazing ministry to the children in our community and ask that each of you pray about how God might have you be a part of it. See Paige in the office with any questions. Paige and Steve Headley volunteered last year and can share their experiences with you! Sign-up to be a volunteer by visiting lifewise.org/greenvilleoh.

ILLUMINATION MUSIC FESTIVAL

Illumination is back at the Fairgrounds again this year on Saturday, Sept. 21st with concerts beginning at 5:00pm. We can get tickets for \$25 per, when we order as a group. If you are interested in going, please let Paige know how many tickets you need.

FALL MINISTRIES

CRAFT NIGHT

Craft Night will meet on the third Thursday of the month, beginning 9/19, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Bring your own project to work on or just come and talk. This will be informal. Come when you can and leave when you need to. Everyone is welcome! Questions can be directed to Terri Fryman or Paige Ervin.

YOUTH GROUP

The first youth group of the fall will start on Monday, September 9th at 6pm! Youth should join the Band App or see Kelsey/Brandon Ervin for more updates.

BOOK OF EXODUS STUDY

Craig Leland will lead this adult class on Sundays, after church. First meeting is Sept. 15th in the Nook!

WOMEN OF THE WORD

Copies of the book "Women of the Word" are available at the Welcome Desk. Pick up your copy today. They are \$8 apiece. The first meeting for the study is Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class begins Sunday, September 8 at 9am. Students and parents, please be on time as this is a shorter 30-minute class. Binders will be given out at the first class. Parent and student binders will be \$10 per. We encourage parents to have at least one binder to keep notes of their own in during the class.



PRAYER

August 2024 Prayer Updates:

08/10/2024: Please be in prayer for Michele Good's mom. She fell after a wedding today, and is getting X-rays on her upper mouth and left hand.

08/09/2024: Thank you for your prayers! Sarah's surgery went fantastic. (She had a prophylactic mastectomy to reduce her risk of breast cancer, as it runs in the family.)

08/09/2024: Pete and Louann Haviza's daughter, Sarah Smalligan, is having surgery today at 9 AM in the Indianapolis area. Please keep her in your prayers!

08/08/2024: Sammy Howell's fever went down, and he was able to go home! However, he tested positive for Covid. Prayers for good health for the family are appreciated!

08/07/2024: Please pray for Sammy Howell. He had convulsions and they called the squad for him. He is breathing normally now, but please continue to pray for the family.

08/07/2024: Please continue to pray for Amanda and that she would have a quick recovery. The pain management has been hard, and she will be staying another night at Wayne.

08/07/2024: Carol Funderburg has gone home to be with our Lord and Savior. Please continue to keep the family in your prayers. We will keep you updated on service times.

08/06/2024: Amanda made it through her surgery and will hopefully go home tomorrow. Please pray that her pain would be minimal and that she would get some much-needed rest!

08/06/2024: Carol Funderburg is currently in hospice care. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

08/06/2024: Amanda Hines is going back in for surgery at 1pm for a bladder laceration. After severe pain last night, a CT scan showed the problem this morning. Please pray!

08/05/2024: Amanda Hines had a successful surgery and is now in recovery for the next 6-8 weeks. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for her recovery!

FPC LIFE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who stuck around and attended the Congregational Meeting on August 25 after worship. There was good discussion on the new policy for hosting funeral meals at FPC. Your feedback was greatly appreciated. Thank you, too, for your attention to the Bylaws. The amendments brought forth by the session passed unanimously.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

The FPC Deacons and staff once again represented FPC by serving at the Spiritual Life Center on Tuesday, August 20. Thank you to Cathy Cornell, Susie Leland, Pastor Andrew, Paige Ervin and Ginny Bertram for their help serving and planning. Thank you to those of you who donated water to be handed out as well!



FPC KIDS SPECIAL

By Cora Ervin

***Look to hear from another one of our VBS Kids next month!



FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

I had my first day of kindergarten this week. This is my last year at Montessori before I get to go to Aunt Keke's school! I am excited to be at Aunt Keke's school and spend more time in her art room. She lets me paint and watch movies. Kindergartners get their own desk at my school, and we help the preschoolers. Gigi is a preschooler this year and I play with her at school. Kindergartners do dance class on Thursdays. Last year I danced on Tuesday. I am so excited to be a big kid and spend time in the orange room during church with Mylee. She is my best friend!

