

Second Edition

JULY 2020 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

For the next several months I would like to use this space to talk about what we Presbyterians call the “doctrines of grace”. Some people call them “the five points of Calvinism” but John Calvin did not invent them. They are clearly found in the pages of Holy Scripture. These doctrines systematically explain the true meaning of grace – what the Bible really teaches about sin and salvation.

The first thing to understand when it comes to sin and salvation is that we are *fallen*. Adam and Eve represent all of humanity when they disobey God and seek their own satisfaction and glory. This is what sin is – not doing what God wants but doing what we want. The Bible clearly says in Romans 3 that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

To fall short of something – a goal or a target, for instance – means that we miss that goal or target. This is what the Greek word that Paul uses and that we translate as “sin” means – *to miss the target*. The Bible teaches that *all* of us miss the goal God sets for our lives; none of us, not even the best of us, is perfectly obedient. We may try to reach the goal God sets for our lives, but we can’t. We don’t. We fall short. We miss it.

This is different from what some Christians teach and believe. Some Christians teach that we get partway there, or that we are able to reach part of the goal. They believe that salvation is a cooperative effort. God provides the sacrifice to pay the price of sin while we provide the faith to receive the gift of salvation. They teach that if we want to be saved then we must *choose* to follow Christ, to ask Jesus to come into our heart.

This is not what the Bible teaches. Ephesians 2 tells us we “were dead in [our] transgressions and sins”. That is the Reformed understanding. We are dead in our sins. And if we are dead, then there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Imagine you fall off the roof of the First Tennessee building downtown and land on Gay Street. You would not be able to sit up, pull your phone out of your pocket, and call 911. Why? Because you would be dead. And if you are dead there is nothing you can do to help yourself. This is what it means that we are *fallen*. We cannot do anything to contribute to our own salvation.



This is terrible news! However, it makes the Good News even better. Ephesians 2 goes on to say, “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.” Yes, we *were* dead, *but* God made us *alive*. Salvation is an act of God’s grace. There is nothing that we do to help God or to choose it. It is a gift, given out of God’s love for us. If we are able to open our heart to Christ, it is only because the Lord first opened our heart to receive him. (See Acts 16:14) Our salvation is a work of God, not something we do or we choose.

Now, this doesn’t mean we don’t have a choice to make. We do. We can choose to be *grateful*. That’s the choice we have – to show God our gratitude, or not. God has done something wonderful for us; he has made us alive with Christ. How will we show our gratitude for that gift? Will we dedicate our lives to serving and glorifying him? Will we do our best to do his will? Will we try to be faithful and obedient, knowing that we won’t always do it perfectly?

You see, salvation is not something that we choose, and neither is it something we can earn! Our obedience cannot gain or lose our salvation. Our obedience is how we show God how thankful we are. This is Good News, indeed, because none of us is perfectly obedient. We all – all of us – miss the mark. So thanks be to God for his love and grace. Thanks be to God for the gift of our salvation. Now let’s go out and show God – and the world – just how grateful we are!

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature or mark, possibly reading 'J.M.', written in black ink.



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Worship and Celebration

Upcoming Sermon Texts & Topics

We are still following the Revised Common Lectionary for our sermons, for a large part of the summer we will continue to focus on the Hebrew bible selections. The Old Testament selections for Year A are from Genesis and trace the development of God's covenant with his people.

July 5th	God & Eliazar (Gen. 24:34-67)
July 12th	Jacob & Esau (Gen. 25:19-34)
July 19th	Jacob's Ladder (Gen. 28:10-19)
July 26th	What Can Separate Us from the Love of God? (Romans 8:26-29)
Aug 2nd	Jacob Wrestles with God (Gen. 32:22-31)

July Birthdays

David Stultz 07/01	David Frazier 07/18
Marion Frazer 07/09	Joan Riedl 07/22
Elizabeth Peebles 07/10	John Campbell 07/24
Lily Wu 07/10	Daniel Robertson 07/25
Thomas Turner 07/14	Helen Grant 07/28

RETURNING TO IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Committees, Ministry Units, & Other Groups - Beginning July 1st

The Session has determined that committees, ministry units, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, youth activities, and any other groups of the church may resume in-person meetings beginning July 1st. Meetings may be held either on or off church property, provided proper physical distancing guidelines are observed, including the wearing of face coverings. Outside groups that are not part of the church will also be allowed to use the church building for meetings and gatherings beginning in July, with the same guidelines.

The Church Administrator will assist groups in scheduling meeting rooms so that safe physical distancing may be maintained. Please do not plan a meeting at the church without notifying the Church Administrator. Some groups may not be able to meet at their normal meeting times and the number of groups able to meet on church property simultaneously may be limited. The Church Administrator will have final determination in scheduling church groups.

It is up to each individual group to weigh the risks and make its own determination regarding whether or not to meet. The Session would like to remind groups that just because they are *allowed* to meet in person doesn't mean that they *should* or that they *must* meet in person. Any groups that choose to meet in person should make allowances or opportunities for individuals who fall into high-risk categories, or who do not yet feel comfortable meeting in person, to join the meeting virtually.

