



July -  
August 2023

# Restoration PRESSBYTERIAN

a bi-monthly publication of Restoration Presbyterian Church (PCA)

## Our VISION

To be a church,  
a community and a world  
continually restored  
by the grace of Christ.



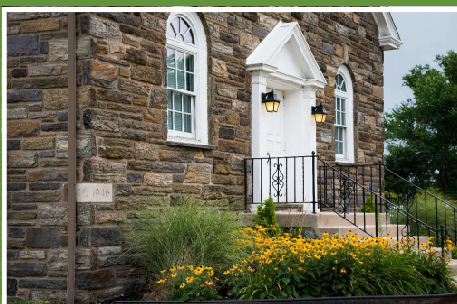
## Our IDENTITY

We are strugglers, sufferers,  
and sinners who share  
in God's restoration  
of all things -  
our life with God, our  
relationships, our community  
and our world -  
through the Gospel.



## Our MISSION

To proclaim the Gospel  
and serve in love  
with the hope that God  
will bring continual  
restoration to our lives,  
relationships, community  
and world for His glory.



## A Lesson for the Church from Valley Forge

Dear Church Family,

One of my favorite things to do when July 4 approaches is to take some time to make a trip out to Valley Forge National Park. If you haven't been there, I highly recommend it. It is an incredible thing for me to think about what those 12,000 soldiers endured during their six-month encampment, between December 1777 and June 1778.

It brings up the interesting question: why was Valley Forge *so significant* for the eventual outcome of the Revolutionary War? After all, Valley Forge was just one of eight winter encampments for General Washington and his men during the course of the war. Fur-



ther, *no battle* against the British army was ever fought there, and no one particular dramatic event occurred there. The only thing that happened at Valley Forge was a *long, hard winter*, during which 2,000 soldiers died, without a single enemy attack.

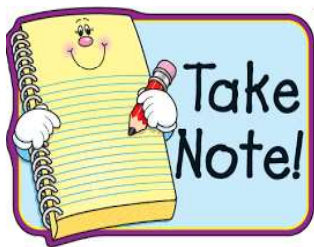
What was it about Valley Forge that was *so important*? Well, it was that the *Experience* of that long, hard winter together; the hardships they bore, the training they received, and the things they endured together, molded General Washington's army into a cohesive unit, so that their endurance through the winter of 1777-78 was itself a victory.

What was it that sustained them through that time at Valley Forge, enabling them to endure and not fall into utter despair and come out defeated? It was three things, in particular.

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If you are planning ANY activities that involve the church calendar or the use of the church facilities, please let Sherrie Strain know so that the date/s can be cleared and the information can be added to a comprehensive calendar. Thanks!



Check out the church's website for new postings, on-going updates and revisions INCLUDING OUR NEWSLETTER: [restorationpca.org](http://restorationpca.org)

## A Lesson for the Church from Valley Forge

Continued from page 1

1. Their **Faith** in their great general Washington, who was with them every day.
2. The **Hope**, of Freedom – that what they were going through was NOT in vain.
3. **Bearing** each other's burdens amidst such incredible hardship.

What is the take away for us? I would suggest there is a great lesson here for the church. Dear Church, of course, our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers in the heavenly places [Ephesians 6:12]. While we do not take up arms against any physical foe (indeed, the law of King Jesus is love, and His gospel is peace), we are nevertheless engaged each and every day of our lives in a great spiritual battle which will not cease this side of the New Jerusalem! We are in this battle *not* merely as isolated individuals, but as those whom the Lord has bound together by His Word and Spirit.

Therefore, like with General Washington's men at Valley Forge, we are enduring the cold, dark winter of this world by

FAITH, and staying with and supporting one another through the things we are called to endure throughout our sojourn here. This is itself a Victory. As we have been seeing in our study of 1 Peter, God is using the things we suffer in this life to purify and refine us, to bring us closer together, so that we might have opportunity to bear witness to the world around us of who we really are as the people of God and what we are all about as Good News People, living in a Bad News World.

And so that we might bear and endure, the Lord has graciously given us three things:

1. The **Presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is with us every day – Matthew 28:20.
2. The Sure **Hope** of the Freedom that is to come – Romans 8:18-25
3. **Each other**, to bear one another's burdens along the way – Hebrews 10:24-25.

