

PRESBYTERIAN PROGRESS

602 Clarke St., Clay Center, KS 67432

November Helpers

Sermonette

- Nov 5 - Kim Woellhof
- Nov 12 - Charissa Chestnut
- Nov 19 - Reneé Langvardt
- Nov 26 - Brandon Lee

Hosts for Coffee

- Nov 5 - Lois Close & Mary Ann Fowles
- Nov 12 - Knepper Family
- Nov 19 - Reding Family
- Nov 26 - Karen Bryan

Greeters

- Nov 5 - Lyle & Jane Ross
- Nov 12 - Harvey Kalivoda
- Nov 19 - Reta Hemphill
- Nov 26 - Carmen & Betty Cyr

Nursery Assistant

- Nov 5 - Angie F. & Simon L.
- Nov 12 - April L. & Aidan G.
- Nov 19 - Deb M. & Kathryn D.
- Nov 26 - Mandy E. & Maci J.

Deacon: Karen Bryan

Can't Do Enough—500 Years, Part 1

He was hounded by doubts about his salvation. He knew his own sin well and felt its guilt. He would ask God for forgiveness and even do good things to try to work off his sin, but he always felt like it wasn't enough. He worried that even his confession of sin wasn't done with a sorrowful enough heart. He worried that even his good works were all tainted with selfishness and pride. He couldn't do enough to get free from his sin.

He wasn't a terrible person. In fact, those who knew him knew he was an upright, honest, respectable, and good man. And, he did lots of good things. He was a priest, and a professor of New Testament in a seminary. There weren't many people better than he was.

Why did he have such trouble understanding that he was forgiven by God and accepted by him? It was because of what his church taught. His church taught about Jesus, but it also taught that people have to contribute to their own salvation. People had to be good and earn righteousness, and they had to do good works to repay God for their sin. This man understood his problem well. How could he ever be good enough to pay for all of his sin? How could he ever be good enough to earn righteousness before God?

So, this man doubted his salvation, and struggled spiritually for years. One night he was studying the book of Romans preparing his lecture for the next day, and he came to chapter 1 verses 16-17. Of course, he had read and studied these verses many times, but as he contemplated them again, the meaning of "The righteous shall live by faith" became clear. Life came through faith in Christ. Righteousness came through faith alone. Suddenly, the meaning of other verses became clear: "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law" (Rom 3:28), and "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1). Faith in Christ rescues us from our sin! Our works don't rescue us from our sin! Justification is by faith in Christ alone!

His realization that Scripture taught salvation was through faith in Christ alone radically changed his life. And, it radically changed the course of history. Because of this man, we, living 500 years later, know the truth about salvation. The man was Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation, the one who posted his 95 theses on the Wittenburg Castle door on October 31, 1517.

Love,

Pastor Scott

November Birthdays



- 1 - Grace Doster
- 1 - Isaac Lee
- 3 - Bruce Chestnut
- 4 - Connie Frigon
- 6 - Rachel Patterson
- 8 - Nathan Affolter
- 8 - Harold Hartner
- 11 - Karen Langvardt
- 12 - Marjorie Coulson
- 12 - Annelle Meals
- 13 - Lon Livengood
- 16 - Todd Mackender
- 18 - Jean Oberhelman
- 20 - Isley Lee
- 21 - Jo Ray
- 23 - Marilyn Affolter
- 24 - Marilyn Thomas
- 28 - Richard Bull

*If you have any additions or corrections to the monthly birthday list, please contact the church office at 785.632.2813.

MomsCONNECT
 Tuesday, November 7, 2017
 9-11am at Clay Center Covenant Church.
 “Beauty for Ashes: Overcoming Life’s Trials with Grace and Joy”
 Join us for connection, food, speaker, and a craft. This event is free to attend with free childcare for ages birth through PreK.
 Invite another mom!

November Youth Group Schedule

- November 1 - Middle School Youth Group
- November 4 - Youth Service Project
- November 5 - High School Youth Group
- November 8 - Middle School Youth Group
- November 12 - High School Youth Group
- November 15 - Middle School Youth Group
- November 19 - High School Youth Group
- November 26 - Joint Youth Group @ Idana

Young Adults Group

Are you between the ages of 18 and 30 and looking for your place in the church? We have heard you and would like to invite you to our new Young Adults Group! It will be held once a month at Drew and Celisa’s house, typically on the third Saturday of each month, at 6:30pm.

There will be dinner, a Bible Study, and time to fellowship with those your own age. The next two dates for the group are November 18 and December 16, 2017.

November Mission Focus

John and Jan are EPC missionaries serving in the US/Muslim World. They would like prayers for:

- God-inspired, effective plans for establishing businesses and planting churches and for wisdom and energy to carry it out.
- Building an effective network of Business as Mission support agencies to assist World Outreach efforts.
- Development of an effective EPC coaching and consultant network of business experts.
- Raising the necessary capital for EPC global workers and the businesses they operate.
- Spiritual growth and a healthy marriage.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our church is hosting the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 23, 2017.

If you know anyone that would like a meal delivered or who needs a ride to church to eat that day, please call the church office.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to help or to make pies.

For any questions, contact Deb Woellhof at 632-5923 or call the church office at 632-2813.



**Collection Week:
November 13th-19th**

Greetings, friends! Can you believe that Christmas is right around the corner? And with that comes Operation Christmas Child Collection Week. I have been involved in this ministry since I was in high school. I love it, because it reaches out to some of "the least of these" in our world today. There are children who possibly have NEVER been given a gift in their entire lives, some of them orphans or refugees, and through Samaritan's Purse they can not only receive a box full of hygiene items, school supplies, and toys, but they can hear about the incredible love of Jesus! Each child receives a book called "The Greatest Gift" in THEIR OWN language, that shares the message of salvation. Many children also have the opportunity to participate in "The Greatest Journey," a 12 lesson discipleship course which includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization, and they learn how to follow Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with friends and family.

I am so thankful for our church family, and how graciously you have given to this ministry in the past. I pray that you will continue to share the love of Christ with these children through this simple shoe box gift! I also encourage you to go to the Operation Christmas Child website and read some of the stories of people who received these gifts as children, and are now adults and partnering with OCC to bring Christ to the next generation.

As you pack your shoe boxes, here are a few new rules and old reminders:

1. The donation for each box is now \$9. If you have more than one box, you can put the amount for your total amount of boxes in a single box. You can also make your donation online, and find out where your box ends up, if you go to www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/
2. No toothpaste or candy may be included in your box anymore! This is due to expiration dates and customs rules. You MAY still give toothbrushes, though!
3. Please DO NOT tape your box shut!
4. If you wrap your box, be sure the lid and box are wrapped separately, so it is still able to be opened.
5. There are pre-printed shoeboxes available in the church office if you need one. Also, there are plastic boxes made for Operation Christmas Child available to purchase at Hobby Lobby for \$2 each.

If you have any questions, please let me know! Thank you for partnering in this ministry, and please pray for your shoe box and the child who will receive it.

In Christ,
Steph VanMatre

Financial Stewardship Update

September General Fund Income: \$14,822.65

August Expenses: \$16,225.84

Amount Needed Each Month to Meet Projected Budget:

\$20,121.67

Coffee Time Dates Available

If you would be available to host Coffee Time, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We are very appreciative to those who help out with Coffee Time each week.

First Presbyterian Deacons

FPC Kid's Corner