

Church Creek Presbyterian

CHARLESTON, SC

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

Spring-Summer 2024 Newsletter



An Anchor for the Changing Soul

Pastor Nick Batzig

Every one of us lives in a constant state of change. The acknowledgement of this fact often leaves believers grieved by their responses to the trials of life, as well as by their lack of spiritual progress. They know how they should respond in the storms of life, and that they are supposed to be growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ; but they frequently find themselves sinking under the tumultuous difficulties and "stumbling in many ways" ([James 3:2](#)). When we do the things we do not want to do ([Rom. 7:15-20](#)), we discover a spiritual unrest welling up in the soul. This is, in itself, a gracious working since it is meant to lead us back to God for pardon and power. However, the sense of grief over the ways that we have sinned against God does not restore spiritual stability to our souls. Only the unchangeable character of God can do this in light of the fulfillment of His promises in Christ.

Our family has long loved singing Horatius Bonar's hymn, "I Hear the Words of Love." My favorite lines in that hymn are those in which Bonar contrasts the ever-changing nature of sinful man with the unchangeable nature of the risen and reigning Christ:

"My love is oftentimes low,
My joy still ebbs and flows,
But peace with Him remains the same,
No change my Savior knows.
I change, He changes not;
The Christ can never die;
His love, not mine, the resting-place,
His truth, not mine, the tie."

Though the winds of change blow around us, and though our affections for Christ ebb and flow, we find a resting place to which we return in the truth that Jesus is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" ([Heb. 13:8](#)). The same Jesus who calmed the winds and the waves with a word is the same Jesus who today can calm our troubled hearts with a word ([Luke 8:24](#)). The Jesus who wept at the tomb of Lazarus is the Jesus who now sympathizes with us in our weaknesses ([Heb. 4:16](#)). The Christ who hung on the cross and cried out, "Father, forgive them," is the same Christ who continues to be an advocate for His people when they sin ([1 John 2:1-2](#)). Having died once for the sins of His people, Jesus can never die again. "He *always* lives . . ." to care for the needs of believers.

Reflecting on this truth, Sinclair Ferguson notes,

"If I had been the author of Hebrews . . . I would have said, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.' I mean, that fits better, doesn't it? It kind of is the universe of discourse. You're talking about yesterday, today, tomorrow, and he is the same tomorrow, but the glorious thing is that he is the same all tomorrows."

This should stir up my heart--no matter how cold my affections may be, and no matter how far I have turned from Him--to return to Him. The same unchangeable character of Christ is the unchangeable character of God. The writer of Hebrews expressed this in the strongest possible way, when he explained the unchangeable nature of God and His covenant promises that have been fulfilled in Christ. He wrote,

"When God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" ([Heb. 6:17-20](#))."

When we acknowledge the instability of our hearts in the midst of the storms of life, we need the hope of a spiritual anchor for our souls. The unchanging Christ is the anchor. He has entered the heavenly places for His people--having finished the work of redemption. He has fulfilled the eternal purposes of God and the covenant promises given to Abraham. In his commentary on Hebrews, John Owen explained the importance of the metaphor when he wrote,

"The souls of believers are sometimes exposed unto storms; and a stress of spiritual dangers, persecutions, afflictions, temptations, fears, sin, death, and the law, do make up these storms that oftentimes beat upon them . . . There are degrees in them, and some are far more urgent than others, as storms are of various sorts; but generally, all of them have one degree or other of fierceness and violence . . .

. . . All true believers are exposed to storms and tempests in this world.—This makes anchors so necessary for them. The wise God would not have provided an anchor for them, and enjoined its use, if he had not known they would be exposed unto storms. He that dwells at peace in his house, of all things thinks least of an anchor. But we are to look for storms. Suppose we might pass our time of sojourning here without outward troubles,—which yet he is exceedingly unwise who promises unto himself any such thing, whilst we are in the flesh, and accompanied with so many occasions of distress on every hand,—yet who can escape from those inward trials, exercises, and troubles, from temptations, darkness, sin, and the law, wherewith we are often tossed and afflicted, and it may be for a season not comforted?"¹

The Christian can have the strongest possible confidence that God cannot and will not change. He cannot and will not lie. This means that even when I feel most unstable in my ever-changing affections, God and His promise does not change. This gives us the greatest possible encouragement to go to Him, casting ourselves and our burdens upon Him--knowing that He will always undertake for those who come to Him in faith ([1 Pet. 5:7](#)). After all, the covenant-keeping Redeemer, Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

1. John Owen, *An Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews*, ed. W. H. Goold, vol. 22, Works of John Owen (Edinburgh: Johnstone and Hunter, 1855), 284–285.

Upcoming Events



April 18-21 | Fred Greco – On April 18, Pastor Fred Greco will be speaking to our CCP officers from 5:30-9:00pm in the fellowship hall. On Saturday, April 19, Pastor Greco will fellowship with the men of the church for the next men’s breakfast from 8:00-10:15am in the fellowship hall. He will preach for us on Sunday morning, April 21, at Church Creek. On Sunday evening, April 22, Pastor Greco will preach for the joint worship service at Redeemer Presbyterian.

April 21 | Joint Evening Service – We will have a joint Evening Service at Redeemer Presbyterian Church (43 Wentworth Street). Fred Greco will be preaching for us. A dessert reception will follow immediately after the service. If you have any questions about directions or parking, please email Claire at office@church-creek.org.