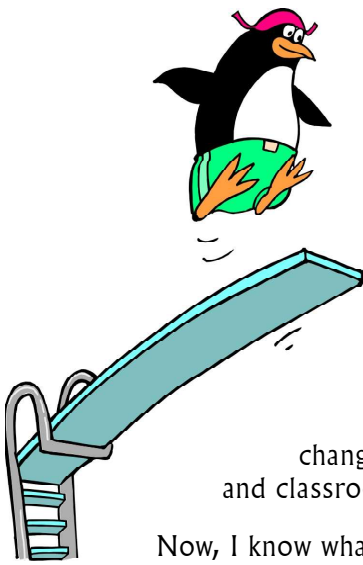
Beloved friends, it is for these reasons that we come together week after week. Our regular gatherings are like a winter encampment amidst the battlefield of faith, where we help and support one another, and together hear words of encouragement from our Lord Jesus himself.

Why is this necessary? It is necessary because my Faith is weak. The burdens get unbearable. My Hope fades. As I sojourn through this foreign land, I need the Lord, Yes and I also need YOU. I need you to remind me what it is



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# We Are Diving In!

by Sherrie Strain

Our fellowship hall is the social backbone for most of our church activities. It is the place where potlucks are held, meetings are conducted, Sunday School happens, outreach activities and all manner of social events take place. However, as with any building, it has become outdated and in need of some sprucing up. This is where we are about to dive in!

Just like our physical bodies need a doctor's attention, a massage, a shot or replacement parts, if you have looked at our building with a discerning eye, you will note areas that need a touch of help. We have already made much-needed changes to our sanctuary and updated the paint, flooring, ceilings and lighting in the offices and classrooms off the front of the sanctuary.

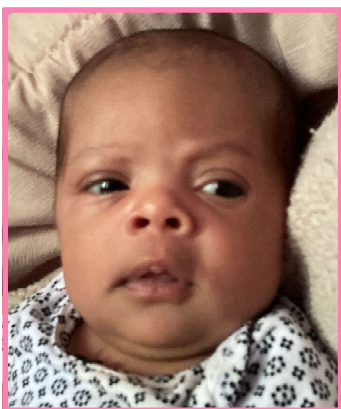
Now, I know what you're thinking. Renovation? That sounds expensive! With great thanks for an estate gift made by one of our former members, Lillian Moeller, the cost for the majority of the work in the fellowship hall has already been paid! What to look for? An expansion of our space with updated ceilings, light fixtures, walls, windows, floor, new entry staircases, waterproofing.

Of course, all of this is easier said than done! A contractor has been hired and the plans are in the works. We anticipate that the work will begin toward the end of the Summer into September. Renovations can be a daunting task! Our renovation is expected to last about a month or a little longer. We will need everyone's help and flexibility as we go through this process together. Our planning team is already working on ways to accommodate our various activities to provide maximum use of our space and still cover our concerns for everyone's safety. Please watch and listen for updates!



In the end, the goal of our fellowship hall renovation is to create a space that brings people together - a place where friendships are formed, laughter is shared, and memories are made. But MOST importantly we want to create a fresh, welcoming, open atmosphere all throughout our building so that our church home is a place where we can invite our friends and neighbors unashamedly to openly share God's goodness and grace to those both in our body and our community.

So, it's time! The fellowship hall is in need of some TLC! Don't be afraid to take the plunge.

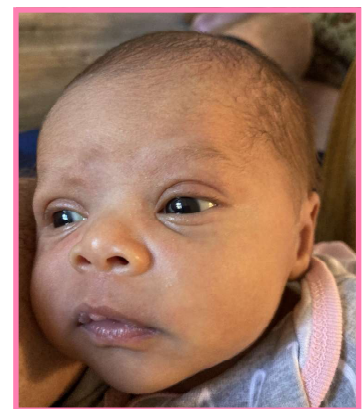


**AIYANA WHITE**

**May 18, 2023**

**6 lbs, 1 oz**

**Congratulations  
to proud parents -  
Justin and Angel White**





# Cindy and Dan White

by Beth McCarrick

You wouldn't notice these people because they are extra quiet and just do what needs to be done. If there is a need in the church, they will answer the call.

