

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."

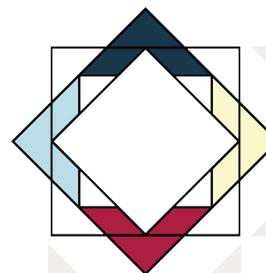
BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU ON THE CROSS AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.
"I believe you did what you said you did—that you died on the cross then rose from the dead and have the power to save me."

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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Phone: 937-462-8479
Email: scharlestonfirst@sbcglobal.net
www.FPCconnect.org



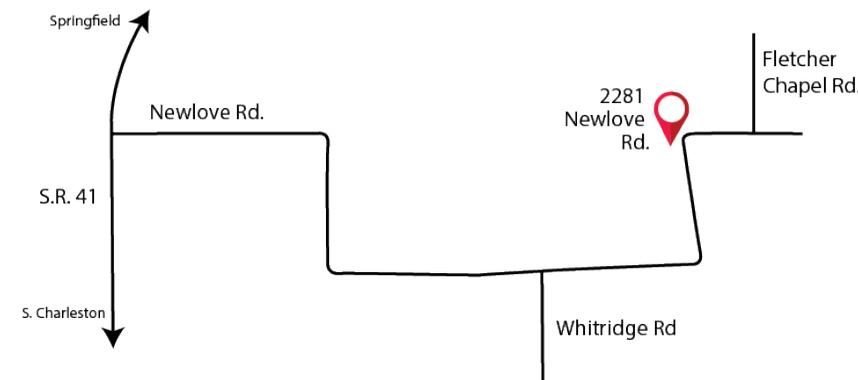
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 19-20 | Day Camp
July 20 | Potluck

All students entering 4th-7th grade are invited to come to Pioneer Club Day Camp. Camp will be Monday and Tuesday, July 19-20 from 9:00a-6:00p.

We would like to invite our FPC family as well as our camp families to join us for a potluck and vespers following camp (5:30p) on Tuesday night. Please bring a lawn chair and a side dish to share. Chicken, drinks, and utensils will be provided.

Pioneer Camp and potluck will be located at Camp Hazel (Hazel residence), 2281 Newlove Rd. South Charleston.



July 4, 2021

Written By

Preaching What's Next & What it Says

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

The other day, I had a friend alert me to a social media post made by a pastor about his current sermon series and a change of course being made to that series. According to current world circumstances, that pastor decided he'd tack course on his current series and preach on the circumstances surrounding his church and our nation. This is not uncommon, but something I would invite you contemplate with me for a minute.

I am very often as a pastor, encouraged or pressured to preach on topics. The topics can range quite widely, and generally reflect one's current hobbyhorses, anxieties about our world, fears of the future, or reactions to the present. It is, to be fair, very uncommon for me to get folks that come to me and say, "Pastor Aaron, God is bringing so many people into membership and our youth program is reaching a ton of kids with the gospel. Can you preach on spiritual multiplication?!" No, unfortunately that is not normally the request. It is normally along the lines of "the church doesn't talk about this enough" (be careful with words like "enough" and "more", those are signs of legalism — rather, grace is sufficient), or "this thing is happening that isn't right, we need to preach on this", etc. You see what I am saying.

Despite what Jesus says in Matthew 6 and Luke 12, we do fear tomorrow and worry about today's provision. That being so, we make it our priority to assuage those fears by feverishly working to make things right. This also can affect how we expect or, maybe more accurately, make God speak to us.

I have an encouraging word for you in light of this common way of operation: God knows what you need and even the sparrow does not escape His notice — aren't you more valuable than many sparrows?

We are blessed to be in a tradition of the church that takes these truths to heart and applies it to the preaching of God's Word. God nourishes us with His Word and Sacraments, and therefore will give us by His Word what he knows we need in that moment.

The Reformers called this expository preaching according to lectio continua. Expository preaching is, in sum, when a pastor preaches from a section of Scripture, saying what it says, and applying it to a current context. This is opposed to preaching on a patchwork of text from many or a few places in Scripture. And, lectio continua, is Latin for the practice of reading Scripture in sequence over a period of time, each reading begins where the previous session ended. This is our practice of preaching at First Pres, preaching what is next, saying what it says, and applying it to our church and individual lives.

Events in Our Church Family

COME JOIN US!