Finally, please remember the Five Core Principles: practice physical distancing; wear cloth face coverings when in public and physical distancing can't be achieved; wash hands properly and often; clean surfaces regularly; stay home when sick.

Returning To In-Person Worship

Even though small groups and committees will be allowed to meet at the church beginning in July, we will not return to in-person worship services until **Sunday, August 2nd**. The Session has voted to implement the following guidelines once in-person worship resumes. Please note that these guidelines were agreed upon by the Session and are self-imposed, not out of fear but out of love and for the safety and well-being of anyone choosing to worship at Second Presbyterian Church.

- There will be one worship service at 11:00 a.m. with no attendance limits. The nursery will be open during worship and childcare will be available for children, infant to age 6. We encourage worshipers who fall into one of the high-risk categories for Covid-19 to seriously consider continuing to worship virtually via our live stream on Sunday morning.
- We request that everyone enter and exit the building through the main sanctuary door. Anyone who has difficulty with stairs should be dropped off at the portico and enter through that door. Once you arrive, call the church office and someone will open that door for you to enter.
- We request that worshipers remain in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings unless it is absolutely necessary to visit other parts of the building. Restrooms will be open and available for those needing to use them. Both the sanctuary and the restrooms will be cleaned thoroughly before and after worship, but not during.
- We request that worshipers observe proper physical distancing and refrain from any physical contact with those outside of one's household. Each household is requested to maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from other households. Pews will be marked to help worshipers maintain this distance and the balcony will be open for those who would like to sit there.

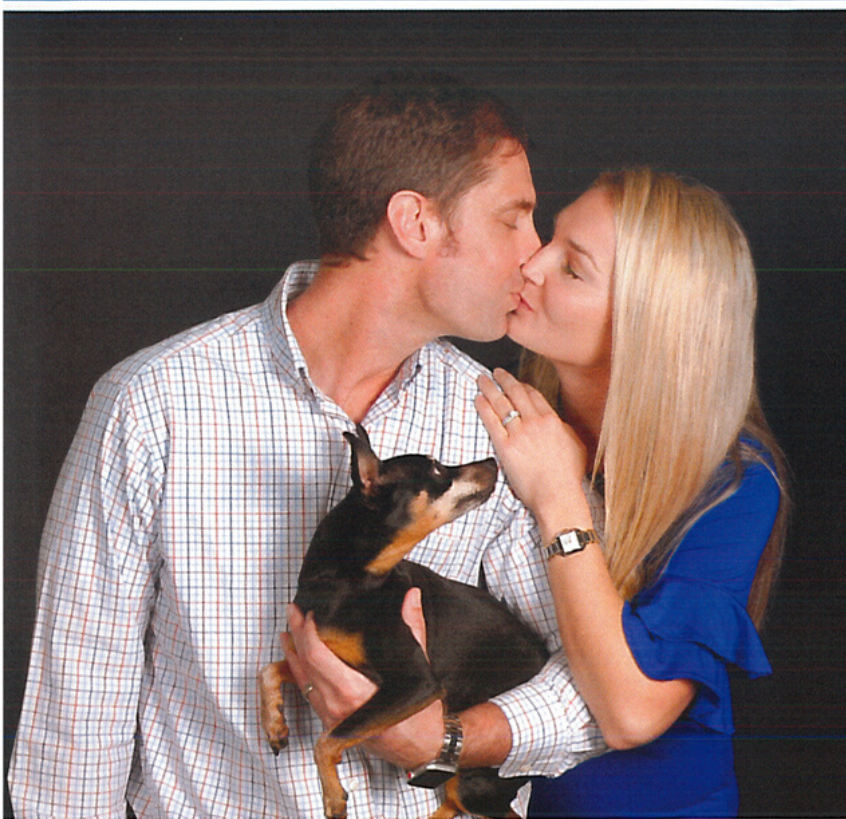
Returning to In-person Worship (Contd.)

- We request that everyone in attendance wear a face covering while in the building. Disposable face coverings will be provided for those who do not have them.
- Offering plates will not be passed during the service but will be placed outside each door to the sanctuary. Hand sanitizer will also be placed at the entrance to the sanctuary, however worshipers are encouraged to bring their own.
- There will be no congregational singing and no chancel choir during worship until further notice.
- We will not celebrate the sacrament of communion until further notice.
- Pastors will not wear face coverings while leading the service and will conduct the worship service from behind the communion table in the chancel area to maintain a safe distance from worshipers. Pastors will not greet people at the entrance to the sanctuary following the service.
- Bulletins will be available for those who desire them. For who do not, communal readings such as the Affirmation of Faith or Prayer of Confession will be projected onto a screen located at the front of the sanctuary.

Weddings & Funerals

Weddings and funerals will be allowed to resume on August 1st with the above guidelines, except that attendance will be limited to 50% of the sanctuary/chapel capacity, depending on the location. Receptions will not be held in the Mary Chambers Room or Fellowship Hall for the remainder of 2020.

**To be a welcoming community,
we need to know each other**
Come be a part of our new directory.



Reserve your photography session today.

Lifetouch.

Second Presbyterian Church is partnering with Lifetouch to create a new pictorial church directory. Our new directory will update our current photos, help us to connect with each other and put names with faces for new people. Each participating family will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 photograph.

Lifetouch photographers have been trained in physical distancing guidelines and we will be following guidelines at the church, as well. Equipment will be cleaned in-between sessions so the whole process will be as safe as possible.

**Volunteers
needed on
the dates of
photography**

CONTACT PASTOR
SARAH

We encourage you to sign up for your session today. Email ajohnson@2ndpres.org for a direct link to sign up for a time for your household to have their directory photo made, or type the following link into your web browser: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/ch65zrj0/>

Starting June 17th through August 5th!

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER STUDY ON RACISM

SPONSORED BY SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6 P.M. **VIA ZOOM!**

A Zoom link will be sent via email prior to each study. If you would like to be included on this email list, please let us know by email (ajohnson@2ndpres.org) or call (865.523.2189) and let us know!

Our summer Zoom study on racism is off to a great start and it's not too late for you to join! All of our previous studies are currently on our website under the "Wednesday Night Bible Study" tab.

Our upcoming topics include:

The Bible and Racism – July 1

A History of Racism in the U.S. – July 8 & 15

White Privilege – July 22

Is Affirmative Action Still Needed? – July 29

Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism? – August 5

Physically Distant Food Truck Fellowship!

July 23rd

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

If you've been missing your church friends, here's your chance to see their faces, enjoy some yummy food, and support some black-owned businesses in our community.

Come and join us in the parking lot for some physically distant fellowship. We'll have two "savory" food trucks, one serving BBQ, the other Jamaican cuisine.

We'll also have a "sweets" truck and a lemonade stand.

Bring your appetite and your lawn chair. We can't wait to see you there!



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several triangular slices of watermelon. The slices are arranged in a circular pattern, showing the bright red flesh, dark seeds, and green rind. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the watermelon.

*Announcement
Regarding*

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is tentatively scheduled to resume the first Tuesday of October.

This plan is dependant upon the Covid-19 situation at that time. Details will follow closer to that date.

We look forward to reuniting soon!

Thank you!

John Reynolds and Mariann Thuesen.

Getting Ready

FOR WEST VIEW



Our next work day will be
Saturday August 8th
(outdoors or indoors)

Sign up to help via the sign-up sheet in the Atrium or by
calling the church office (865.523.2189)!

- Markers (thin and thick)
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes
- Tissues
- Glue Sticks
- Earbuds/Headphones
- Highlighters
- Tab Dividers
- Black Dry Erase Markers (Expo is the best quality)
- Two-pocket folders

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

PASTOR TIM OUT OF THE OFFICE

**PASTOR TIM WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE
JULY 10TH THROUGH JULY 24TH.**

**IF YOU HAVE A PASTORAL EMERGENCY,
PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR SARAH MORGAN.**

CHURCH OFFICE REMINDER

**THE CHURCH OFFICE IS REOPEN, HOWEVER WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A FRIENDLY
REMINDER TO PLEASE FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES (AT LEAST 6 FT
APART) WHILE ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY.**

**WE ALSO REQUEST THAT EVERYONE WEAR A FACE COVERING WHILE AT THE CHURCH
AND THAT YOU MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO CONDUCT ANY
BUSINESS YOU HAVE.**

THANKS FOR HELPING US KEEP THE STAFF, AND EACH OTHER, HEALTHY AND SAFE!



Highlights from the June Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Allowed the Boy Scout Troop to go back to the church before their camping trip to get items from the Scout Closet.
- Accepted and approved the recommendation and motion from the Covid-19 Task Force including restarting small in-person meetings on July 1, 2020 and in-person worship services on August 2, 2020.

Stewardship

MAY BUDGET REPORT

	May	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$44,535.09	\$355,238.60	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$46,313.59	\$265,497.72	\$777,908.00
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$1,778.50)	\$89,740.88	(\$6,075)

			1	2	3 Church Office Closed Preschool Closed	4 Happy 4 th of July!  <small>shutterstock - 136152794</small>
5 In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream 12p Virtual Coffee Hour 5p Montreat @ Home	6	7 7p Service & Outreach	8	9	10 Church Office Closed	11
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19 In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream 12p Virtual Coffee Hour 5p Montreat @ Home	20 Preschool Inservice August 2nd Edition Deadline!	21	22	23 5 ³⁰ p Physically Distant Food Truck Fellowship	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 In-person worship suspended. 11a Worship Live Stream 12p Virtual Coffee Hour 5p Montreat @ Home	27	28	29	30	31 Church Office Closed	



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Congregational Life & Youth*
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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Betsy Foster
Margie Gill

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Tim Wright
Tracy Horton

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Charles White

Stewardship

John Henley
Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones