



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 61 No. 04

May 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Your Next Step in Discipleship

Every Sunday we talk about how our mission as a church is to take the Gospel to Carson City and beyond. On the one hand it's unsurprising that we would talk about this – testifying to the Gospel is the job of every church in every place at every time. On the other hand, it's an audacious mission. Do we really believe that we can be part of the transformation of people's lives at the most fundamental level? Have you tried to change *yourself* lately? Was that an easy thing to do? And now we're talking about changing *others*!?

I've been reading snatches of a fascinating book lately when my schedule allows: Alan Kreider's *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*. This book seeks to explain how the early church could have grown at such an astounding rate. One common set of numbers given to describe that growth are to begin at 1,000 Christians in AD 40, growing to 33,882,005 Christians in AD 350. That's growth at an average of 40% per decade, and that through times of hostility and persecution as well! Would you like to see that happen in our church, and all the churches in Carson City?

So how did the early church do it? It wasn't a matter of an evangelism strategy. "The Christian's focus was not on 'saving' people or recruiting them; it was on living faithfully – in the belief that when people's lives are rehabilitated in the way of Jesus, others will want to join them." In my own words I'd say it this way: The life Jesus offers is really the good life – it's the life that makes us good, and when we live it we absolutely *glory* in its goodness! The transformation of God's people into the way of Jesus is the most convincing proof that it is true.

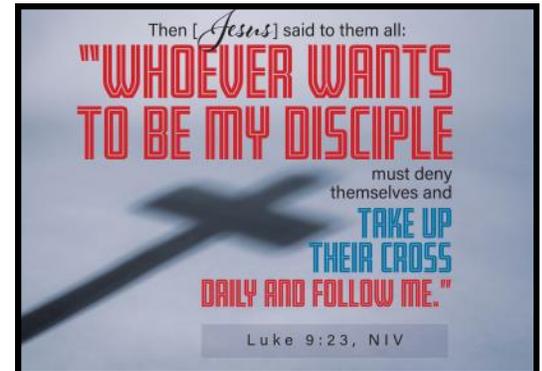
But here's where it gets a bit sticky – we don't always look a lot like Jesus, do we? Sometimes it seems like we are slogging on in our discipleship without making much progress. Sometimes the way of Jesus seems not only hard, but even joyless and dry. Why is that, and can we experience something different?

We need to remember that Jesus is calling us out of the old world and into his new world, characterized by resurrection. The Scriptures describe this process with the analogy of taking off old clothes, and putting on new ones. "[You were taught to] **put off your old self** - which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to **put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph. 4:22-24)

The early church believed that this didn't happen overnight, but was part of a dedicated submission to Jesus in community with his people by the power of the Holy Spirit. As an example let's take the third century Christian, Cyprian.

Cyprian was a wealthy and influential man in Carthage, modern day Tunisia, and then part of the Roman Empire. "Cyprian knew the attractions of this world: its splendid banquets, its clothing that glittered with gold and purple, and its eminence that drew crowds of clients [people who depended on Cyprian for help and who gave him honor in return]." (Kreider, 137). But Cyprian found that, although he had everything, he was miserable. He wondered, "could someone who 'has been used to liberal banquets and sumptuous feasts... learn thrift?' Could he be content with 'ordinary and simple clothing' or find happiness without the buzz of fawning supplicants?" (Kreider, 137). Cyprian met a Christian named Caecilianus who seemed to have the answers to his questions. Caecilianus taught Cyprian about Jesus and sponsored him within the church so that he could be trained as a Christian.