TODAY

8:30AM
10:00AM
11:00AM

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
WORSHIP SERVICE

MONDAY

6:00PM

SESSION BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY

7:00AM
6:00PM
6:30PM

IRONMEN FELLOWSHIP (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
PIONEER CAMP LEADER MEETING
PRAISE BAND PRACTICE

THURSDAY

7:00PM

BRASS PRACTICE

SATURDAY

ALL DAY

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

Upcoming Events

VBS | July 11-12
Pioneer Camp | July 19-20
Camp Potluck | July 20

Pioneer Camp Food

Do you want to contribute to camp but don't have the time? Consider assisting with meal preparation.

There's a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for food donations for Pioneer Summer Day Camp: Pasta Salad, Fruit salad, & Cookies. You may bring all donations to the church kitchen by Sunday, July 18.

2nd Harvest Food Bank

This summer, Second Harvest Food Bank will provide children ages 1-18 with free, healthy meals. The meals will be pre-packaged and distributed at the South Charleston Library each Tuesday from 12:30-1:30 pm through August 17. Each child will receive 5 breakfast and 5 lunch meals per week. Adults are permitted to pick up for children. Limit one site per week.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School
July 11-12 | 6p-8:30p
at the Methodist Church.

I always say that I am not bold or smart enough to preach a topical sermon, and frankly it's a liability. I am essentially saying when I preach a topical sermon that I know better than God the arrangement of Scripture than what is in my Bible, and I know His timing better than He. Yikes! You can see already the danger. If, in agreement with the Reformers, we confess that when Scripture is preached, "He who hears you hears me", which means God is speaking in the preached Word, we can see that those who preach are under authority and will be judged for what they say; suddenly a topical sermon becomes an eternal liability I am not willing to tread into. In fact, so committed to this principle of expository lectio continua was John Calvin, that after a three-year hiatus from Geneva, he returned to the pulpit and picked up where he left off three years previous, knowing that hiatus was not by chance but under God's hand.

Our simple obedience is that we should preach God's Word, book-by-book in order, from passage-to-passage. As your pastor, I am constantly astounded by how, despite my ignorance of God's providence, God's plan for each passage for each Sunday can have such an immediate and important impact on those situations and circumstances in which we are each involved individually or communally. God knows what His children need.

So, to conclude, we do not need to tack course on our sermon series because of present circumstances or present fears or anxieties but be at peace that what God presents to us next in His Word is what He wants His people to hear. If we opt for the former, we are in a tenuous place, and potentially an idolatrous place — logically, where does it end? Which circumstance do we decide to preach on, and which do we not? Who is God and who is not? Who knows what God's people need to hear, us or Him? You see my point. In light of this, I heard from Ligon Duncan, Chancellor of Reformed Theological Seminary, something that I will not soon forget. He said, "Elders, are you searching for a niche in the church market today? If so, exposit God's Word from the pulpit. No one is doing it. Do that and you'll have a niche." Well said.

"For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

God knows what you need. Hear His voice, in His timing, and by His power.

God bless you,

PA

Food Pantry Donations

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

July | Pork N Beans & Canned Beans
August | Canned Tuna & Beef Stew
September | Cereal & Oats
October | Canned Vegetables, Boxed Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce
November | Boxed Stuffing & Potatoes

July Anniversaries

July 11 | Larry & Roberta Miller | 55 Years
July 6 | Chris & Barbie Cain | 9 Years
July 15 | Brad & Diana Timmons | 32 Years
July 28 | Alan & Nan Stiles | 48 Years

CHANGES COMING SOON TO OUR NEWSLETTER
Beginning this month we will be distributing one Newsletter and E-news per month. If you have something you would like added to the newsletter, please inform Janine Miller or Mindy Wildman. Announcements (during service) will continue to be updated weekly.

THANK YOU TO OUR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

July 4 Not Staffed

July 11 Not Staffed

July 18 Not Staffed

July 25 Not Staffed

Aug. 1 Rhonda Bryant

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT
ASHLEY WOODS: 740-505-2331

Nursery

The nursery will not be staffed throughout the month of July. The nursery room will be open for parental use.

Our nursery director, Ashley Woods, is asking those who would be willing to serve to please contact her at 740-505-2331. Nursery volunteers are no longer required to wear a mask while serving.



HOW'D I GET MY BIBLE?

SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES

One of the causes of biblical illiteracy in our modern church culture is an ignorance of the history of the Bible, its origin, accuracy, transmission and translation. We hope to address that problem with a summer seminar series entitled "How'd I Get My Bible?"

Each Sunday evening, May 30-July 25th at 6pm, Pastor Aaron & Don Grigorenko will facilitate this series with a leading scholar present through Zoom who will answer questions on particular topics.

FORMER SESSIONS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE