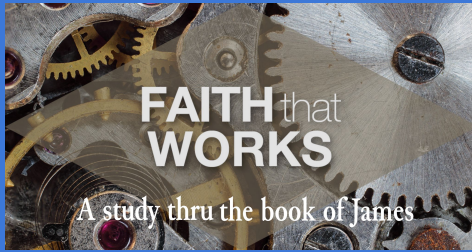


TPC Weekly Newsletter

April 14, 2024



FAITH THAT WORKS:

Spiritual Sobriety

James 1:9-12

Clarity Amid the Cloudiness of Life

Hopefully you had a clear view of the eclipse last week. Sadly, I did not. Just a few minutes before the peak of the eclipse, a giant cloud blocked my view.

The cloudiness of life is not limited just to the physical circumstances of life, like poverty, illness, oppression, or violence. Cloudiness in our lives can come in the form of emotional brokenness, depression, a distorted self-image, or deep-seated insecurities. Cloudiness in our lives is anything that shrouds our ability to know God, to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

When the circumstances or the perceptions of our life are clouded, we desperately need clarity to build our confidence and to guide our steps through life. Proverbs 3:5-6 remind us to *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”* Or as John 20:31 tells and assures us, *“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

A Summary of the Message of James

The letter of James summarizes the most important lessons for believer’s in the Lord Jesus Christ to live out during our earthly lives.

“Together Paul and James give the full dimension of faith. Paul wrote about inner saving faith from God’s perspective. James wrote about outward serving faith from man’s perspective. The true seed of saving faith is verified by the tangible fruit of serving faith.” (James Ronald Blue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Announcements

- Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:45 AM.
- Digging Deeper bible study meets this week at 10 AM
- The Dartball banquet is on Monday at 7 PM.
- The Session meets on Tuesday at 7 PM.
- A few items of Trinity’s logo apparel are left. Check them out in the volunteers office, and if you want anything, they are yours for a donation of your choice.

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

Sign-up for another round of our “Let’s Get Together” gatherings is taking place right now. Be sure to sign up on the Fellowship Bulletin board to join us for a great time of fellowship and encouragement.

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 sign up sheet in the Narthex.

FAITH THAT WORKS: Spiritual Sobriety

A Charge to Believers in Humble Circumstances (v. 9)

James is not speaking mainly about poverty and wealth when he refers to those who are rich or in humble circumstances. Rather, James speaks to the effect having or not having wealth has on us. Ultimately, as those who are in Christ grow in their walk with Christ, their grip on earthly things will loosen and their grip on heavenly things will tighten.

The challenge for those in humble circumstances is not finding their identity in their lack, obsessing over getting wealth, or envying those with more. Those in humble circumstances can wrestle with an overly low view of self and of one's value. Such near-sightedness shrouds one's ability to seek after, to see and savor God's goodness in this life.

A Charge to Believers in High Circumstances (10-11)

The challenge to those who are in high circumstances ("rich") is not finding their identity in their abundance, fixating on having and protecting wealth, or proudly presuming they are more important than others. Those in high circumstances can wrestle with an overly high view of self and of one's value. Again, such near-sightedness shrouds one's ability to seek after, to see and savor God's goodness in the life to come.

The Lasting Blessing to Those Who Love God (v. 12)

"Blessed" (v. 12) = "Consider it pure joy" (v. 2)

Being fully certain of God's faithfulness enables the believer to...

1. Persevere under trials (v. 2-4)
2. Walk wisely amid trials (v. 5-8)
3. Hold tightly to God through trials (v. 9-11)

A Counter-Cultural Community

The church is to be a countercultural community, who neither embraces nor copies the passions, priorities, and pursuits of the world, but the passions, priorities, and pursuits of the Kingdom of God, over which Christ reigns as King and rules as Lord.

Look up and read Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-35 as two important examples of the church as a counter-cultural community.

Prayer Joys & Concerns

Thanks and Praise

Birthdays: Roger Harvell (4/15), Mark McDaniel (4/17), Ann Douglas (4/19), Robyn Prestigiacomo (4/20)

Anniversaries:

Needs and Concerns

Those who are grieving...

The family and friends of Ruth French

The family and friends of Janet Jewell

Those needing help/healing...

Jamie King (Lois Bringham's nephew) - healing

Janet Husband - healing from surgery

Eddie Barker (Janet Husband's cousin) - healing

Carol Redd

Greta Bemisderfer

Mrs. Friedman (Sew 'n Sews member) - healing

Ashley (the Husband's grand daughter)

Gwen Tomblin

Madeline (Jude's former co-worker) - in hospice care

Monica (the Bloor-Brandt's neighbor)

Steve Conn

Sandy Koukola

Rev. Bob & Rev. Camille Williams-Neal

Ellen (Kay Nolan's cousin) - multiple myeloma

Harvey (Miller's great grandson)

Tracy (Miller's daughter)

Ghyll Simoneschi

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)

“Let’s Get Together”

April 14th – last day to sign-up



Fun, Food & Fellowship!

Take this opportunity to get better acquainted with other adults in our church family. Meet to share a meal together. It's your choice. It can be breakfast, lunch, brunch or dinner.

The sign-up sheet is posted on the Fellowship bulletin board in the hall.

Please Sign Up!



Operation Christmas Child – 2024 Quick Facts

DISCIPLESHIP:

- **The Greatest Journey** is a follow-up discipleship experience offered through local churches to many of the children who receive shoebox gifts. The **12-lesson program** introduces boys and girls to salvation through faith in Jesus and encourages them to grow as faithful followers.
- Over the past 30 years (since 1993), **more than 50 million children** have been discipled, **including 25 million children who have prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!**
- **Shoebox to Bible:** After a child completes the 12-weeks discipleship program, a **New Testament Bible** is given to each child in their language. So far, **over 36 million New Testaments** have been given to graduates through our local church partners.
- Samaritan's Purse trains over **240,500+ volunteer teachers** to lead children through The Greatest Journey program.
- In 2023, The Greatest Journey discipleship program was translated in **91 languages** and reached **98 countries!**
- In 2023, over **5.1 million children** participated in **The Greatest Journey** discipleship program and there were **nearly 2.9 million decisions for Christ**, equating to 331 children coming to faith each hour!
- Pray for over **5.5 million children** to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship program in 2024!

Stay tuned. OCC Quick Facts regarding **to the Ends of the Earth** are coming next!



Operation Christmas Child Donation Opportunities

The Mission Committee requests your consideration in making shoebox gift donations throughout the next several months so our supplies will be plentiful for our shoebox packing event to once again be held July/August.

The items being collected are:

UNDERWEAR SOCKS T-SHIRTS FLIP-FLOPS

These items may be for boys or girls in sizes appropriate for ages 2-4, ages 5-9, or ages 10-14. We intentionally pack more boxes for ages 10-14 as statistically the least number of boxes are packed for this age group.

You may drop off your donations from now through the end of June into the bin provided in the Narthex. We will periodically gather the donations, update our inventory, and sort the items according to sex and age.

Please consider donating to this worthy ministry. And join us in praying that Trinity's 2024 Shoebox Season will be fruitful!

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 will begin studying Max Lucado's book, *Trade Your Cares for Calm*, on April 14. In addition to seeking greater understanding, we share joys and concerns and enjoy fellowship with one another.

The leaders of this class are:

Lois Bringham loisbringham2@gmail.com
(502) 819-8936

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](#), [Lucie Fulmore](#), or [Lois Bringham](#) 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
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