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Cyprian didn't know if he could really change, if he could really be made new and leave his old life behind. At times it seemed possible; there were flashes of not only doing the things that Christians were commanded by Jesus, but finding satisfaction in them. But there were also periods of falling away, of failing to live in the life of Jesus and returning to his old life of excess. Nonetheless, Cyprian finished his period in the catechumenate and received baptism. After this, Cyprian wrote,

“By the help of the water of new birth, the stain of former years had been washed away, and a light from above, serene and pure, had been infused into my reconciled heart, - after that, by the agency of the Spirit breathed from heaven, a second birth had restored me to a new man; - then, in a wondrous manner, doubtful things at once began to assure themselves to me... what before had seemed difficult began to suggest a means of accomplishment, what had been thought impossible, to be capable of being achieved.” (Kreider, 138).

So what can we take away from this? First, pay attention to how you live. Are the choices you are making, the media you are consuming, and the things you organize your life around building and reinforcing Christ's life in you, or are they building and reinforcing the old life that is passing away? What are you putting on and taking off?

Second, seek someone to help disciple you. Who do you look up to for their Christian maturity, or who is someone mature in the faith you share life with? Ask for help in understanding your life and how it corresponds (or doesn't) to the life Jesus offers. You can do this through a mentoring relationship, like Cyprian and Caecilius, or in a regular friendship where two or more people disciple each other.

Finally, take advantage of the means of grace. Share in the Lord's Supper with the Church. Hear the Word proclaimed in your community of faith. And most of all, if you haven't been baptized, you absolutely must be. Not in order to be saved, although baptism is connected to our salvation (1 Pet. 3:21), but in order to fully receive the gifts that come through the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus. If you've been baptized before, you don't need to be baptized again, because whatever your intentions and understanding in your baptism, God knew what He was doing and He did it. On the other hand, you may be at a place in your life where you realize God is doing a good thing, and you need to recognize it. If that's what's happening, you can reaffirm your baptism by confirming your faith and renouncing that old life apart from Jesus. If you're ready to commit to baptism, or if you desire to reaffirm that baptism, let us know at the church office and we'll work on getting you ready for that.

As Christians we know the light of the world, and as the people of Jesus Christ we are able to reflect that light for the sake of our neighbors, and for the glory of our God. Let's rededicate ourselves to the One who is worthy!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Ian



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR

JUNE/JULY

Is May 17

Send your info / articles / submissions to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

Congregational Giving
Financial Update as of
April 15, 2024

THANK YOU, ALL!!

Family Ministries

Following the worship service on Easter Sunday, the elementary kids looked high and low for the eggs hidden by the Youth during service. Thanks to everyone's generosity, there were more than enough eggs to go around. Everyone had a fun time, and I think, maybe, the Youth had the most fun of all. This has become a tradition, and our kids are looking forward to the day when they can hide eggs.



What's happening in Family Ministries?

We've held meetings recently to see how we can love and serve the Youth in Carson City. We have three plans in place:

1. Youth nights for our existing Youth - Think pizza, activities and study time.
2. Opening our facility to local Youth with snacks, tutoring and gym time.
3. The Alpha Youth program - A nine week series designed to inspire teens to engage in meaningful discussions about faith and life's biggest questions; with a "soft launch" in the Fall and really delving in during the Spring.

We have a spot for you and your gifts and talents. Please pray for our teens!

Upcoming Dates:

May 5 - Cinco de Mayo Nacho Bar at Fellowship Time - Bring your favorite nacho topping to share. Chips will be provided.

May 18 - Easy hike to the waterfall above Carson City

June 15 - TBD

July 7 - Independence Day BBQ following worship service - chips and hot dogs

July 20 - Ice Cream Social

August 25 - Possible Aces baseball game

=other events to be added=



Singing Brings Us Closer to God

Every year I look forward to Springtime and the new growth of everything blooming. Like Spring, we are renewed with Easter and the celebration of "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!" The music that we sing during this time is full of joy and hope, knowing we have been saved by our Savior, Jesus Christ. Singing is a ministry that belongs to all the people of God. It isn't just the Chancel Choir or Praise Team that are the primary choirs, but it is also the congregation. The role of professional or volunteer choirs and musicians is to aid the whole people of God in their worship. Congregational singing, however, is essential. As a member of the congregation actively engaged in worship and prayer while listening to the Chancel Choir singing an anthem, or the Praise Team singing a solo, the Congregation needs to be just as involved when given the opportunity to sing a hymn or praise song.



