

# TPC Weekly Newsletter

January 21, 2024



## DOING LIFE TOGETHER:

### Lavishly Loving God

*John 4:7-26*

#### A Reminder to Remember

You are likely familiar with the Pixar character Dorsey from the Finding Nemo movie. This beloved blue fish is known for struggling with a weak short-term memory. Throughout the movie, Dorsey struggles to remember who she is, where she came from, and even conversations she's had with other characters. Like Dorsey, we wrestle with a weak memory. And we need to be regularly reminded to remember who God is and what God has said, and to remember who we are and how we are to respond to God.

#### The Essence of Worship

*"Everyone is a worshiper."*

Author and social critic, David Foster Wallace once commented, "In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship." He is right. Well, mostly right. Everyone is a worshiper and worships something or someone. And we do get to choose what or who the object of our worship is. However, Wallace left out one important fact: there are consequences to the object or subject we choose to worship.

*Who We Worship Matters...Eternally*

One of the ways I tend to define worship is like this: "Worship is making much of, in word and action, that which we love most." Notice, like Wallace, this leaves room for anyone or anything to be the object of our worship! Hence the reason why God's Word is filled with so many prohibitions and prescriptions. And each of the thousands of "do's and don'ts" in Scripture are aimed at one primary goal: rightly knowing God so that we will rightly worship God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Weekly Announcements

- Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45 AM.
- Digging Deeper bible study on Monday at 10 AM.
- Home Dartball match against St. Matthews Methodist Church on Monday at 7:30 PM.
- Session meeting on Tuesday at 7 PM.

To provide flowers for worship, please sign up on the Worship bulletin board or contact Sherry.

Please know that your ministry support is a valuable means by which God is reaching, teaching, & growing followers of Jesus Christ. As always, we are thankful for God's faithfulness and your financial partnership.

### Upcoming Activities

- Soup-er Bowl Luncheon on Sunday, February 11 at our worship service.

### Mission Opportunities

Burrito making kits are available.

In support of Operation Warm Feet, we are collecting pairs of new socks for to be distributed to the homeless and needy of our city.

### Greeter Ministry

Please look for a warm, welcoming friend to meet & greet you on Sunday mornings. In addition, the greeter will lock all the church doors by 10:15 AM, except for the glass doors to the Narthex. If you need any help, please ask our greeter. We hope everyone will take a turn being this warm, welcoming presence.

We would love to have you sign up to serve as a Sunday morning greeter. To do so, put your name on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

So, then, we worship because it awakens, amplifies, and intensifies our appetite for joy. God, who is the greatest joy of all, is the greatest of all objects at which our worship can ever be aimed. Worship, then, is esteeming and echoing the eternal worth of God through heart-stirred expressions of Spirit-filled and truth-shaped delight in God.

**Lavishly Loving God**

As we look more closely at John 4, at the core of the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan woman is the fact and function of worship.

*The Jews and the Samaritans (some background information)*

*Barriers and Distinctions*

The woman was shocked and unsettled by Jesus and his request because there were four barriers between them: 1) their gender difference, 2) their racial difference, 3) their cultural difference, and 4) their religious difference.

*Revealing Her True Need and His True Supply*

The topic of “living water” (v. 7-15)

Water nourishes and renews the natural person

The Holy Spirit nourishes and renews the spiritual person

Christ, the Living Water, invigorates us with genuine and eternal life.

The topic of “true worship” (v. 16-26)

Jesus reveals who she really is and what she really needs.

Worship is not primarily about the outward acts we do for God, but the inward attitude, ambition, and appetite of our heart for God.

The Samaritan woman emphasized the place, the priesthood, and the practice of sacrifice as the essence of true worship. Jesus shifted the essence of worship to the disposition and desire of the heart.

Worship isn’t authentic and Spirit-filled because certain songs of a particular style are sung, a loose or detailed order of service is followed, people stand or sit, hands are raised or folded, prayers are written or spontaneous, there are pews or chairs or nothing, an organ is played or voices are the only instrument, song are projected or printed in a hymnal, a service is kept to an hour or it ends when it ends. All the outward, ceremonial, liturgical, religious acts we do is not the heart of worship. At the heart of worship is worship that flows from the heart, and this heart is one to which and through which Christ, the Living Water indwells, enlivens, and eternal nourishes.

**Prayer Joys & Concerns**

*Thanks and Praise*

Birthdays: Ron Dawson (1/23), Rebecca Perry (1/23), Candy Wheat (1/24), Sherry Pritts (1/26), Marilyn Scholz (1/26)

Anniversaries:

*Needs and Concerns*

Those who are grieving...

Those needing help/healing...

- Rebecca Perry and family - illness
- Dale Garner
- Rev. Bob & Rev. Camille Williams-Neal
- Rev. Ed Gayhart
- Carol Redd
- Roger Harvell’s dad
- Harvey (Miller’s great grandson)
- Tracy (Miller’s daughter)
- Ghyll Simoneschi
- Gwen Tomblin
- Jackie Morrow
- Bill & Janet Husband
- Greta Bemisderfer
- Sandy Koukola
- Susan Bauer
- Jean Paulmann
- Jane Kurfees
- Josh Jones (Jane Kurfees nephew) - heart problems
- Ed (Andrew Petty’s dad) - cancer
- Robert (Lois Bringhurst’s brother)
- Bill (Jim McDaniel’s brother) - cancer
- Jake (Jude’s brother)
- Spencer Hardin (Sheryl Yoffe’s friend) battling rare disease
- Sydney Welch (Addy Elder’s friend) - aggressive cancer
- Nella (Jude’s aunt) - heart troubles
- Craig (Jude’s cousin)
- Judy (David & Jude’s neighbor)
- Spike Frederick (Andy’s friend)
- Donna Primm (Andy’s friend)
- Toka (Sherry Pritts’ friend)

Situations and Circumstances...

