

Princeville Presbyterian

An Open Letter to the Congregation regarding Children's Church

Most churches seem to maintain a running debate over the question of whether or not to offer a "Children's church" and if so, what boundaries or limits to place upon it. When they don't have children's church there is the question of whether they should, and when they do have it, there is the question of whether they should continue. One of the reasons for this is a recognition of the need to instruct our young people in the things of faith and worship, and to do that at a level that the children can understand and participate. Here we must acknowledge the Lord's design to have the most influential agents leading in the child's life, and those agents are his parents.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

As the children are in worship with their parents and observe their parents participating in the corporate worship of God, they are shaped and influenced in the same direction that their parents have turned their own hearts. Children that are in 4th or 5th grade who are preparing to become communicants should be fully engaged in the corporate worship of God, otherwise it could be asked, "Why do they wish to become communing members?" Children between 1st and 5th grade are actually in training for full participation in worship. Any children's church prior to 1st grade can be conducted in the nursery.

For these reasons, the Session has decided to make Sunday, March 4 the last day of Children's church.

Now, please understand, we don't think the children will instantly become full participants in corporate worship. But we do believe that as they are regularly included in all aspects of a worship service (including the preaching), they will gain more than we would at first realize, for even when they are coloring or drawing they are also listening. Will they occasionally make noise? Yes. Will they occasionally get fidgety? Yes. Will they lay on the floor and attempt to crawl under the pew? Yes. Won't that bother the minister? NO. Because worship is for families.

To aid in the training, we will provide a children's bulletin that can be colored and scribbled, and that contains a fragment of a bible story. Over time, the child will draw their own pictures (often of something they hear in the sermon) and eventually learn to take simple notes. But even more, over time the child will ease into becoming a full participant in worship life of the church. And this pleases the Lord.

Upcoming Events

- 13th – Deacons/Session
- 17th – W.O.W Brunch
@10am (Joanne's)
- 18th – Fellowship
Potluck Meal
- 25th – Palm Sunday &
Rockin' Seniors
- 28th – NO AWANA

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" ~Matthew 21:9

*O God of earth and altar bow down and hear our cry,
Our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us, the sword of scorn divides,
Take not Thy thunder from us, but take away our pride.*

*From all that terror teaches, from lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches that comfort cruel men,
From sale and profanation of honor and the sword,
From sleep and from damnation, deliver us, good Lord.*

*Tie in a living tether, the prince and priest and thrall,
Bind all our lives together, smite us and save us all;
In ire and exultation, aflame with faith and free,
Lift up a living nation, a single sword to Thee.*

~~ G.K. Chesterton (1874 – 1936)

From the Desk of Pastor Chris Baker...

A Gospel Centered Community of Love. This is how we describe ourselves on our bulletin and often on the sign out front of the church house. Last month we looked at what kinds of things we do that make us a people gathered *cum unitas* – with unity, and how in singing the same songs together and reciting the same confessions together and praying the same prayers together, we are formed together into what we know as community. But, now, what does it mean to be “Gospel-centered”?

It’s peculiar how certain words trickle into our language and take on meanings that depart from their original intent. For example, sometimes I’ve heard the word “gospel” used to mean that something is unswervingly true, such as when someone refers to a business practice and claims, “that’s the gospel truth”. But is that what the true Gospel is? The word “gospel” is a modernization of the old Saxon word *gōd-spiel*, or ‘good news’, which is itself a translation of the Greek *euangelion* or ‘good announcement’. The Gospel as it was originally meant encompassed the whole story of God’s saving grace – from His giving promises that he would redeem us, to the immaculate conception and virgin birth of the Savior our Lord Jesus, to his holy life, to the sacrifice of his innocent self on the cross, to his burial, to his resurrection and ascension into heaven, to the giving of his Holy Spirit, to his promise of return to gather his redeemed. Remove any part of it and you don’t have a real story, and without this story you don’t have a real message.

When we think of “Gospel-centered” the best picture that can be offered is perhaps that of a bicycle wheel. The outer rim of the wheel is what rolls along, and there are spokes that transfer force to the outer rim, but the spokes are connected to a hub. It is the hub that drives the whole wheel. The hub is required or you don’t have a functioning wheel.

In this picture, the church is the rim that rides along the road. When we say that we are Gospel-centered, we declare that what drives us, what moves us in the entirety of the life of the church is the whole message of redemption. The gospel, the whole message of redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ, is the driving force in our worship, in our study, in our hospitality, in our mercy, in our prayer, in our giving, in our participation in missions, in our outreach to neighbors, in our ministry to children and in everything else we do as a church, and even as redeemed individuals.

