

WHERE TO TURN TO FOR HELP & ANSWERS

Card Ministry | Barbara Florence

Change of Contact Information | Janine Miller

Children's Church | Sarah White

Church Calendar | Janine Miller

Deacons | Fred Berge, Jim Lightle, Steve Paugh, Christy Routzahn, Dan Smith, Brad Timmons, Paul Webb, Bob Entler

Events | Katie Mitchell

Food Pantry | Jim Lightle, Fred Berge, Dan Smith

Membership | Pastor Aaron White

Music Ministry | Carol Wildman, Deanna Mattinson

Newsletter | Janine Miller

Nursery | Ashley Woods

Pioneer Clubs | Jodi Smith

Prayer Chain | Janine Miller

Rental, Church Facilities | Janine Miller

Session | Pastor Aaron White, Rob Vaughn, Jim Hildebrand, Greg Rice, Todd Severt, Chris Cain, Jeff Miller

Small Groups | Don Grigorenko, Aaron Baldauff

Thursday Morning Breakfast Club | A. J. Woods

Technology & Website | Mindy Wildman

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

ADMIT YOUR NEED.
"I am a sinner."

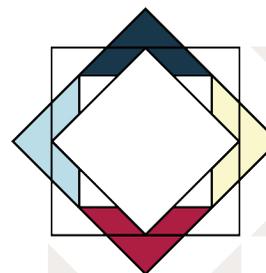
BE WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS.
"I am sorry for my sins, Lord. Please forgive me."

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."

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."

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED CHRIST, WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A BIBLE. CONTACT PASTOR AARON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for this year's Annual Meeting to learn about upcoming plans and the 2021 Strategic Plan that Session has set for FPC.

This year we will NOT have a potluck due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, we will provide a selection of donuts in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 am. The Annual Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary beginning at 10:00 am on February 7, 2021.

There will not be Sunday School the week of the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting & Donuts
February 7, 2021 | 10am

New Adult Sunday School Class

Do questions arise throughout the week about the context and background of the Meeting With Jesus Bible study? Dive deeper into the text during this interactive Sunday School class.

Pastor Aaron and Don Grigorenko will be leading a Q&A style class beginning Sunday, Feb. 14th in the Chapel (formerly the Narthex).

Each Sunday they will be discussing that day's scripture passages.

Beginning Feb. 14th | Chapel (formerly the Narthex)

Jan. 31, 2021

Written By

THE Rev. Aaron W. White, Ph.D.

How and When to Pray

While each Christian would wholeheartedly agree that an active prayer life is important in our walk with Jesus, many of us struggle to know if we have one. Many might get caught

up in the question of “How much prayer is enough prayer?” or “Shouldn’t I pray more?”, etc. Instead, I want to give us two ways to pray that will help us move beyond the “I need to pray more” attitude and engage our Lord in a prayer life that embraces the relationship we have with Him.

1) Pray passively

To begin, I want to suggest that we should pray passively. I begin here because so often how we pray or how often we pray incorrectly becomes the way we judge how vital and rich our walk is with Jesus. In essence, how often we pray, how long we pray, and how many words we use turns into a legalism. Remember what Jesus says about this in Matthew 6:7-8, ““And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

It is that last verse that I want to suggest is the confidence we should have when we pray. God knows your needs and calls you into prayer just as He sovereignly — without your will or choice (John 1:14) — called you into relationship with Him. When we pray, very often it is passively.

The Apostle Paul tells us this in Romans 8:26-27: “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Though justified in the eyes of God by the blood of Jesus by grace through faith, we are still weakened by the sin that still rages in our body. This affects our priorities, our attention, and our passions, and all of these things hamper our ability to pray as we should. However, God has a plan for us and desires us to have conversation with Him. This is where the Holy Spirit steps in and prays on our behalf.

Events in Our Church Family

COME JOIN US!

TODAY

8:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE
6:30PM CAMPAIGNERS (GILBERT'S)

TUESDAY

9:00AM STAFF MEETING (VILLAGE CUP)

WEDNESDAY

6:00AM IRONMEN FELLOWSHIP (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
6:30PM PIONEER CLUBS
6:45PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (B01)

THURSDAY

5:30PM PRAISE BAND PRACTICE

SUNDAY (2/7)

8:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE
9:45AM DONUTS (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
10:00AM ANNUAL MEETING (SANCTUARY)
11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE

TUESDAY (2/9)

3:00-6:00PM FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

FRIDAY (2/12) & SATURDAY (2/13)

MIDWEST PRESBYTERY MEETING

Newsletter article continued

The sacraments — As Christians it is imperative (this means it is not optional) to receive the nourishments of God's two sacraments: the Lord's table and to be baptized as well as witness and support other baptisms. Before coming to the Lord's table, thank God that He has forgiven you through Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection. Thank God, as well, that He is feeding you spiritually by the bread and wine. When you are baptized or remembering your baptism (those of you who were baptized as an infant or young child), thank God for adopting you as His child and welcoming you into the blessings of His people. When you witness a baptism, pray that the Lord would put in your path ways you can support the one being baptized and pray for that individual and their walk with Jesus.

Jesus' model — Finally, if you are at a loss for what to pray, pray the Lord's prayer. When I do this, I pause at each phrase and I fill it in with my words, needs, thanksgivings, etc.

To pray actively means to have faith that God has put structures into place so that you might be shepherded into a prayer life that is not "me-centered" but rather centered upon God's will and ministry.

A prayer:

Hear us, O God, in all our deep desires: some we can put into words, most of them we can't, because we are strangers even to ourselves. Of thy mercy answer us, after thy will and wisdom, not after ours. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

— Anonymous, From *For All the Saints: A Prayer Book for the Church and by the Church* | vol. 1: Advent to the Day of Pentecost | Wednesday of the Week of Epiphany 3

When we pray passively, we take confidence that the Spirit is praying on our behalf at all times, in all circumstances, and in agreement with God's will. With the assurance that the Spirit is praying in this way, we can confidently agree with the Spirit's groans. On some occasions, the specific prayers of the Spirit comes to mind, and we can, again, agree with those prayers, knowing that God is working out His good plan within us (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians, 2:10).

To pray passively means to have faith that the Holy Spirit leads from within on its own terms and in its own timing and we respond in agreement.

2) Pray actively

Next, we should eagerly seek to pray actively. To pray actively means that we pray within a context. Very often when we pray, we can attempt to be quiet and come up with things to pray, sort of out of thin air. This is not how God would have you pray. Instead, pray actively according to the ordinary means of grace — those structures God has put into place to shepherd you in your life and relationship with Him.

Your active prayer life is in response to how God is speaking to you in:

Daily devotional time — In your daily time in God's Word, take time to respond in prayers of thankfulness, need, and for God to clarify things you do not understand. If you do not currently have this daily time in God's Word and need some help in how to get started, see my other "how and when" article on daily devotional times.

Hearing God's Word read and preached — As Christians it is imperative (this means it is not optional) to hear God's Word preached and read publicly, at least weekly. When you do hear God's Word read and preached, pray that God would reveal in your heart how He would have you be encouraged and challenged. Pray for the growth of His church by His Word preached and read. Pray for His help to apply the sermon to your life.

By the requests of the body of Christ — As Christians it is imperative (this means it is not optional) to meet together regularly for worship. When we do, we must share our needs and our thanksgivings. As you hear of these things, pray for them then and later.

Continued on page 6

Food Pantry Donations

Help us support our community by donating non-perishables food items to the Manna Food Pantry.

January | Soup & Crackers
February | Mac & Cheese and Canned Vegetables
March | Pancake Mix & Syrup
April | Peanut Butter & Jelly
May | Tuna Helper & Hamburger Helper

Campaigners

Young Life Campaigners has returned!

Campaigners is a Bible study designed for High School students.

Sunday's 6:30p at Gilbert's Youth Center

Pioneer Clubs Wednesdays | 6:30pm

Pioneer Clubs is back!
Last fall we had 70+ students attend weekly, ranging from kindergarten to 6th grade.

Volunteers are always welcome to help assist teachers, lead activities, and share the love of God with students.

Contact Jodi Smith for more information.

Meeting With Jesus

2021
Devotional Sermon Series

Throughout 2020 we, as a Church, have been *Exploring the Bible* together through David Murray's devotional book. This has provided us with the ability to stick together (through study), grow and encourage one another as a Church family.

Join us in continuing to grow by participating in our upcoming 2021 series based on Murray's *Meeting With Jesus!*

Books available now!
\$11

Want to join our mailing list for daily video devotions?

Let us know at janine@fpcconnect.org

THANK YOU TO OUR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Feb. 7 Jenny Severt

Feb. 14 Ashley Woods

Feb. 21 Pam Vaughn

Feb. 28 Becky Mohler

NURSERY

Every effort will be made to keep the nursery clean and sanitized, but parents who leave their children in the nursery need to be aware that there will be other children there, as well as toys that other children have touched.

Our nursery director, Ashley Woods, is asking those who would be willing to serve to please contact her at 740-505-2331. All volunteers must wear a mask and would be serving at their own health risk.