

# TPC Weekly Newsletter

January 29, 2024



## DOING LIFE TOGETHER:

### Growing in Godliness

*John 15:1-5*

#### Security Can Lead to Softness

All of us crave and strive for a sense of security. And yet, if and when we achieve that security, it is very tempting to settle in, to become flippant, to become soft. Consider these relatable scenarios:

An employee who takes their job for granted...

A husband who stops pursuing his wife...

A wife who stops cherishing her husband...

An athlete who coasts once achieving success...

A student who settles for what they already know...

When this happens, not only can we grow soft, but we can stop growing altogether.

#### Growing Is More Than Self-Improvement

Our security in Christ doesn't stifle our ambition, but reorients our ambition. Now, as those who are safe and secure in Christ, we long to become more like Jesus. We long to grow.

The goal of growing, contrary to the world's way, is not to become a better or the best version of yourself. Rather, the true goal of growing is to more clearly and more consistently resemble the image of God, specifically, to resemble the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to grow in Christ? It means to increase in your personal knowledge of Christ and become more constant in your love for him and your obedience to him.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Weekly Announcements

- Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45 AM.
- Digging Deeper bible study on Monday at 10 AM.
- Away Dartball match against Immanuel United Church of Christ on Monday at 7:30 PM.
- Worship Committee Zoom meeting on Thursday at 7 PM.
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place immediately after our worship service this coming Sunday.

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.

### 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.



**Growing in Godliness**

“Abide in me...” (v. 4a) is the main idea in the eleven verses before us this morning. As such, verses 1-5 focuses on God’s work for our growth, while verses 6-11 focuses on our work for our growth.

*The Condition of Our Relationship with Christ (v. 1-3)*

Propping up (those not bearing fruit)

Pruning (those overly fruitful)

No fruit (v. 2) - some fruit (v. 2) - more fruit (v. 2) - great fruit (v. 5)

*The Vitality of Our Relationship with Christ (v. 4-5)*

“Apart from me you can do nothing.” (v. 5)

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)

**The Fight for Faithfulness**

*Practice Makes Proficient*

“The 10,000-hour rule”

“...many characteristics once believed to reflect innate talent are actually the result of intense practice extended for a minimum of 10 years.” (Anders Ericsson, “The Role of Deliberate Practice in the Acquisition of Expert Performance”)

“Researchers have settled on what they believe is the magic number for true expertise: 10,000 hours.” (Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers*)

Surely you’ve heard the statement, “Practice makes perfect.” Well, a more accurate way of saying it may be, “Practice makes proficient.”

*How can I grow in Christ?*

“Disease is infectious, but health is not.”

Being born is a short and quick process, growing is a long and slow process.

That to what/whom we are devoted we will dedicate time and effort.

**G.R.O.W.T.H.**

- 1. Go to God in prayer daily.
- 2. Regularly read God’s Word.
- 3. Obey God moment by moment.
- 4. Witness for Christ by your words and actions.
- 5. Trust God for every detail of your life.
- 6. Heed the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer Joys & Concerns**

*Thanks and Praise*

**Birthdays:** Elizabeth McDaniel (1/29), Bert Lundstrom (1/31), Mary Gray (2/3), Michael Kratt (2/3)

**Anniversaries:**

*Needs and Concerns*

Those who are grieving...

Those needing help/healing...

- 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
- Persistent societal violence
- Volatile political tensions
- Economic concerns
- 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), 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*