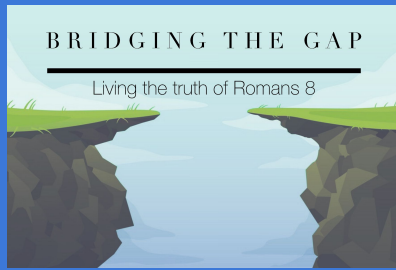


TPC Weekly Newsletter

March 3, 2024



BRIDGING THE GAP:

The Debtors Ethic

Romans 8:12-13

The Imprisoning Effect of Indebtedness

Rampant Debt in America

While observing the lifestyles of Americans, an international once remarked that it is a wonder more Americans don't own elephants. All that will likely change once they're available for zero down and a low monthly payment.

As of the third quarter of 2023, the average household debt in America equaled \$104,215. Between car loans, credit card debt, and student loans, this amount exceeded the average household income by \$14,000. The average American isn't just living paycheck to paycheck; they are digging a financial hole at a rate of \$1170 per month, or \$270 per week.

Universal Indebtedness to God

What's worse than all this financial indebtedness? The debt we owe to God, our spiritual indebtedness. For all of us are rebels who have abandoned our relationship with God, who made us and has the right over us. We find ourselves bankrupt before and indebted to God, who is the source, substance, and supplier of all we need, because we seek fulfillment in this world, which can only be found in another world.

Striving for Freedom from Debt

Just work harder and spend less

Our response to and the remedy we employ to rid ourselves of indebtedness is to simply work harder. Debt is a burden that demands, that weighs upon us as an unbearable load. Not only are we pressured to work harder to relieve ourselves of earthly burdens, but we transfer the same approach to our spiritual indebtedness to 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 Immanuel United Church of Christ on Monday at 7:30 PM.
- Worship Committee Zoom meeting on Thursday at 7 PM.
- Be sure to place your order for Easter flowers. Orders will be received until March 15.

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.

Mission Opportunities

Burrito making kits are available.

Upcoming Events

The Singles Fun Bunch plans to attend "Footloose" at the Derby Dinner Theater on April 17. If interested, or in need of more information, please contact Kay Hardy-Hines ASAP.

The TPW Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 12 at 10:30 AM in the Parlor. They are studying David Jeremiah's book, "Hope: Living Fearlessly in a Scary World". During this gathering, the Circle will look at Lesson 5 Hope When Facing Disaster.

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.

The Debtors Ethic

Progressive Summary of Romans 8

No legal condemnation any longer over those in Christ

— Romans 8:1-11

No legal obligation exists any longer for those in Christ

— Romans 8:12-17

A Transfer of Our Debt — v. 12

Verse 12 introduces an important practical conclusion that results from the conceptual truths stated thus far...

Indebtedness to the flesh... an unbearable burden, a weighty burden, eternally imposed

Indebtedness to the Spirit... an unimaginable freedom, a effortless joy, eternally secured

A Certainty and Security of Those in Christ — v. 13

Paul isn't saying that a genuine believer can lose their salvation ("die"). Rather, he is saying that a person whose life is characterized by the things of the flesh is not a true Christian, is not really "in Christ", but are still spiritually dead, no matter what their religious affiliation, involvement, or interests may be.

Consider the lesson in the parable of the ten lepers found in Luke 17:11-19...

Untraining and Retraining the Our Habitual Living

As those who are new creations in Christ, where our old nature is done away with and we are given a new (spiritually alive to God) nature, we have to engage in the long, slow, and persistent work of untraining and retraining. Our old nature has rigorously and exhaustively trained our mind to think, our body to act, and our will to hunger in a way consistent with opposition to God. Now, the entrenched habits of our mind, body, and will must be trained to think, act, and hunger consistent with the fellowship we now enjoy with God through Christ in the Holy Spirit.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

— Galatians 2:20

Prayer Joys & Concerns

Thanks and Praise

Birthdays: Lucie Fulmore (3/5), Ruth French (3/7)

Anniversaries:

Needs and Concerns

Those who are grieving...

The family and friends of Roger Harvell, Sr.

The family and friends of Josiah Kilman
(Campbellsville University student)

The family and friends of Dale Garner

Those needing help/healing...