First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio Minutes of the Session of June 13, 2024

I. Opening

A. Call meeting to order with reading of the Word and prayer

The June 2024 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on June 13, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church at 7 PM by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

Members Present: Rebecca Detling, Peter Haviza, Randy Tester, Lisa Headley, Craig Leland, Jan Roestamadji and Pam Bowman after 7:10 PM. (7). Quorum was met.

Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda A motion was made to approve the agenda by Craig Leland and seconded by Lisa Headley. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Minutes Randy Tester motioned to approve the May 2024 minutes. This motion was seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 6-0.

II. Agenda Items

May 2024 Presbytery Meeting (Pastor Gilman)

Pastor Gilman verbally reported on highlights of Presbytery in Michigan. Among the items mentioned included a paper dealing with racial reconciliation, the possibility of a friend of Andrew's planting a new church, and another pastor leaving the EPC because of sexual orientation issues.

Financial Report Jan Roestamadji presented a brief report. Jan mentioned that receipts for May 2024 were in the amount of \$12,044. Jan also reported on a special donation for the Ervin girls. She also noted expenses for supplies/postage, copier lease, and ministry groups. Other expenses reported on included likely costs for vacation bible school, children's ministry and the festival of the risen king. A motion was made by Pam Bowman to accept the financial report. This was seconded by Lisa Headley and passed 7-0.

Parish Life (Rebecca Detling) Rebecca mentioned that Father's Day was approaching and that she had plans (bacon!) for the men in our church. She also noted that the former electric oven was defective and was replaced by Randy Tester and that the Dickersons had donated a new microwave after the old one had stopped working. No vote was required on any of these items.

Mission Report Pastor Gilman is soon off the Kazakhstan to support EPC efforts in spreading Christianity to that land. Pam Bowman motioned that Pastor Andrew will be given \$500 cash for incidentals for the 5 days in Kazakhstan doing teaching and mission work. He will keep a simple log of expenditures and will return any unused cash. This motion was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 7-0.

Worship Committee New communion wares/trays are necessary. The committee is suggesting a brass tone for presenting the wine and stainless steel for the juice. This will also aid in telling the two liquids apart. The cost for these items that have a capacity to serve 120 parishioners is \$329.80. Craig Leland

motioned to accept the proposal, which was seconded by Pam Bowman and passed 7-0.

Education Committee FYI-A new small group format is being considered as are Fall Educational offerings.

Building Storm damage and roof repair are necessary after the May tornado in Greenville. Cotterman has made a damage assessment on shingle issues, gashes in the flat roof, caulking and replacement of a Plexiglass covering. The estimate for undertaking these repairs is \$6,700. Jan Roestamadji motioned to go ahead with this work. This was seconded by Rebecca Detling and passed 7-0.

Executive Session Jan Roestamadji motioned to go into Executive session. This motion was seconded by Lisa Headley and passed 7-0.

Trustee Committee Bylaws Update

Vote to modify Section IV was motioned by Rebecca Detling and seconded by Lisa Headley. The motion passed 7-0.

Vote to modify Section 5A was motioned by Rebecca Detling and seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 7-0.

Pastor's Report Pastor Gilman submitted a written report, but due to the lateness of the hour, did not orally review these items. Peter Haviza motioned to accept the report, seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 7-0.

Deacon's Meeting A written Deacon's report was not submitted this month.

III. Closing

Prayer. A closing prayer was made by Andrew Gilman.

Adjournment. Pam Bowman motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 7-0.

John Vehre Andrew Gilman

Clerk of Session Moderator of Session

UPCOMING LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

DEACONS	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024	7:00PM
STAFF	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024	7:00PM
SESSION	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024	7:00PM

A CHURCHWIDE FOCUS (CONT.)

This year at FPC we want to heighten our focus on God's Word in our daily routines and priorities. Creating new routines is always difficult. Creating new routines in areas of life that are low on our list of priorities is even harder. Ultimately, we would like to say that our hearts are so thankful for God's love and forgiveness that we would willingly and regularly carve out time to spend with Him each day. Perhaps you have had seasons of life where that is the case. There are other times in life where we feel this is not how we would characterize our spiritual habits.

The truth is that our feelings shift on any given day and if we were to wait until we feel the mood strike us to spend time with God, we will find ourselves increasingly passing this time by for the business of daily life. Our spiritual health will suffer if we do not commit ourselves to this discipline of spending time with the Lord; reading His Word and praying about what we find there. This is a spiritual discipline of the Christian Walk that many call—a quiet time with the Lord.

Quiet time is the intentional time spent with God in meditative silence. It is intentional time spent with a lifelong friend. It is one on one time with the Creator of the universe. It is soul restorative moments of rejuvenation. Quiet time can be a set time or intermittent moments where you steal away in order to connect with your Abba father.

Why is quiet time with God important?

The importance of quiet time is best explained by understanding its connection to our prayer life. Personal time with God is often thought of as prayer, and in many ways, it is. Let's consider prayer the way God created it. Prayer is a two-way conversation, but too often modern society sees prayer as a one-way list of requests. Often our prayers stop when we stop talking. But God's intention for prayer was that it was a two-way communication. It "stops" when God answers us.

We all know that the Bible instructs us to pray without ceasing. We certainly should be willing

and able to pray to God throughout our day. But this notion of quiet time set aside to be with the Lord in prayer is distinct from that more continuous attitude and practice of prayer. This is the time that we willingly set aside to be alone, unimpeded or interrupted, with the Lord.

Alone time with God takes this difference between God's intention for prayer and our actual realization of prayer into consideration. Quiet time makes allowance for the two-way nature of prayer. Other benefits of quiet time include:

- Restoration through intentional quietness
- Connection with God is increased
- Time to listen to God
- Grow in faith through the understanding of God's word
- Helps us slow down and remove ourselves from the busyness

Spending time with God is not only beneficial but also necessary. Time in the presence of God is time well spent. It's time where we get to steward the health of our souls well.

Bible verses about spending time with God

In the beginning of the Bible, we are told that God created everything, He created man and woman, and then He walked alongside those first humans. God's initial design was communion with himself. He desired that we would walk with him and grow in him. But we are flawed, and we chose a different path. Since the beginning and the fall, God's been restoration.

The Bible is full of examples of people finding ways to walk with God and get away to be restored by God's presence. The following scriptures about quiet time give us a better indication of the benefits and importance of spending quiet time with God.

He says, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

A CHURCHWIDE FOCUS (CONT.)

One of the hallmarks of quiet time is the stillness that it requires. This isn't so much a stillness of body, some people find that their quiet time is spent best while hiking or doing some other physical activity. The stillness that this verse reminds us of is a stillness of mind and heart. It is a quieting of the thoughts and emotions that try to compete with the significance of god's voice in our lives. Our quiet time with God gives us a chance to be still and know or remember that God is God.

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. (James 4:8)

This verse about quiet time encourages us that God's presence accompanies our call. When we are intentional about drawing near to Him, he honors that move and his presence is revealed. As we chose to find ways to grow spiritually and to better our relationship with God, he shows us that He has always been with us.

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:6)

This quiet time verse gives us some direction for how we should approach our quiet time. Instead of making our time spent with God a public display, we should instead find a quiet place where we can focus our undivided attention on God.

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. (Psalm 62:1)

Restoration is one of the truly great benefits of quiet time. Our souls can become weary from all of the stress of day-to-day life, and the problems of society. When all around you, there is uncertainty and crisis, the Lord is our Salvation and personal time with Him can heal!

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

This may perhaps be the most important scripture on this list of verses about quiet time. Our Savior had quiet time. In his time on Earth he modeled what life should look like for us. He modeled humility, serving, kindness, unconditional love, and how to live a connected life. He constantly took the time to go away and pray.

His connection to the Father while complete was enhanced for us by his constant willingness to make deliberate space to meet with God. We should look to him and follow his lead in understanding that NOTHING should stand between you and God's Love. Nor should you let the business of your day interfere with the important matter of spending time with God.

Here are some thoughts on how to get started.

How do you spend time with God?

1. Set the atmosphere

Whether you enjoy calming music, a hike in nature, sitting on the beach, or complete darkness. The first step in spending time with God is to set the atmosphere. Welcome his presence by removing distractions. This could be your cell phone or making sure that the room you will be using is organized and decluttered.

2. Prepare your heart

The second step is to prepare your heart. This is an early prayer for me. This is asking God's presence into your space. You can do this through worship and prayer. Pray that God would not only show up, but also show you were there may be separation between you and him. Repent for any sins you can remember committing and ask for forgiveness for those which you may have done unintentionally.

A CHURCHWIDE FOCUS (CONT.)

You can also turn over any significant issues on your mind to him. This could be family issues, work issues, health issues. All of the things that could start to seem overwhelming when you dive into intentional quiet time.

3. Read his word

The next step is to dive into God's word. You could do a topical bible study, or verse mapping. Maybe you have a reading plan that walks you through the entire bible. Whatever the plan for reading the word of God, do it. Reading his word is a way to better know his voice. When you know what he has said in the past, you can more easily distinguish his voice from others in the presence. You can read a chapter or just a few verses. This reading is not a matter of getting through the Bible in a year. It is to be a small portion of God's Word that you search and labor over in your heart as you seek God's voice and will for your life.

4. Meditate on the word

After reading you will want to meditate on the word of God. This will likely be where the quiet time begins. As you read his word, go slowly, stop when a word or a phrase sticks out to you. You can underline these words and phrases to review now or later.

This meditation time can also be less active. You can also simply begin dwelling on the words. After reading through the passage a few times. Think on the words or phrases that stick out in your memory. Contemplate these quietly.

5. Listen for his voice

This is the step where things can be difficult for the person who is new to quiet time with God. This step you are simple still and quiet. At this stage of your quiet time you want to be conscious about minimizing distractions. You will want to make sure to focus on the quiet voice.

When you find a thought that does not seem of God come up, you can acknowledge it and then return your mind to those words or phrases from your meditation of God's word. When you are just starting out, you can set a timer. Start small, perhaps 5 minutes of calm silence is enough to begin. Gradually you can increase that time.

6. Write down His answer

The last step in learning how to have quiet time with God is to write down what he says to you. It could be those words or phrases that stood out to you during your meditation on his word. It could also be a revelation about his character or about your own. It could be a sin you had forgotten or a dream he has for you. Whatever it is, use your prayer journal and write these things down.

This allows you to be constantly reminded of God's faithfulness in your life and thus allows you to continue to walk in faith in the plans he has for you.

If we will each individually commit to our personal spiritual health by spending this time in God's Word, we will also become a more vibrant and healthy community of worshippers on Sundays. Let's spend this year pursuing God's plans and purposes for us as believers and as a church. Praise God that He has such wonderful plans for each of us. Let's build into our daily lives a priority to spend this time with God.



SEPTEMBER 2024

29 8:30am Worship Team Rehears 9am Confirmation Class 9:30am Cover the Church (Praye 10am Worship 11:30am Exodus Study	22 8:30am Worship Team Rehears 9am Confirmation Class 9:30am Cover the Church (Prays 10am Worship 11:30am Exodus Study	15 8:30am Worship Team Rehearsa 9am Confirmation Class 9:30am Cover the Church (Praya 10am Worship 11:30am Exodus Study	8 8:30am Worship Team Rehears: 9am Confirmation Class 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray: 10am Worship	SUN 1 Communion Sunday 9am Worship Team Rehearsal 9:30am Cover the Church (Praye 10am Worship
30	23 • 6pm Youth Group	16	9 • 6pm Youth Group • 7pm Deacons Meeting	MON 2
Oct 1 • 6:30pm Men's Study • 6:30pm Women of the Word	24 • 6:30pm Men's Study • 6:30pm Women of the Word	17 • 6:30pm Men's Study • 6:30pm Women of the Word	10 • 6:30pm Men's Study • 6:30pm Women of the Word	TUE 3
2 • 10:30am Bible Study	25 • 10:30am Bible Study	18 • 10:30am Bible Study	11 • 10:30am Bible Study	WED 4 • 10:30am Bible Study
3 • 7pm Staff Meeting	26	19 • 6:30pm Craft Night (Bring your o	12 • 7pm Session Meeting	THU 5 • 7pm Staff Meeting
Office Closed	27 Office Closed 7pm Fall Retreat Worship Night	Office Closed	Midwest Presbytery Meeting in Auburn, Indiana Office Closed	FRI 6 Office Closed
8:30am Men's Study	28 • 10am Fall Retreat (EQUIP Green	21 Illumination Music Festival	14 urn, Indiana	SAT 7 • 8:30am Men's Study



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LIVE THE

Story of Redemption

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