And without this, Princeville Presbyterian is just another social club. But with this, Princeville Presbyterian is a spiritual force to be reckoned with in this town and in the world.

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

“I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”

1 Corinthians 10:31; 9:23

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ,

Chris

Birthdays

11th – Bob Elwell
12th – Janice Gardner
Homer Robbins
14th – Cathy Beckett
19th – Sue Robbins
22nd – Bob Powers
25th – Greta Dwyer
28th – Tom Webber

Anniversaries

5th – Tom & Michaela Webber
20th – Jerry & Kelli Dwyer

Prayer Ministry

Please continue to lift up the following people in prayer:

Mary Scott
Maxine Hendricks
Connor Webber
Keighin Family
Don Wilson Family

Our missionaries:
Jeff & Marilyn German

**If you would like a loved one added or taken off, please contact the office.*

Summary of Session Work from February 2018

This month we began having joint session with the Deacons in order to have devotion together and to more easily discuss items of mutual interest to both Elders and Deacons. We began with a devotion on leadership from Nehemiah 2, and how spiritual leadership does its best to plan ahead and should not be surprised when faced with opposition to the spiritual purpose. Following this we attended to the regular business of minutes, Treasurers report and recent communications. Interim pastor Chris Baker reported on the initial ministry plan being submitted to IPM and received with a favorable response. Reports were given on the various Christian Ed ministries of the church. In particular, April 15th is set as AWANA Sunday to recognize various clubbers and to invite their parents to worship. Several actions were taken by the

Session – 1) after much discussion, plans have been made to end Children’s Church by March 11, 2) we reviewed our parking policy and will recommunicate it to our neighbors, 3) at the request of the Brand family (EPC World Outreach missionaries in Latin America), we will send funds to help supply their deficit from 2017 and request them to visit Princeville Pres to report on their ministry, and 4) we will purchase and install 3 signs as replacements for the old PCUSA signs indicating our presence in this community and inviting folks to come worship with us.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.

Session Members

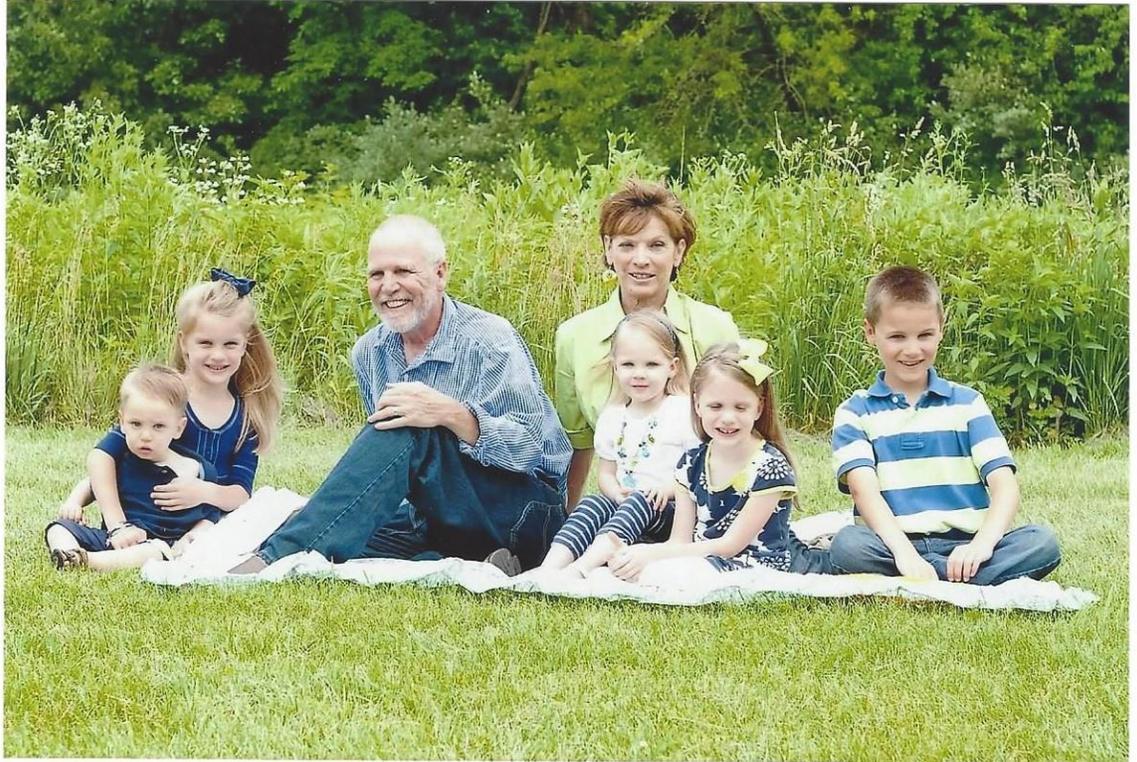
Moderator – Chris Baker
Tater Harwood
John Meuser
Kirk Potter
John Underwood
Clerk – Teresa Snodgrass

Deacons

Jerry Dwyer
Janice Gardner
Cathy Hyde
Lynn Lehmann

Member Spotlight

Robin Harwood



I grew up in Monica on a farm. I went to Monica Methodist Church with family, friends, and neighbors. That is where I was introduced to Jesus.

I married Tater and started a family. I had stopped going to church for a while and I wanted to start back after I had kids. Soon, I started going to Princeville Presbyterian. I felt the Lord working on me. They had a new pastor and I repented and recommitted myself to Jesus. I started to focus on what is true and good. When you praise God with your mind, your heart is soon to follow.

We have had our share of mountain top experiences as well as being in the valley. I think that's where you learn to grow. If we have God in our lives, we can trust him through the changes, knowing that every day that passes, brings us closer to eternal destiny in the presence of God himself. To have perfect peace, we must focus our minds on God and trust in Him. We need to forget about all of the errors of the past and stop worrying about tomorrow. Live today to its full potential. It is a gift from the hand of God. There is a saying that summarizes it beautifully; Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift – that's why we call it the present!

Therefore, seize the day! God made it for you. Rejoice in it and utilize it to its full extent, for all His honor and glory. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

In Christ, Robin Harwood

It took a covenant to bring Glory near!

Covenant is a compelling idea. Covenant is the storyline of the Glory Story, a story that began before the beginning of time when God chose us in Christ to be His own (Eph. 1:4), that exploded into time and space when God created us in His image (Gen. 1), was scandalously lost when our first parents rebelled (Gen. 3:1-7), was graciously restored when God promised a Redeemer (Gen. 3:15), was gloriously fulfilled when the Word became flesh (John 1:14), and will reach its spectacular consummation when we hear "... a loud voice from the throne saying, ' Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God'" (Rev. 21:3).

Karen Hodge & Susan Hunt, authors of *Transformed: Life-taker to life-giver.*



March 2018

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
				1 Food Pantry @5pm	2	3
4 Youth Group Outing	5 Prayer Group @ 9:30am WOW @ 10:30am	6 WOW @ 6pm	7 AWANA @ 6:15pm	8	9 Courageous Conversations @ 6:30pm	10
11	12 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	13 Deacons @6:30pm Session @7pm	14 AWANA @ 6:15pm	15 Food Pantry @5pm	16 Courageous Conversations @ 6:30pm	17 WOW Brunch @ 10am @ Joanne's
18 Fellowship Potluck Meal	19 Prayer Group @ 9:30am WOW @ 10:30am	20 WOW @ 6pm	21 AWANA @ 6:15pm	22	23 Courageous Conversations @ 6:30pm	24
25 Palm Sunday Rockin' Seniors	26 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	27	28	29	30 Courageous Conversations @ 6:30pm	31



Women Of the Word

A quote from Susan Hunt and Karen Hodge from “*Transformed: Life-taker to Life-giver*”.....

“Eve, Sarah, And Mary, [are] three holy women who hoped in God. These mothers in the faith point us to Jesus. They show us the journey from gloom to glory, from hopeless to hopeful, from life-taker to life-giver. They don’t sugar-coat it. It is a slow, hard, painful, lonely, scary, beautifully redemptive journey through the wilderness. Their ragged, sometimes racy, lives show that the persevering grace of God is unstoppable. Glory wins because the Father loves us even as He loves Jesus. He gives us His glory so we can reflect His glory even in hard places.”

Ladies, please join us on Monday mornings at 10:30am or Tuesday evenings at 6pm as we seek, by God’s grace and through the work of the Holy Spirit, to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Teresa, Michaele, and I would love to be praying for you. Please contact us with special prayer requests or concerns. We are your Sister’s in Christ and we love you and care about you.

Amanda – 309-657-6359 amandakeighin5@gmail.com
Teresa – 309-264-1994 rtsnodgrass07@yahoo.com
Michaele – 309-369-6206 mwtw2004@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Regular Study Dates – March 5/6th, 19/20th

Brunch @ Joanne’s Home – March 17th @10am-Noon

Regular Meeting Dates – April 2/3rd, 16/17th, 23/24th, 30th/May1st

Brunch @ Barb’s Home – April 14th @10am-Noon

Regular Meeting Dates – May 14/15th – Celebration/Conclusion

Ladies Tea – Date and Time TBD

*To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust...
Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
Teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
For you are the God of my salvation;
For you I wait all the day long.*

*Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
For they have been from of old.*

~~ Psalm 25:1-6