

MEDITATIONS ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

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P O BOX 165
Richmond, KY 40476-0165**



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David Deaton	2024
James Exline	2024
Bonnie Gray	2024
Eric Everett	2025
Jennifer Wilke-Deaton	2025
Philip Gump	2026
Paul Hager	2026
Bill Mitchell	2026

DEACONS	CLASS OF
Linda Adams	2024
Donna Cox	2024
Lynn Shearon	2024
Sue Reeves	2025
Julie Stanley	2025
Gene Wolf	2025
Jennifer Brubaker	2026
Kathy Shew	2026
Coy Weldon	2026

*Thank you to the following officers
for their service:*

Elders

*Bill Mitchell
Courtney Lawrenz
Beth Underwood*

Deacons

*Chris Campbell
Marti Exline
Jill Hissom*

“**I BELIEVE IN GOD**”—the most familiar, most universal affirmation in all of Christianity. We Christians seldom feel a need to explain to one another what we mean by “I believe in God.” Among fellow believers, this affirmation is simply accepted as a given. But, when pressed by non-believers to say what the word “God” means, we often find difficulty in providing a suitable definition. We may profess that we believe in God, but do we really know what we are believing? Do we really understand what the word “God” refers to? Do we really know God?

Perhaps the closest statement in scripture to a definition of God might be Jesus’ words to the Samaritan woman at the well, where he says, “God is spirit” (John 4:24). Jesus’ declaration that God is spirit is certainly an affirmation of an essential tenet of the Hebrew scriptures. “God is not a human being, that he should lie, or a mortal, that he should change his mind.” (Numbers 23:19).

An accepted premise in the Old Testament is that the God of Israel exists beyond all human perception. Among the writings of the wisdom literature, we read, “Behold, he passes by me, and I do not see him; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him” (Job 9:11, 23:8-9). Even the New Testament reminds us of this ancient scriptural premise. “No one has ever seen God” (John 1:18a). Ultimately, then, this God of the Bible, whom we cannot see, who is veiled from our sight, is alas unknowable.

This God of the sacred scriptures, this invisible Spirit, is also professedly immortal (1 Timothy 1:17). As such, he exists not only beyond our perception, but he also exists beyond our mortal limits. We human beings are bound by time and space. But unlike us mortals, God is not bound by a beginning or an ending; he is not confined to mere *somewhereness*. There is never a time when God is not; he is eternal. There is never a place where God is not; he is ubiquitous. Thus, we, as spatial and temporal creatures, cannot possibly comprehend what it means to be ubiquitous and eternal.

According to the biblical witness, then, it would seem that God, as spirit, is imperceivable and cannot be known empirically. And he is inconceivable and cannot be known by human reason.

So, can we Christians really know the God whom we claim to believe in? Of our own accord, the answer would seem to be “no.” But, because God chooses of his own accord to make himself known to us, the answer becomes an emphatic “yes!” “No one has ever seen God. It is God the only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known” (John 1:18).

Continued from page 1

According to the New Testament, the only one qualified to make God known is the only-begotten Son, who himself is God. As the Son says of himself, “the Father and I are one” (John 10:30). His proximity to the Father’s heart, his intimacy with the Father places the Son in a unique position to reveal God to the world.

The only-begotten makes the invisible known by becoming visible. The Son of God makes the immortal known by taking on mortality. This God, who is spirit, “became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Accordingly, the Divine becomes human; the Creator becomes his own creation. This God made flesh is the person of Jesus Christ.

It is this incarnation, this *enfleshment* of God in Christ that makes it possible to know God. Jesus witnesses to his earthly presence as the visible, mortal embodiment of God the Father.

“If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?” (John 14:7-10a)

So, whenever we Christians affirm that we believe in God, we are acknowledging a God of self-disclosure, a God who reveals himself in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Christ’s revelation of God the Father to his disciples two thousand years ago still continues even after the earthly Jesus no longer walks among us. The revelation continues through another divine advocate. Jesus reassures his followers, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you” (John 14:16, 26). Indeed, this Advocate, this Holy Spirit, is the very spirit of Christ himself, who bears witness to God within our own spirits, so that we too may abide as intimately with the Father as does the only-begotten Son—that we too may become children of God. As the Apostle Paul writes, “Because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Galatians 4:6).

The Apostles’ Creed does acknowledge the triune nature of God in that it affirms our belief in God as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit. So, as we reflect upon the Apostles’ Creed, let us openly embrace our faith in a God who exists beyond us, who abides within us, and who walks beside us.



USHERS NEEDED!!

Helping to usher is an easy way to be more involved with our worship service and a way to interact with the congregation. Each Sunday we need two ushers to greet people attending church along with passing out bulletins. Ushers will also collect the offering towards the end of the service.


Please consider volunteering and let me know if you are interested. Hopefully we can get enough people so each of us will only need to usher a few times each year. I will be glad to make the schedule and answer any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. You can contact me any time.

Sincerely, Kevin Crump

859-200-5686

kevincrump@yahoo.com



OPEN HOUSE!
August 13
1-2:30



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Connie Reimold | 2 | Dale Lawrenz |
| 4 | Will Harter | | Sue Fain |
| 5 | T.J. Glass | 4 | George Ferrell |
| 6 | Jackie Vance | | Randall Gray |
| 7 | Mary Harter | 6 | Tracy Lamb |
| 13 | Abby Perry Freeman | | Joel Stanley |
| | Aiden Orthenburger | 7 | Amelia Shew Trinh |
| 14 | Gil Shew | 8 | Bruce Bonar |
| 18 | Lucy Waterbury | 14 | Pierce Johnson, Jr. |
| 19 | Bonnie Gray | 16 | Karen Losson |
| 20 | Marlene Waller | 22 | Carter Lamb |
| | Jen Deaton | 27 | Gene Wolf |
| 21 | Sarah Gump | 28 | Phyllis Gump |
| 23 | Dot Kirkpatrick | | Jeanie Smith |
| 25 | Coy Weldon | 30 | Bill Carrico |
| 27 | Marsha Frazier | | Jim Ney |
| 28 | Lynn Shearon | | Mandy Owens |
| 29 | Kyah Brinegar | | |

MISSION.....a body of people sent

FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We are reporting to the congregation on the amount of money given for the last two special offerings. The 5 Cents A Meal offering was \$920 and the Waters for the Living Lord offering was \$2638. A portion of the WWL offering will be sent to Honduras to be added to funds raised from other sources to dig a new well in a drought stricken area where there is currently no water available. The 5 Cents A Meal offering will be split between the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Grace Now in Richmond on a 80/20 percentage basis. Thank you to those who contributed to these important offerings and to God whose hand is in all good things.

June 2023 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	23	\$2,517.82
Rent	15	\$2,289
Hotel	5	\$710
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	20	\$1,019.07
Gas	14	\$350
LexServe	1	\$221.66
Richmond Auto	1	\$225
USPS Stamps		\$126
Love Cupboard	9	
Total		\$7,458.55

**51 Unique Families served
(includes 31 children)**

July 2023 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	36	\$3,845.79
Rent	21	\$3,299.45
Hotel	5	\$1,020
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	41	\$752.31
Gas	20	\$500
Carmart payment assistance	1	\$150
White House Clinic (medicine)	1	\$150
Cupboard Supplies		\$203.40
Love Cupboard Pantry assisted	14	
Total		\$9,920.95

**75 Unique Families served
(includes 47 children)**



Thank you very much for the cake and beautiful orchid in celebration of my 25th anniversary as Office Manager for First Presbyterian! This church family is a blessing to me!

Dana



Thank you to the following people who volunteered in the church office during my July vacation!

- Anna Marthin Burns**
- Donna Cox**
- Arleita Dirne**
- Carolyn & Eric Everett**
- Sue Reeves**
- Coy Weldon**

If you would like to be added to the volunteer list, please let me know.

Thank you!
Dana

Thank you everyone who participated with the picnic at Sue Chenault's house last month. 83 people attended and a good time was had by all! Thank you to everyone who made this fun and memorable event possible.



YOUTH GROUP!

Middle School Montreat

We had three youth and two adults attend this year's Montreat Middle School retreat in Maryville Tennessee where we learned about igniting the spark of the Holy Spirit in our lives, feeding that flame through the practice of spiritual disciplines and spreading that flame to others through loving deeds. A big thank you to LeAnn Jones for helping to chaperone, to the Telford Fund for helping us finance the trip and to all the youth who attended for making this go as smoothly as it did. Video of our church's contribution to the talent show is up on the church Facebook page and definitely worth checking.

Youth Group Lunch

Youth group will continue to have a time of scripture, fun and fellowship over Lunch at the church at noon on Tuesdays until School starts. All Middle School and High School youth are welcome to attend and encouraged to come!



**MONTREAT
2023**

The family of David Jett wishes to thank our First Presbyterian Church family for the avalanche of prayers, condolences and support as we all find a new way forward without our quiet life force. Collective grief is a tremendous solace during difficult times such as this. Your calls, texts, cards and donations to the Love fund, have lifted our spirits, filled our hearts, and steadied our steps each day, since his passing. God is with us all, as we draw upon David's spirit within us, to continue to do the sacred work he started and we are all called to do for God's children. We weren't ready to lose him but with your love and support, we will ready ourselves for moving forward with servant hearts and hands, as David would want us to do.

With love & appreciation,

*Lucy, Ethan, Wyatt, & Ainsley Waterbury
Neal, Lynn, Wiley, Katie & Alden Jettpace
SueAnn Reeves
Dabney Parker
Sally Davis*



Thank you for the cards, calls, and texts following the recent passing of my father. I appreciate my church family and the support you give.

Beth Underwood



Sanctuary Flowers

The Flower Committee welcomes all flower arrangements, both purchased and cut from your own garden! You will need to notify Dana in the office by Tuesday before the Sunday of your choice.

Thanks for sharing God's beauty!

Sue Reeves and Sue Chenault

By Joel

As we come to the close of July and make our way into August and barrel on towards the start of another school year, my thoughts usually turn to Rally day. Rally day is our official kick off to the Sunday school year and it's kind of a big deal for the DCE crowd. As such, I thought I might dedicate this article to the history and heritage of the Sunday school movement. I feel that by doing this we all might glean a little better understanding of the historical scope and influence of Sunday school as well as learn a little something about our roots in the church and possibly even encourage folks to come and be a part of classes here at FPC Richmond because it is a fine tradition to be a part of.

Did you know that the modern institution of Sunday school has its origins in prison reform? It's true. The man considered to be the father of the Sunday school movement is Robert Raikes, a publisher from England in the 18th century. Raikes started the first Sunday school as a way to prevent youth from turning to a life of crime. Raikes' school met on Sundays as most of the youth in 18th century England had jobs in factories and Sunday was their only day off from work. The school taught reading, writing, worship and the catechisms and the only text book they used to learn these things was the Bible. The classes would be held from 10am –noon and from 1 pm – 5:30. That's an impressive stretch of time compared to our 45 minute classes today. The main focus of these first Sunday schools was just as much academic as it was spiritual and these original Sunday schools would go on to be the forerunner of the current English school system.

Things were a little bit different in the American Sunday school system. In America, Sunday schools were started in an attempt to harness some of the success of their English counterparts. But where English Sunday schools grew to focus on academics and filled England's early needs for a school system, American Sunday schools grew more and more focused on the spiritual. This was largely because America had a system of public education in place which taught the academic subjects but which did not offer any degree of religious training. In this way, American Sunday schools have come to be the main source of religious education in the nation across all denominations.

One of the most unique things about the Sunday school movement is its use of laity in the role of teacher. Our Sunday school classes here at First Presbyterian are one of the places in the church that truly embodies the reformed concept of the priesthood of all believers. Anyone with a call and the gift of teaching can teach a Sunday school class. This is a testament to the fact that God can work through any and all of us, as long as we are willing to surrender ourselves to Him. Along those lines, teaching Sunday school was one of the first leadership positions in the church opened to women. Women have been serving and leading the church as Sunday school teachers since the mid 1800's and this is largely considered to be one of the first steps toward a more inclusive role for women in the leadership of the church.

So I would invite you to come out on Sunday morning and be a part of history. Come and learn something alongside your fellow Christians. Proverbs 27:17 says "As Iron sharpens Iron, so one person sharpens another" and to me, Sunday school is an embodiment of that and well worth your time and effort.



VBS 2023
 First Christian Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 White Oak Pond Church
 present...

**Quenched! Come & See
 Jesus & The Woman at the
 Well- A Marketplace
 Adventure**

Where: 412 W. Main St. @ First
 Christian Church, Richmond, KY
When: August 6:
 August 7 & 8:
Who: All ages, intergenerational
 family groups!

Register:
www.fccrichmond.com/ubs



The nursery is looking for volunteers to work on an as-needed basis. Sign ups are posted in the narthex.

We would like to have one youth and one adult over the age of 18 working together. The adult has to have a background check performed; this will be paid for by the church.



In case you have not noticed yet, we are experiencing a rise in children attending our church. Praise for this! If you have any interest in helping with one of the younger Sunday School classes or Children's Church, please contact Joel.



News Brief from Session

- Average live-stream and in person attendance 96.
- Needs Assessment results to be released shortly. Watch for details about a Town Hall meal and meeting to review them.
- Ushers needed. Please contact Kevin Crump to volunteer.
- Fellowship meeting Aug. 6. Please consider helping plan events for all to enjoy.
- June pledges up compared to last year and endowment accounts are up.
- Arts & Crafts for Missions scheduled for November 18.
- Our Moments for Meditation are being used by other Presbyterian Churches. Kudos!



*Clerk of Session
 Melody Mitchell*

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 859/623-5323 (fax) 859/623-5329
 www.richmondfpc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Tuesday Crew 9-11	2 Bible Study 6:30	3	4	5
6 COMMUNION  The Lord's Table VBS 2:00-6:00	7 Bible Study 10:30 am VBS 5:00-7:00	8 Tuesday Crew 9-11 VBS 5:00-7:00	9 Bible Study 6:30	10 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30	11	12
			DANA ON VACATION			
13 Deacon's mtg. noon 5 cents Per Meal Offering	14 Bible Study 10:30 am	15 Tuesday Crew 9-11	16 Bible Study 6:30	17	18	19
20 Town Hall mtg. noon Fellowship Hall	21 Bible Study 10:30 am	22 Tuesday Crew 9-11 Session mtg. 7:00	23 Bible Study 6:30	24	25	26
27	28 Bible Study 10:30 am	29 Tuesday Crew 9-11	30 Welcome Wednesday/potluck 6:00	31		