The church's ministry of song is for the glory of God. The principal direction of congregational singing is to the Lord (Ps.96:1). Music is made first of all to the Lord and only secondarily to each other. Music should communicate and express a sense of awe and wonder in the presence of God; it should lead our thoughts toward God rather than toward ourselves. The music that is selected for each Sunday has a specific meaning for that given service. It should always be related to the Scriptures of that Sunday and sermon given by the Pastor. So when we are asked to sing as a congregation during the service, let us all sing together making a joyful noise for our Lord and Savior to hear.

As we are entering Pentecost the music we'll all be singing together as a Congregation will be about the spirit of God, coming to fill us with His presence. Singing "Be Thou our vision, help us be like Thee." Giving us wings to rise above, letting our voices carry words of hope and letting our strength be reborn.

In closing I would encourage you to be more focused on what is being sung and rejoice with everyone as we sing. To help you all as the Congregational Choir be more focused on what we are all singing, I will be periodically turning around from the Chancel Choir and face you as the choir director of the Congregational Choir, to help lift all of our voices closer to God.

Blessings,

Stewart



COME JOIN THE DISCUSSION!



Pastor Ian has begun a Sunday sermon series on the Book of John.

As an expansion on this sermon series, Pastor Ian is holding a Wednesday Pastor's Study which will further explore the topics discussed in the previous Sunday's sermon.

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Session Snapshot:

The most recent Session meeting, as of this writing, was March 26. The items that were acted upon included:

1. Work being done on a Facilities Use Policy and Agreement.
2. Covenant Partner class materials were approved.
3. A Weather Cancellation Policy has been implemented.
4. Toastmasters No. 2131 will be meeting through 2024 in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays unless our congregation needs the room for church uses. In that case another room will be offered to the group.
5. Old Sanctuary Preservation Committee was approved to apply for grants, with final approval by the Session.
6. Online giving was approved using the company, Vanco.

Other items discussed were:

1. The possibility of a home schooling group using our facilities for a large local conference.
2. Training for Session Elders.
3. The Mission Committee reported they are working on a policy for organizations requesting financial support.
4. There is work being done to organize a youth program. A dinner is being planned for April 27.
5. The Elder of the Week will greet visitors at either the west or north exits of the Sanctuary.

The Session meets on the 4th Tuesday of most months at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Come join in the annual GraceWorks activities Saturday, May 11

The mission is to exhibit the love of Christ by serving our community. Volunteers from various churches will join in fellowship and working together on service projects.

Sign up for a free breakfast to start the day at First Presbyterian Church at 8:00 AM (being provided by Calvary Chapel) while enjoying great Christian music. From there, you will head out to the project you have signed up to do.

Contact the lead person to be put on their list, or sign up at the table in the Narthex at FPC.

The Fence Repair project has been designated as the FPC Family Project. Individuals, families, and children under adult supervision are encouraged to join the fence project. It needs many hands. For location and information contact Dave Berger or Rob Scanland.

Ron Wood Family Resource Center - 3 or 4 volunteers for facility maintenance projects, contact David Mason (from the Methodist Church).

Light landscaping, and painting - for information and location contact David Mason

Mac and cheese packet assembling begins at 9:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church - Carol Allen

CASA - up to 6 volunteers wanted to sort clothing, school supplies, etc. Contact Cathy Kreis .

Eagle Valley Children's Home - outdoor cleanup. Only 3 more spots are available as of this writing. Contact Don Wingfield (from the Common Ground Church) .

We rejoice that all positions are filled for the music ministry that will be provided at assisted living facilities, under the direction of Stewart Peebles.

GraceWorks T-shirts can be purchased with cash (exact change would be appreciated) or a check for \$12 at the First Presbyterian Church office. For further information contact Kyle Hamilton, Denise Vill or Carol Wilson .

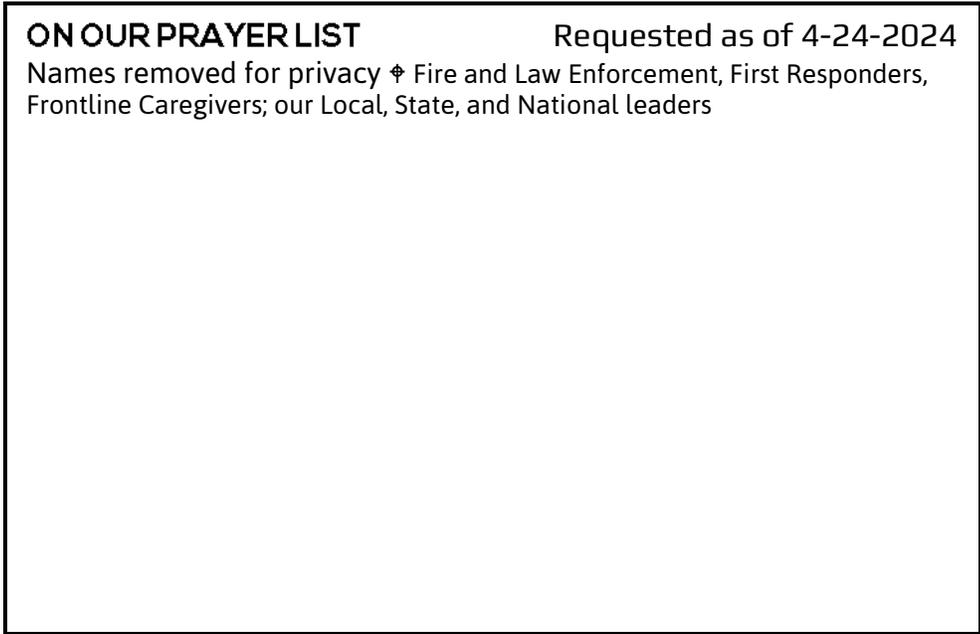


Names removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 4-24-2024

Names removed for privacy † Fire and Law Enforcement, First Responders, Frontline Caregivers; our Local, State, and National leaders



Doris Wheeler
April 20, 2024

Pat Smith
April 20, 2024



for all the cards, prayers, and hugs during John's illness and passing. Thank you Pastor Ian for the beautiful memorial service.

Karen Tierney and family



Names removed for privacy



YOU ALL ARE AMAZING!

Thank you for your generous gifts to Life Choices this year! You brought back your baby bottles and it all totaled **\$2,600**. Your gifts will help to counsel women and men in our community who are dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. It will help with the cost of sonograms and other health-related needs. Your Mission Committee thanks you and Life Choices thanks you for giving hope in this difficult situation. We are showing Jesus' grace in this outreach.

Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy



and their families

Do you have an active-duty military family member or friend you would like to put into our prayer list as well as having their picture posted in the hallway? Contact Candi Euler or the office 775-882-1032.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of North Division & West King Streets
Administration Office
306 West Musser Street
Carson City, NV 89703

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Published by the

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Worship Service
10:00 AM

Webpage
www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org; they may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by George & Connie Stanton.

This Month's Sermons

May 5 John 1: 35-51
"Where Heaven and Earth Meet"

May 12 John 2: 1-12
"A New Covenant Banquet"

May 19 John 2: 13-25
"Rejected for Telling the Truth"

May 26 John 3: 1-21
"A Polite Faith, or Born Again?"

See us and
"Like" us on





NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTION!

Very shortly, a new option will be available for our congregation to give your offering to the church:

Online Giving!

While you can still give to the church by cash or check, online giving will be an important tool for the church going forward. First, the share of payments made digitally is increasing quickly in the US, and our church will benefit by making it easier for people to give their offering in the manner that is easiest for them. Young people especially make use of online giving, and many have foregone a checkbook altogether!

Second, consider the convenience of online giving for those who can navigate the internet. An online gift may be made spontaneously in mere moments using a cell phone, or you can even schedule recurring gifts to make sure your offering always arrives on time. And don't forget that online giving makes it easier for those who primarily interact with the church through our livestream and YouTube presence to participate in giving!

Finally, online giving makes our bookkeeper's job easier by automatically cataloguing gifts made to the church and immediately depositing them in the bank.

After careful research, our finance committee has selected a company called Vanco as our online giving platform. There is a small cost to an online giving transaction that amounts to 2.9% + \$0.45 for a credit card gift, or 1% plus \$0.45 for an ACH transaction directly out of your bank account. We believe that the increased ease of giving will easily cover this cost for the church, or you may choose to help provide for this convenience by adding a few dollars on to your gift.

Once again, you may continue to make your offering to the church by check or cash. Online giving is an additional feature that is free to us if no one uses it, but gives us another tool to help people participate in the mission of the church financially. If you have any other questions we invite you to reach out to the church office to contact Cynthia or our finance committee.



FPC is proud to pray for Active Military troops added to our list since last summer: Dave Daine (Navy), Hadley Lamb (USAF), Daniel Sunday (Coast Guard), and Hollis Mankowsky (USAF)

We will again be making quilts for these troops. The Quilting Bee will start June 5 at (9:30-11:30), in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet every Wednesday in June. Beginning quilters are welcome. Please bring any red, white, and blue material, cutters, and templates.

If you have questions contact Candi Euler-or Connie Stanton-



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>April Showers Bring May Flowers!</i></p> 			<p>1</p> <p>9:00 am: Men's Bible Study 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal/Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's Study/Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg/FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study/Cashion residence  5:30 pm: Toastmasters 2131/Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>3</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study/Library</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 am: Old Sanctuary Tea/Family Life Center</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:45 am: Adult Sunday School/Fellowship Hall 9:45 am: Grades K-2 Sunday School 10:00 am: Communion Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship/FLC 11:45 am: Membership Class/Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group/Library</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study/Location Varies</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am: Men's Bible Study 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal/Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's Study/Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg/FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study/Cashion residence 1:30 pm: Women's Monthly Bible Study–Library 5:30 pm: Toastmasters 2131/Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>10</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study/Library</p>	<p>11</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>MOTHERS DAY 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:45 am: Grades K-2 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship Grades 3-6 dismissed from worship ~11:30am: Coffee Fellowship/FLC 11:45 am: Deacons Meeting/Library</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group/Library</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study/Location Varies 5:30 & 7:00 pm: Cmte Mtgs/all rooms</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 am: Men's Bible Study 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal/Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's Study/Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg/FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study/Cashion residence 5:30 pm: NOTS Volunteer Potluck/ FLC 5:30 pm: Toastmasters 2131/Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>17</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study/Library  JUNE/JULY TRUMPET DEADLINE</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 am: Kathy Rothchild Memorial ~3:00pm: Family hike to Kings Canyon waterfall</p>
<p>19</p> <p>PENTECOST 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:45 am: Grades K-2 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship Grades 3-6 dismissed from worship ~11:30am: Coffee Fellowship/FLC DEACON SUNDAY</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>World Bee Day 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group/Library</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study/Location Varies 12:00 pm: Staff Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 am: Men's Bible Study 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal/Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's Study/Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg/FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study/Cashion residence 5:30 pm: Toastmasters 2131/Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study/Library</p>	<p>25</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:45 am: Grades K-2 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship Grades 3-6 dismissed from worship ~11:30am: Coffee Fellowship/FLC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED  MEMORIAL DAY 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group/Library</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study/Location Varies 5:30 pm: Session Mtg/ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 am: Men's Bible Study 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal/Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's Study/Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg/FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study/Cashion residence 5:30 pm: Toastmasters 2131/Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary</p>	<p>31</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study/Library</p>	