



It Takes Grace...

“Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, ‘This is the way you should go,’ whether to the right or to the left” [Isaiah 30:21].

Have you noticed there is nothing more reassuring to a small child than the voice of their Mama or Daddy? It’s amazing to watch how they respond to a comforting word spoken softly, yet with a confident assurance and love. That same thing is true in our relationship with God, too. As His children, we should desire to hear His voice. I love the way *The Message* puts Proverbs 3:5-6. It says, “Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He’s the One who will keep you on track.” Did you hear that? For the times I’m prone to complain that God is not speaking, the problem more likely is that I’m not listening. Do you listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go? It’s easy for some of us to compartmentalize ourselves, temporarily focusing in on whatever seems to be directly in front of us. That tends to

lead us in the direction of separating our spiritual lives from our everyday routines. If this is an issue for you, I’d like to challenge you (and me) to make an intentional effort to listen for God’s voice in everything we do – not just what we think are the big decisions and not just on Sunday morning in church. Let’s practice listening for God’s voice in everything. Consider 1 Kings 19, when God spoke to a discouraged prophet named Elijah. Self-isolated in a cave and feeling lonely and sorry for himself, Elijah heard God’s voice, but not like we’d typically think. God told him to step outside the cave, go stand on the mountain. The story goes like this, beginning in verse 11: “Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. *And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*” To hear a gentle whisper, you have to be quiet. You have to want to listen in order to hear. And you

have to be expecting it – anticipating a gentle whisper. The winds came, the earthquake shook, and the fire roared. I would guess Elijah had no problem noticing all that. Sometimes, though, you just have to quit talking, shut up...and listen. Because God sometimes wants our full attention and will only speak in a gentle whisper. In the days ahead (like in days past), there will be much noise in our lives. Let’s all learn from Elijah. Pause and be still. Wait for God to speak. The Bible gives us all the encouragement we will ever need: “Your own ears will hear Him. Right behind you a voice will say, ‘This is the way you should go...’” How awesome will that be?! But it may only happen if we are listening. Bless you all, RevLon

Congregational Meeting



The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 9, just before our worship service at 10:15AM. The congregation will be asked to name three at-large volunteers to join with two elders to serve as an elder nominating committee. This committee will be asked to prepare a slate of four members who would be willing to serve as elders on the Session for a three-year term beginning in January 2021. They also will offer one name to serve as trustee for that same time period.



“Connected”

Recently we have experienced a more intense view of what separates people. In this article I would like to focus on what we all have in common though. We are all descendants, children of Adam and Eve, and though our appearance may be unique to each of us we are more related than we might think. A study done by Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson who holds a PhD in cell and developmental biology from Harvard University and serves as a research biologist, author, and speaker with Answers in Genesis and formerly conducted research with the Institute for Creation Research has revealed some astonishing things based on our genetic codes. Check it out here, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCicvc24eAbFp-thRrBnSP2A>, on the Answers in Genesis YouTube site under the video list titled “The New History to the Human Race”. It’s fascinating that science and research are pointing to the fact that we are all related and the evidence points back to a much younger point in history than we’ve been taught.

The truth of what we read in scripture points to a place in time when the world was covered in a flood and Noah’s family was the only ones who survived. So we are now descendants of Noah’s sons Ham, Seth and Japheth and their wives who Dr. Jeanson says carries on the code they received from Eve. It’s mind blowing and can be way confusing if you’re not on the same level

as Dr. Jeanson, but if you can stick with it and listen with an open mind and heart then you’ll feel so blessed to know that we’re much more connected and related than different.

We have allowed ourselves to be put into groups based on things that God doesn’t mention or give as means to be separated. Humanity without God continues to fracture and divide into more toxic and bitter rivalries than when they are connected to God’s purpose for us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus gave us a clear reflection of this as He gave no one priority or elimination as He died on the cross for all humanity to be free from slavery to sin. Sin is at the root of all of our prejudice and injustice but that is not easily heard as the reason on the national spotlight but it is an affliction that we all must live with in the world. But we are different because of Jesus sacrifice and His stepping out of the grace and we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish reconciliation and peace making that is super natural and begins with you and me. In my opinion we need more prayer and fasting. Evil doesn’t defeat evil, darkness cannot extinguish darkness and our world will not change as long as we continue to look at one another as foreigners from our group instead of brothers and sisters. We’re made in the image of God to be image bearers of His character which is loving,

peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and shows self-control. So, my prayer is that the healing for humanity will come from the One who created us, sustains us, redeems us and invites us into the reconciliation of the world to Him. This present suffering should draw us all closer to Him and dependent on Jesus, don’t you agree? God is good, all the time! And all the time, God is good! Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” Matthew 22: 37-40

In Christ’s Love,
Rob
Romans 12

REV. LON IS RETIRING

After 19 years here at First Pres, Reverend Lorton is retiring. Because of the uptick in the Covid 19 cases we have come up with three great SAFE ways to send your "goodbyes" and "best wishes":

1. On Sunday, August 30th, from 5:30—7:30PM Rev. Lon and Pat will be under a tent in the church parking lot and we invite you to drive by and lay your card, gift card, and/or memory card on a ta-

ble.
 2. The week before, August 24-28th, 2020 we will have a table set up by the offices for you to bring your card—if the doors are locked at the time you come by—we have a lockbox on the wall for you to place your card into. Monday—Thursday 8:00AM-4:00PM, Friday 8:00AM til noon.
 3. Lastly, mail in your card: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 568, Madisonville KY 42431.

If you have any questions call Dawn at 270-821-6426.



**REV. LON'S LAST
 SERMON IS AUGUST
 30TH AT 10:15AM**

June 2020 Finances

Income	\$14,996.40	YTD Income	\$154,118.72
Expense	<u>-\$22,564.01</u>	YTD Expense	<u>\$135,007.22</u>
Net	-\$7,567.61	YTD Net	\$19,111.50

Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$13,309.40	Income	\$139,838.24
Expense	<u>-\$22,265.06</u>	Expense	<u>-\$124,446.60</u>
Net	-\$8,955.66	Net	\$15,391.64

Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$1,687.00	Income	\$14,280.48
Expense	<u>-\$298.95</u>	Expense	<u>-\$10,560.62</u>

Operating Funds

Beginning Balance	\$100,746.84
Ending Balance	\$ 91,580.89
Investment Account	\$202,302.00



AUGUST
Birthdays &
Anniversaries

1st Mike & Nancy Franklin (A)
Craig Winstead
2nd Mike Franklin
4th Chaun Castleberry
10th Russell Fischels
14th Mike & Jo Shepherd (A)
15th Matt Sills
16th Phyllis Klym
19th Shari Winstead
21st Lanna Arnold

24th Mike Shepherd
Connie Skultety
26th Lon & Pat Lorton (A)
Cookie Porter
27th John & Cheryl Bushong (A)
28th Kyle Gregory
31st Luke Ricketts

August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 6PM Session Mtg	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 First Day of School	27	28	29
30	31					