- The mission and ministry of TPC
- The war on Israel
- Effects of recent cold weather
- Persistent societal violence
- Volatile political tensions
- Economic concerns
- Threats of global conflict
- The violence/brokenness of our city and the world
- Students, teachers, staff - summer vacation
- Medical caregivers, police, elected officials
- The many ministries of TPC (Burrito Riders, Faith & Art Center, OCC, Sew ‘n Sews, EACM, Maryhurst, Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

Consider sending our college students an encouraging note or card.

### College Students Addresses

Garrett Bushue  
650 Woodland Ave.  
407 Ball Hall  
Lexington, KY 40526

Ali Elder  
1909 Creason Street  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Natalie Hayden  
Bowdoin College  
898 Smith Union  
Brunswick, ME 04011

Maggie Jewell  
Campbellsville University  
1 University Drive  
# 681  
Campbellsville, KY 42718

Devon Williams-Neal  
300 N. Broad Street  
Lexington, KY 40508



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, following the service, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Super Bowl Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.

More information to follow!

# Christian Education Opportunities

## Koinonia

The Koinonia class is a seminar-based gathering that is presently focused on an introduction to the New Testament (its formation, history, background, and content). It spends some time on the individual books but at this point doesn't make an in-depth study of a particular one. In the past, the class has studied the history of the Church and a long-term study of the book of Acts. This coming year the focus will be on the writings of Paul, other letters, and the book of Revelation. The first gatherings will consist of a review of covered material. Participants can join the class in the Parlor or via Zoom.

Resources include video lectures from Dr. Dale Martin of Yale University and presentation slides. The style is a relaxed one with much attention paid to questions, concerns, and insights of those involved.

## Digging Deeper

There are two important ways we immerse ourselves in the Word of God. One way is through the sermon during our gathered times of worship. The other is through personal and corporate Bible Study. To this end, and in addition to the other Sunday school classes we offer, Pastor Steve leads this study as we dig deeper into the Bible passage for next week's sermon. We gather on Monday mornings at 10 AM in the Library.

If this study interests you, please contact Pastor Steve ([stevejewell356@gmail.com](mailto:stevejewell356@gmail.com)).

## Women's Sunday School

The Women's Sunday School class meets at 9:45 in the library. We are currently studying "Help Is Here" by Max Lucado, in an attempt to deepen our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Previous topics have included heaven and how to be "anxious for nothing" as instructed by St. Paul. In addition to seeking greater understanding, we share joys and concerns and enjoy fellowship with one another.

The leaders of this class are:

Cathy Dawson [ccdawson47@gmail.com](mailto:ccdawson47@gmail.com)  
(502) 693-3710

Lucie Fulmore [lfulmore@twc.com](mailto:lfulmore@twc.com)  
(502) 802-5096

## Youth Group

The Youth Sunday School class meets at 9:45 in the Youth Room downstairs, and is open to all Middle and High School students seeking to deepen their understanding of God's Word. The Youth class aims to study the Bible and apply God's Perfect Word to the lives of students as they navigate their teenage world. This fall, the class will dive into a study of the teenage battlefield. Led by Rebecca Perry, the youth will study how to shine the light of Christ—whether we are at school, out with friends, or at home. In addition to studying, the youth will also meet once a month for evenings of fellowship and fun!

## Sprouts Sunday School

Kids ages five through 4th grade are invited to join this group to learn more about growing in Christ. We will study how to grow and produce the fruit of the Spirit. This Sunday School is led by Diane Jewell ([djewell35@gmail.com](mailto:djewell35@gmail.com)). We welcome all young eager learners.

## Nursery Care

If you have a little one (0-4 years old), nursery care is available upon request. Diane Jewell is eager to sing, play with, and entertain your children, so you can worship God without worry or distraction. Please let Diane or the Greeter know you would like to make use of our nursery care.



## **Weekly Reminders**

Please consider joining one of the classes and/or small groups we offer:

- Koinonia Class led by [Rev. Bob Williams-Neal](#) at 9:45 AM.
- Women's Sunday School Class at 9:45 AM (please contact [Cathy Dawson](#) or [Lucie Fulmore](#) for more information)
- Youth Sunday School Class for middle school and high school students at 10 AM (please contact [Rebecca Perry](#) for more information).
- Sprouts Sunday School Class for ages 5 thru 4th grade at 9:45 AM (please contact [Diane Jewell](#) for more information).
- Digging Deeper meets on Monday mornings at 10 AM.

If you're unable to worship with us in person, join us via [Livestream](#) on Sundays at 11 AM. Our online worship bulletin is [posted here](#).

If you have a need, a prayer request, or have information you would like to share with the rest of the Trinity family, please contact [Pastor Steve](#), [Sherry Pritts](#) (Church Secretary), [Cathy Conn](#) or [Carol Hartmann](#) (co-Clerks of the Session), [Cathy Dawson](#) (chair of the Deacons), or your mini-flock shepherd. [Please click here](#) for the mini-flock list.

If you would like to make an online gift and/or donation to support the mission and ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church, [please click here](#).

*Loving God  
Growing Together  
Serving the World*