

1. Admit your need.
"I am a sinner."
2. Be willing to turn from your sins.
"I am sorry for my sins, Lord. Please forgive me."
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
"I believe you did what you said you did—that you died on the cross then rose from the dead and have the power to save me."
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.
"Please come into my life and change me. Make me a new person."
5. If you have recently received Christ, we would like to give you a Bible. Contact Pastor Aaron if you are interested.

First Presbyterian Church
PO Box P
15 N. Chillicothe St.
South Charleston, OH 45368
Phone: 937-462-8479
Email: scharleston-first@sbcglobal.net
www.FPCconnect.org



Dec. 22, 2019

The church office will be closed this week, although prayer requests placed in the offering plate this morning, sent via email to Janine, or submitted through the church website will be distributed.



Events in Our Church Family

Tuesday	
7 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday	
	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Sunday	
8:30 am	Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Worship Service
Noon-10pm	Fellowship Hall Reserved



Welcome, New Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members who will be joining FPC this morning at the 11:00 service:

Mike & Christy Routzahn
Stacey Locke
AJ & Ashley Woods
Stephanie Weaver



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor	2
Serving	3
Christmas Offering	3
2020 Envelopes	3
Book Review	4
2020 Officers	6
Greeters & Readers	6
Anniversaries	6
Upcoming Sermons	7
Where to Turn	7
Church Calendar	8



Our Christmas Eve Message

By Rev. Dr. Aaron W. White, Ph.D.

Merry Christmas,

Very soon we will celebrate the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah and our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about what to expect at our Christmas Eve service.

In sum, it will generally be a *normal* service, with Christmas hymns and songs, and, of course, a candle lit for *Silent Night* (Simon has let me know he is already looking forward to it!). Let me tell you why.

While I am aware, and supportive, of other churches doing very special things during their Christmas Eve service, I want to give visitors a good picture of who we are week-to-week and throughout the week. What I believe this will communicate is confidence in God’s Word preached and sung, who God has called us to be in our vision and mission as a church, and our core ministry initiatives. My vision is seeing new faces and those folks seeing clearly who we are and what God is doing in our midst. I am utterly certain that God is leading in

His path, and that He is using us to shine the light of His gospel into this wonderful village of South Charleston; this is what I want us to celebrate on Christmas Eve (of course, as an outgrowth of the arrival of His Son), and what I deeply desire new visitors and old friends to join us in celebrating — and consider partnering with in the near future.

One way we will communicate what we are doing is through a beautiful pictorial order of worship. Much like our Heritage Day community service bulletin, this Christmas Eve bulletin will present our core ministry initiatives and where we are headed as a church family. Inside you will find wonderful pictures and a clear presentation of where we’ve been and how that takes us to where we are going. Please take an extra one on your way out Christmas Eve to give to a seeking friend!

In the end, I look forward to celebrating the arrival of Jesus Christ at 7pm on Christmas Eve. Take this opportunity to invite a friend to celebrate with us and hear the gospel presented.

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord,

Pastor Aaron



Sermon Series: 6 Questions Jesus Asks

Dec. 29— “What Concern Is It of Yours?” (John 21:19b-24)

New Sermon Series—*Exploring the Bible*: How God Relates to Us

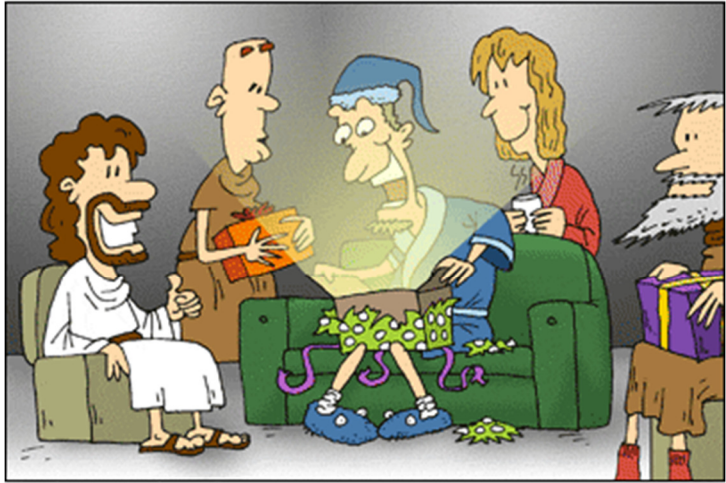
Jan. 5—God’s Wonderful Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)

Jan. 12—Our Fallen State & How It Happened (Genesis 3 & 4)

Where to turn to for help & answers...

Card Ministry.....	Barbara Florence
Chair Loan	Janine Miller
Change of Address, Phone or Name	Janine Miller
Church Calendar	Janine Miller
Deacons.....	Dan Smith, Fred Berge, Jim Lightle Bob Entler, Steve Paugh, Brad Timmons
Food Pantry.....	Jim Lightle, Fred Berge, Dan Smith
Maintenance, Church Building.....	Bob Entler
Membership	Pastor Aaron White
Music Ministry.....	Carol Wildman, Deanna Mattinson
Newsletter.....	Janine Miller
Nursery.....	Julie White
Pioneer Clubs	Jodi Smith
Prayer Chain	Janine Miller
Rental, Church Facilities	Janine Miller
Session	Pastor Aaron White, Dave Morrow, Aaron Baldauff Rob Vaughn, Chuck Wildman, Jim Hildebrand, Janine Miller
Small Groups	Don Grigorenko
Website	Janine Miller
Youth Ministry.....	Dave Morrow

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Andrew S.
ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!
12-21-2007

2020 Church Officers

The Nominating Team has presented the following people to Session to serve beginning in January:

Elders: Chris Cain, Todd Severt, & Greg Rice

Deacon: Dan Smith

At-large members of the 2020 Nominating Team: Connie Rice, Erin Webb, Carol Wildman, & Jay Mitchell

January Greeters & Readers

Greeters

- 8:30 Service Todd & Jenny Severt
- 11:00 Service Steve & Terri Paugh

8:30 Service Readers

- Bob Entler
- Jim Hildebrand

January Anniversaries

- Jan. 17 Doug & Carolyn Ferguson—50 years!
- Jan. 21 Chuck & Carol Wildman—36 years
- Jan. 23 Jeff & Cathy Delk—38 years



Thanks to the following people for their service to God during the past month:

Greg & Connie Rice and Mike & Christy Routzahn for greeting at our worship services.

Erin Webb, Kate Mattinson, Sarah Burton, Rylan McInerney, Barbie Cain, Aiden White, Julie White, Christy Routzahn, and

Sarah Vaughn for serving in the nursery.

Ryan Smith for fixing the electricity to the front sign.

Jamison White, Cora White, Violet White, Jordy Banion, Gracie Stiles, Jodi Smith, April Entler, Julie White, and Chuck Wildman (reader) for their participation in the live nativity during Christmas in South Charleston (see below). A special thanks to **Carol Wildman** for organizing it.

Christmas Offering

We will be designating our Christmas Offering this year to two specific ministries. It will be divided equally between the Manna Food Pantry and our missionaries.

If you feel led by the Lord to give, you may do so by participating in the Christmas Eve offering or by using the special offering envelopes available in your bulletin this morning.

2020 Offering Envelopes

Please be sure to pick up your 2020 offering envelopes in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not see your name on a box but would like a set, please see Jane Hildebrand. There are extras.



Live Nativity at Christmas in South Charleston (see above for participants)

A Review: *Exploring the Bible*

This book will be the basis for our 2020 Sermon Series. We invite you to pick up a copy in the Overflow and join in the weekly study beginning Monday, Dec. 30. The first sermon in the new series will be on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Within one week of starting this reading plan with the girls, I wanted to review it for you. “Look!” I wanted to cry. “We found it! The One!” Our relationship with family devotionals has been tumultuous, and after my recent revelation that we had only made it *four* days into our last attempt, I had the sort of clarity one has when, while trying to eat raw onions on a sandwich, one realizes that one is an adult who neither likes nor has to eat raw onions.

Family devotionals aren’t working for us, I realized. And they don’t have to. We want to study God’s Word with our daughters; we want them to love it, to see the beauty and the brutality and the bottomlessness of it, and we want to them to love the One who wrote it. *We need to find another way*, I prayed. *What does this look like for us?*

And then, behold! I ordered *Exploring the Bible* as a Christmas gift for Lydia, thinking it would be nice for her. But when I received it and flipped through its pages and began to see what it was about, I paused. I considered. I ordered two more copies. Lydia, Sarah, and I started working through it together and discussing it as part of our morning routine

(while Phoebe colored and pondered the meaning of “atonement”).

A week later, Mitch asked me to get him a copy, too, and now we’re all studying through the Bible together, and it is glorious. I was ready to review it right then but I refrained, thinking it would be better if we were farther in, had given it time to stick, and could be sure that *Exploring the Bible* was as awesome months later as it was at the start.

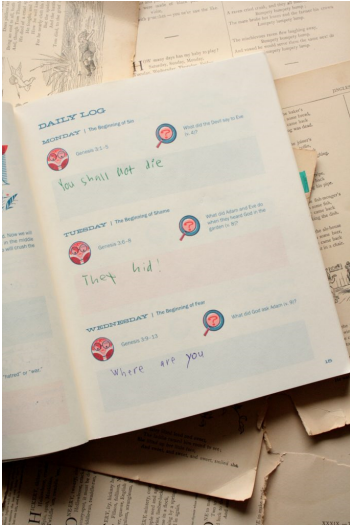
Months later: it is still awesome.

HERE IS WHAT *EXPLORING THE BIBLE* IS:

It is a reading plan for kids. In one year, it takes readers through the entire story of the Bible by hopscotching from key passage to key passage. The point is not to read the entire Bible in a year, but to follow God’s Big Story through it in a series of short but central passages.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:

David Murray arranged the readings in a series of week-long expeditions: one week we spend with Noah, reviewing the big picture of his story within the context of the rest of Scripture, then the next week we spend with Abraham. Murray helps us find a focus for the week but is other-



wise hands-off. No guided discussions here, no personal application. I’m glad for that.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS FOR US:

Each day, our reading is about five verses long. Lydia, Mitch, and I do ours independently in the morning; Sarah does hers during our discussion. Later in the morning, the girls and I read the passage, then I ask one of the girls to narrate it back to me. Together we answer the one simple question in the workbook, and then we either stop there or we let discussion blossom however it likes. I love the questions in this book, because they point us back to the text: Murray doesn’t ask us to extrapolate on the text or draw out morals but asks us instead to look back at a key verse and see what really happened.

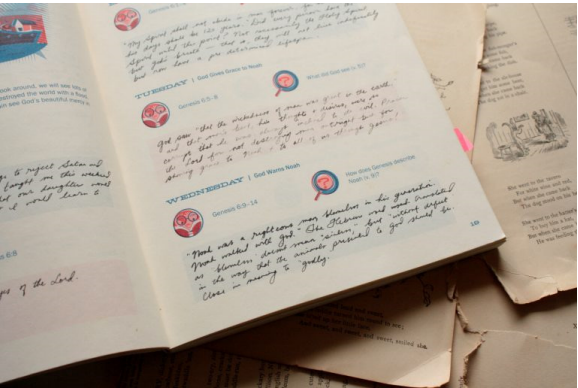
“What did God say to Abraham?”

“How does Moses describe God?”

“Where was the sacrifice to be placed?”

They direct us back to the text itself, not to our own thoughts on it, and I love that. Our own thoughts bubble up naturally as we discuss the passage, but I am glad the questions anchor our discussion in what Scripture really said, not just in how we respond to it.

So, most days offer those simple questions with the readings. Sometimes, there is a “Snapshot Verse” that Murray encourages us to copy out in the book and to memorize. The Sunday readings contain one of my favorite features: rather than doing an individual reading, we do what Murray calls “Exploring with Others.” First, we pause for a moment and look back on what we read that week; we



answer a simple question about it. Then we have space for sermon notes that we all four work on during our pastor’s sermon. (This has been both enlightening and highly entertaining.)

IN CONCLUSION

Taking a year to trace the big story of Scripture through Old Testament and New has already begun to bear fruit in us as well as in the girls. We can pick out the main themes of each book more clearly; we have already spotted connections from one story to the next that we might have missed if we’d spent weeks on each story rather than days.

Do our kids still fidget and complain when it’s time to read Scripture? Yes. But *Exploring the Bible* is like a set of training wheels for the spiritual disciplines of prayer and Scripture reading, and watching our girls gain their balance and become more confident as they read the Bible has been delightful. I am already a little sad that *Exploring the Bible* won’t go on forever, but I am also excited to see what we learn from this experience and how that shapes our future family reading.

--Thea Rosenburg (littlebookbigstory.com)
Dec. 29, 2017, Used with permission