April 28 – Fellowship Lunch – Please join us after the morning worship service for a time of food and fellowship! Brown sugar glazed ham, green beans, whipped potatoes, tossed salad with ranch and balsamic dressing, and banana pudding will be provided.

Adult Sunday School Spring Series



The Adult Sunday School class is working through a new Sunday School series on the Miracles in Luke. The class begins at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

April 14 - Introduction to the Miracles

April 21 - The Paralytic (Luke 5:17-26)

April 28 - The Calming of the Storm (Luke 8:22-25)

May 5 - The Gadarene Demoniac (Luke 8:26-39)

May 12 - The Woman with the Flow of Blood (Luke 8:43-48)

May 19 - Jairus's Daughter (Luke 8:40-42, 49-56)

May 26 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand (Luke 9:10-17)

All Sunday School classes will be suspended for the Summer
(June - August 2024)



We are so excited to announce the launching of Small Groups this Fall! Groups will be formed geographically. If you are interested in hosting occasionally or on a regular basis, please email Claire at office@church-creek.org. More info to come!

“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 10:24-25



Recently, the session approved Pastor Nick Batzig and DB Cumming’s desire to co-host a regular podcast. *The Gospel Grammar Podcast* exists to work through important theological subjects, interview pastors, theologians, and authors, and provide resources to help listeners grow in their knowledge of scripture in the doctrines of the Christian faith and reformed tradition.

Pastor Nick and DB have already had the opportunity to sit down and record an episode with Dr. G.K. Beale. They will be recording their second episode with Pastor Fred Greco on Friday, April 19, 2024. The podcast website is expected to be online sometime in May 2024. We will share more details as we are able!

Ministry Committees

Audio/Video

The Audio/Video Team has been working with a local A/V company to improve our sound and video quality. They have made improvements to the audio in the worship service, and they are installing a new A/V setup in the fellowship hall as we prepare for growth. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please email Josh at stone282@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry and Nursery

We are thrilled to have Heidi Roope entering into her new role as Children's Ministry Coordinator. She is working on planning events for children and families, a catechism program, and improvements to our children's ministry spaces. One of the biggest service needs at CCP presently is for more individuals to help serve on a Sunday School teaching and assisting rotation for K-5th Grade. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the children's ministry at CCP or are interested in serving in some capacity, please reach out to Heidi Roope at ccpkids@church-creek.org.

There is also always a need for more nursery workers to help free our young mothers up to be a part of the worship service. If you are not already doing so and would like to be a part of a rotating schedule on Sundays, please email our Nursery Coordinator, Brook Rhodes, at nursery@church-creek.org. Background checks are required.

Food/Fellowship

The Food and Fellowship Committee coordinates church-wide fellowship events and assists with other church functions. We have an upcoming fellowship meal following the service on April 28. If you are interested in serving on the Food/Fellowship Committee, please contact Jessica Clark at jessicac Clark78@yahoo.com.

Greeters

The greeters are often the first people visitors see when they come to Church Creek. They serve a vital role in welcoming both newcomers and members alike and in getting visitor information about our church. The Greeting Team is constantly seeking to implement ways that will best meet the assimilation needs of our growing congregation.

The Greeters Ministry is in need of more volunteers. If you enjoy meeting new people and sharing about what the Lord is doing at CCP, please contact Tripp and Lindsay Wiles at lindsaywiles@yahoo.com.

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper Team ensures that we have all the supplies needed for the sacraments, and they prepare the elements on Sunday mornings when we observe the Lord's Supper. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Cris Dickason at cdickason1126@comcast.net.

Missions

The Missions Committee stays in touch with, prays for, and communicates the needs of the missionaries we support to the officers and congregation. The Missions Committee recently hosted the Foucachons--missionaries in Paris, France--and heard an encouraging update on the Lord's work in their ministry. Richard and Robin Cooper will be visiting them in Paris this summer.

As we have begun supporting new missionaries, we are always looking for more volunteers who are excited about partnering with our foreign missionaries for the spread of the gospel. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Missions Committee or are interested in serving in some capacity, please contact Richard Cooper at richardgarycooper@yahoo.com.

Skilled musicians

As we continue to develop our music ministry, we will be looking for men and women who wish to use their musical gifts. If you would like to explore the possibility of serving in the music ministry, please reach out to Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.

Social Media Development – If you are proficient in the use of social media platforms, graphic design, or photography and have the desire to volunteer in this ministry, please email Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry Committee has been organizing the women's Bible study, which meets every other Wednesday morning and evening in the fellowship hall. They have hosted women's fellowship events, such as the Ladies' Tea. The committee is making plans for a summer study and some upcoming fellowship events. Please contact Katie Guffey at kgguffey23@gmail.com for more information.

Prayer Requests

We seek to update a monthly prayer sheet and will resume our monthly Prayer & Praise Service on the last Sunday evening in May. We encourage all to attend this important service in the life of our church.

In addition to the many ongoing needs of our congregation, please commit to praying for the following:

- Please pray that the Lord will give the officers of the church wisdom, love, and faithfulness as they seek to sacrificially lead the congregation.
- Pray for the elders and deacons as they seek to formulate plans regarding facility and property needs for our growing congregation.
- Pray for opportunities to reach out to family members, neighbors, and co-workers with the gospel.
- Ask the Lord to give us a greater desire to be in the word, family worship, and regular Lord's Day worship.

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