



JUSTIFIED AND SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST

On any given Sunday, the congregation will hear me declare, as part of our assurance of pardon, that “in Jesus Christ, we stand justified, we stand sanctified, and our sins are forgiven.” Of course, we take comfort that our sins are forgiven; we easily understand the forgiveness of sins is a wonderful thing. But do we derive comfort from the assurance of our justification and sanctification? Do we even understand what they are? Do we comprehend the distinction between the two?

“Justification” and “Sanctification” are what I refer to as Sunday words—words we use in Sunday school and worship, but are not often used throughout the week during our daily routines. We don’t usually talk about our co-workers or associates as “justified employees.” We don’t usually describe a college classmate as “a sanctified dude.” People just don’t speak like this in average everyday conversations.

In an effort to demystify these lofty ecclesiastical words, let me start by saying that justification simply refers to God’s act of taking what is wrong about us and making it right. Similarly, sanctification is God’s process of freeing us, empowering us to move away from what we are and to grow into what we ought to be.

But, aren’t these two things really one and the same? If God justifies me by making me right with God, isn’t that what I ought to be? If I’m justified, am I not also sanctified? Admittedly, while these two concepts might be inseparable, they are quite distinguishable.

Here’s the difference. While justification refers to my being made right with God, it doesn’t say anything about my becoming what I ought to be. Justification doesn’t mean that I am no longer a sinner, it simply means that I am “reckoned as righteous” in the eyes of God (Romans 4) despite my being a sinner. Sanctification, on the other hand, refers to my being freed from my sinful nature so that I might become the humanity that God intended me to be. And this humanity intended by God from the beginning of creation is typified in the person of Jesus Christ. So, to be sanctified is to be empowered by God to become more Christ-like.

Whereas justification is a single act of God to reckon me as righteous by faith in Jesus Christ, sanctification is a life-long process of God empowering me to become more like Christ.

Although distinguishable, justification and sanctification remain inseparable with regard to salvation. Sadly, however, many modern Christians have equated salvation solely with justification. They falsely assume that salvation is a completed act once we have been reckoned as righteous in God’s sight. They reduce salvation to nothing more than a single act whose end is justification by faith in Christ. If justification is all that salvation achieves, then Christianity is a religion of complacency—a religion where everyone begins at the finish line.

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**First Presbyterian Church
P O BOX 165
Richmond, KY 40476-0165**

WITH
Gratitude

| <u>ELDERS</u> | <u>CLASS OF</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Eric Everett | 2025 |
| Lucie Nelson | 2025 |
| Jennifer Wilke-Deaton | 2025 |
| Philip Gump | 2026 |
| Paul Hager | 2026 |
| Bill Mitchell | 2026 |
| Caroline Crump | 2027 |
| Jim Exline | 2027 |
| LeAnn Jones | 2027 |
| <u>DEACONS</u> | <u>CLASS OF</u> |
| Sue Reeves | 2025 |
| Julie Stanley | 2025 |
| Gene Wolf | 2025 |
| Jennifer Brubaker | 2026 |
| Kathy Shew | 2026 |
| Rhonda Orttenger | 2026 |
| Wayne Bowlin | 2028 |
| Donna Cox | 2028 |
| Denise Crump | 2028 |

LOVE FUND!

We worked with 37 unique clients (included 31 children)

Rent - 8 families- \$1,275
 Utilities- 21 families- \$2,794.28
 Hotel - 3 families- \$315
 Progressive- 1 family- \$161.40
 Save a lot Bill - \$1,884.87 (food vouchers)
 Gulf gas Bill - \$675
 Total Spent - \$7,105.55
 Distributed - 19 food vouchers
 Distributed - 15 gas vouchers
 Love Fund Pantry - 7 families

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But, justification is where the race begins. It is the beginning of salvation, not its end. Being reckoned as righteous is what allows sinners to lay aside every weight of sin that would otherwise alienate us from our righteous relationship with God. Justification lets us run with perseverance; it lets us run the race of sanctification that God sets before us. It is a life-long race to run from our fallen humanity toward our Christ-like humanity.

And so, salvation is more than being right with God; it is also a life of becoming more loving, more compassionate, more sacrificial every day. Through justification, we can affirm that we are saved; through sanctification, we can affirm that we are being saved.



Rally Day!

Thanks to everyone who helped plan and put on this year's Rally Day kick off and thanks to everyone who came out to attend! It was a great way to start off the school year!



Evening Women's Circle
September 10th at 6:30 pm
in the church parlor.

Rebecca Esther Circle

Tuesday, September 17
 10:30 a.m. for the meeting, followed by the lesson & lunch.

Everyone who attends is asked to bring sandwiches or finger food for the lunch. We will have the yearly *Thank Offering* and Ginny Baker will have the first lesson in our book, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. You can pick up a book in Dana's office.



- 2 Sue Fain
- 4 George Ferrell
Randall Gray
- 6 Tracy Lamb
Joel Stanley
- 7 Amelia Shew Trinh
- 8 Bruce Bonar
- 14 Pierce Johnson, Jr.
- 16 Karen Losson
- 22 Carter Lamb
- 27 Gene Wolf
- 28 Phyllis Gump
Jeanie Smith
- 30 Bill Carrico
Jim Ney
Mandy Owens

- 1 Betty Park Adams
Rhonda Orttunburger
- 11 Julie Stanley
Eden Stanley
- 15 Paul Hager
- 17 Beth Underwood
- 18 Curtis Christian
- 23 Nancy Crider
- 25 Abigail Adkins
- 26 Phillip Seyfrit
- 29 Shelby Dale Lamb
- 30 Arleita Dirne

Youth and Parent Planning Meeting

Our youth group is going to have an important planning meeting on **Sept. 8th at 6:30 pm in the gym**. We will use this time to set our official calendar for the year, brainstorm events for our youth group and do some general housekeeping for the year. Youth, parents and their families are all encouraged to attend. Dessert will be served! Bring your calendars!

Prayer Breakfast

Our youth prayer breakfast is moving from Tuesday mornings to Thursday mornings at 6:45 at Purdys. If you are in Middle or High School and looking for fellowship, fun and spiritual development, come and join us!



TO LEARN MORE VISIT
WWW.LMPEACECENTER.ORG/SPONSORED-EVENTS/



Healthy Congregations

Healthy Congregations uses the insights of family systems theory to help church leaders become more effective stewards of their congregations. This workshop was developed by Dr. Peter Steinke and is based on the work of Dr. Edwin Friedman, author of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*. The Healthy Congregations workshop is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose.

This Workshop Will Help You/Your Church...

- Learn how you as a leader can positively influence the health your congregation
- Learn how to keep anxiety from being infectious
- Gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities
- Learn how to limit invasive behavior, manage reactivity, and overcome sabotage
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources, options, and the future



Who Will Benefit:

- **Pastoral leaders** who are interested in learning a proactive approach to managing anxiety in their church
- **Church lay leaders** who want to gain confidence in their position and how to best manage challenges
- **Anyone** interested in learning how to manage self and become a positive representative for the church

Logistical Information:

- The workshop will begin at 9:00 am and last until 4:00 pm
- There will be a couple 15-minute breaks and an hour break for lunch

Presented By
Jay Wittmeyer



Rev. Jay Wittmeyer is the Executive Director of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Jay is an educator, organizational development consultant, and mediator with broad experience, serving conflicted churches and organizations in the U.S. and international settings. Grounded in an Anabaptist peace-building tradition and working from a Bowen family systems perspective, LMPC works to transform conflict in a healthy manner.

Date

September 21st, 2024

Location


First Presbyterian Church
130 Windridge Dr
Winchester, KY 40391


Organizer


Transylvania Presbytery,
PCUSA

Workshop By



 630-627-0507

 101 W. 22nd St., Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148

 www.LMPeaceCenter.org

Richmond's 4th Annual Millstone Festival

Save the Date

October 5th, 2024

Presented By
DREAMING CREEK BREWERY

Millstone Festival 11:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.
 Millstone After Hours 8:00p.m. to 1:00a.m.

MISSION.....a body of people sent

Save the Date!

The mission committee is sponsoring our church's booth for the **Millstone Festival** on October 5th, 2024 from 11:00am to 8:00pm. If anyone would like to volunteer or participate in the booth please contact Philip Gump or LeAnn Jones. More information to come!