Rev. Ed Gayhart - receiving hospice care

Monica (the Bloor-Brandt's neighbor)

Janet Husband

Steve Conn

Sandy Koukola

Jerry Pender

Rev. Bob & Rev. Camille Williams-Neal

Carol Redd

Ellen (Kay Nolan's cousin) - multiple myeloma

Greta Bemisderfer

Harvey (Miller's great grandson)

Tracy (Miller's daughter)

Ghyll Simoneschi

Gwen Tomblin

Jackie Morrow

Susan Bauer

Jean Paulmann

Jane Kurfees

Josh Jones (Jane Kurfees nephew) - heart problems

Robert (Lois Bringham's brother)

Bill (Jim McDaniel's brother) - cancer

Jake (Jude's brother)

Joan (Jake's wife)

Spencer Hardin (Sheryl Yoffe's friend)

Nella (Jude's aunt)

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

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)

PRAY
without ceasing

Easter Flower Order Form

Flowers (either tulips or lilies) may be ordered **now through Friday, March 15, 2024**, for display in the church on the March 31 Easter Sunday services. The cost is \$11 for tulips and \$13 for lilies. Red or yellow tulips are available. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church (indicate "Easter Flowers" on the memo line).

Options for purchase:

1. If you attend the church service, please fill out the information and place the form, with check, in the offering plate in the Narthex.
2. You may fill out this form and mail it to the church with payment.
3. You may call in or email your order (along with the dedication) to Sherry Pritts at the church office. Then mail in your payment or put a check in her mailbox.

_____ Tulips _____ Lilies Indicate number of each. Red tulips _____ Yellow tulips _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Given by _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

Sharing envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!! **SINGLES (& OTHERS) FUN BUNCH!**

This group is planning to attend a performance of "Footloose" at the **Derby Dinner Theater** matinee on **April 17, 2024**. The doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the Buffet opens at noon.

You need not be single to join us! Kay has made reservations for 22. The cost is \$37.00 apiece, which, of course, includes lunch. This is a special group rate that Kay got for us. You won't get a better rate! Please have your payment to Kay Hardy-Hines by March 1.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Fellowship Board in the hallway. Please let Kay know ASAP if you would like to join us!



Operation Christmas Child – 2024 Quick Facts

PRAISING GOD for a NEW RECORD of SHOEBOX GIFTS in 2023

That's right, friends. A **record number** of "Gospel Opportunity" shoebox gifts were packed in 2023! Following are the details distributed by Samaritan's Purse.

- We praise God for over **11.3 million** (11,330,126) shoebox gifts **collected worldwide in 2023, from 11 countries** (United States, Australia, Finland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, South Korea, and U.K.), including over **10 million** (10,051,570) shoebox gifts collected in the United States, the most shoebox gifts ever packed and donated in the United States!
- We praise God for **914,218** shoebox gifts donated in the **Mid-South Region** in 2023, the most shoebox gifts packed and donated in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee (an 11% increase in the Mid-South Region from 2022 to 2023)!
- **Over the past 30 years**, since 1993, the Lord has used Samaritan's Purse/ Operation Christmas Child to deliver more than **220 million shoeboxes distributed in more than 170 countries and territories!**
- We praise God for the **540,000+ volunteers worldwide**, with more than 213,000 of those in the U.S. who are involved in the collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts.

Here at **Trinity**, we praise God for just over **700 shoebox gifts that were packed in 2023!** This total includes the boxes packed at Trinity's packing event as well as the personal boxes donated by church members and friends. Our shoebox gifts were delivered to the Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, and a hard-to-reach area. In a hard-to-reach area, customs and cultural or religious reasons can make access difficult, but gift-filled shoeboxes give local believers a sensitive way to initiate ongoing relationships with those who may not know Christ. The gifts you provide help equip Christian brothers and sisters to take great risks to advance the Gospel, and they are deeply grateful for your partnership. Through your generosity, you are calling out "His praise from the ends of the earth (Isaiah 42:10)"!

This is the first of Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child – 2024 Quick Facts. We will be distributing the other quick facts over the next few weeks. The next one is regarding Evangelism!

Contact any member of the Mission Committee if you have questions.

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).

Women's Sunday School

The Women's Sunday School class meets at 9:45 in the library. We are currently studying the book of Romans using the Life Change Bible Study discussion guide. 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
(502) 693-3710

Lucie Fulmore 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). 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), [Andy Cannava](#) (Clerk of the Session), [Brenda Miller](#) (Chair of the Deacons), or your mini-flock shepherd. Please [click here](#) for the updated mini-flock list.

To view our 2024 Leadership & Committees list, please [click here](#).

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](#).

Consider sending our college students an encouraging note or card.

College Students Addresses

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650 Woodland Ave.
407 Ball Hall
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Ali Elder
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Natalie Hayden
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898 Smith Union
Brunswick, ME 04011

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

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