MEDITATION FELLOWSHIP HIKES

COME JOIN US:

One Saturday every month, the Fellowship Committee is hosting Intergenerational Meditation Fellowship Hikes. We will hike, read scripture, pray, and afterward eat at a local restaurant. Below is a tentative schedule for the up-coming hikes for 2024-25 (weather permitting). Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, and a bottle of water are recommended. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!! Invite a Friend!!!**

- SEPTEMBER—Anglin Falls—9:00 am on Sept. 7
- OCTOBER—Raven Run Nature Sanctuary (Fayette County)
- NOVEMBER—Natural Bridge State Park (Powell County)
- DECEMBER—Gray's Arch (Red River Gorge, Powell County)
- JANUARY—Indian Fort Overlook / Devil's Kitchen (The Pinnacles, Berea)
- FEBRUARY—Eagle's Nest (Indian Fort, Berea)
- MARCH—Natural Bridge State Park (Powell County)
- APRIL—Cumberland Falls State Park (McCreary County)
- MAY—Brushy Fork/Welch Mountain Trail (Berea)

Teaching With Soul
By Joel

For our next installment of newsletter articles covering the ten commandments, we will cover the third commandment and continue our work on the dual perspective of both prohibition and encouragement that can be found in each commandment. The third commandment, according to the reformed tradition and as it can be found in Exodus 20:7, is “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name”. To fully understand this commandment, we have to spend a little time looking into what exactly is meant by the “name” of God.

God has many names in the Bible, but the name referenced in this commandment is known in theological circles as the Tetragrammaton. This is God's sacred name. It is not a title like Lord or a nickname like Abba. This is God's proper name, revealed to Moses along with the ten commandments on Mt. Sinai. It is called the Tetragrammaton because it is made up of four letters (hence the tetra) in the Hebrew alphabet all of which, in the oldest Hebrew manuscripts, only have sound dependent on the type of letter to which they are adjacent. As such, the tetragrammaton is an unpronounceable word. When reading passages from scripture that contain the Tetragrammaton, ancient Hebrew worshippers would replace the divine name with “adonai”, or Lord, rather than risk saying the true name of God. We know this name today as Yahweh, though that name has certainly gone through its own lengthy evolution over time and is likely nowhere close to the correct pronunciation of God's true name.

The fact that God's name is unpronounceable is a theological statement in and of itself. In the ancient way of thinking, speaking the name of a God or Demon granted a person power over that entity. You can still sort of see this idea today in the story of Rumpelstiltskin. In that story, when the captured girl speaks Rumpelstiltskin's name, she's given power over the troublemaker and can send him back from whence he came. This also plays out in some of the interactions Jesus has with demons in the Gospels, such as the Demon Legion where Jesus compels the demon to reveal its name before he casts it out into a herd of pigs.

So God has given us His name, but that name is unpronounceable. I see this as meaning that we have access to the power inherent in God's name without having any sort of control over it. We know the name, we just can't use it. In other words, we can call on God but we cannot compel God. This concept is at the root of the third commandment that tells us to use God's name in the right way. So the third commandment prohibits us from using God's name to achieve our own ends, but encourages us to tap into the power of God as a means of participating in God's divine plan here on earth.

September 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.richmondipc.com

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i> | 3 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11 Mission mtg. 7:00</i> | 4 <i>Bible Study 6:30</i> | 5 <i>Youth prayer breakfast 6:45 am at Purdys</i> | 6 | 7 Meditation Hike to Anglin Falls |
| 8 <i>Buckhorn Offering Youth & parent planning mtg. 6:30 in gym</i> | 9 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i> | 10 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11 Evening Circle 6:30</i> | 11 <i>Bible Study 6:30</i> | 12 <i>Youth prayer breakfast 6:45 am at Purdys Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30</i> | 13 | 14 |
| 15 <i>Church Picnic—home of Sue Chenault</i> | 16 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i> | 17 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11 Esther-Rebecca Circle 10:30 With potluck lunch CE mtg. 4:30</i> | 18 <i>Bible Study 6:30</i> | 19 <i>Youth prayer breakfast 6:45 am at Purdys</i> | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i> | 24 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11 Session mtg. 7:00</i> | 25 <i>Welcome Wednesday 6:00</i> | 26 <i>Youth prayer breakfast 6:45 am at Purdys</i> | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i> | | | | | |