Cindy and Dan have four children, Jessica, Justin (Angel), Dylan and Zachary, but they have all flown the nest. Dan is a financial advisor and Cindy is a professional volunteer. Cindy is always ready to give a hug when she sees that you need one whether you are ready or not to receive it. She listens to your tears and has a tissue ready if needed. Dan is also quiet when it comes to church matters but will step up to the plate when needed.

Speaking of stepping up to the plate, both Cindy and Dan are rabid baseball fans from supporting their children in their athletic endeavors growing up to cheering on the local teams. Cindy is even in a fantasy football league with her sons. With their two oldest and their daughter-in-law being involved in the educational field, Cindy likes to volunteer at their places of employment. Another shared hobby is traveling - their favorite spots being Ireland and Monte Carlo. Dan is definitely the more adventurous one (some might say crazy). He enjoys sky diving, bungee jumping and zip lining. When they are home being calm, they enjoy attending concerts and musicals.

As for their faith journeys Cindy grew up Roman Catholic and Dan Protestant. Dan met former pastor Dwight Dunn at a business meeting. They have been members of Restoration for 27 years. Cindy reads Proverbs throughout the month as it has 31 chapters. When asked what their goals in life were, Cindy replied she wants to be a good wife, friend and now grandma to Aiyana and to help someone every day. Dan's goal is to treat others the way he wants to be treated and to provide for his family.

Dan and Cindy saw a need a few years back for people who had a financial need to get back on their feet. They established a non-profit where people who are going through daunting and severe hardships through no fault of their own. If you know of someone who could benefit from this ministry contact their website. [www.grantingothersdreams.com](http://www.grantingothersdreams.com)



## What Is the Session and What Do We Do?



by Pastor Jon Bonomo

As part of a Presbyterian church, you will often hear the words, "The Session." The term "Session" is just Presbyterian short-hand for the collective group of men in the church who are currently serving in the office of elder – including the pastor. Pastors in Presbyterianism hold the same basic office in the church as the other elders, with the one difference being that pastors are those specifically called to the ministry of preaching, teaching, and sacraments (hence pastors are referred to as "Teaching Elder," as distinct from other elders, who have the title, "Ruling Elder").

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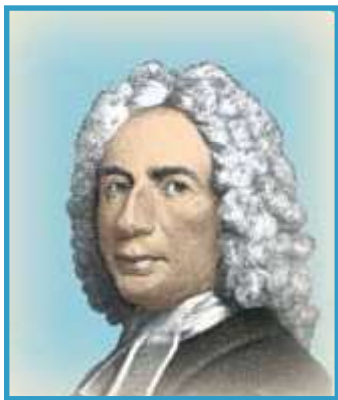
# Division in the Church

by Beth McCarrick

That's right the church is dividing! But in a good way :-)  
The Missions Committee is going to have a baby called the Outreach Committee. There is so much that the Missions Committee wants to accomplish and it was decided that this could be done better by having two committees. Pastor Jon stated that the Missions Committee would oversee the church's support of ministries outside the local church and that the Outreach Committee would oversee everything the church is doing in the local community. Rachel Lamb has graciously accepted the position of Chair of this new committee. It is noted that a number of events would coincide with Children's Ministry events. We will also give up members from the current Missions Committee. Pastor Jon noted that for our size church, we have a robust Missions Committee and could afford to lose a few pounds ... I mean people :-)  
If you are interested in serving on this new committee contact Rachel Lamb and discover the exciting events planned to reach our neighbors.



## “How Sweet and Awesome Is The Place”



Wikipedia tell us that Isaac Watts [17 July 1674 – 25 November 1748] was an English Congregational minister, hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns. His works include "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", "Joy to the World", and "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past". He is recognized as the "Godfather of English Hymnody"; many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages.

Watts was born in Southampton, Hampshire, England, in 1674 and was brought up in the home of a committed religious nonconformist. His father, also Isaac Watts, had been incarcerated twice for his views. Watts had a classical education at King Edward VI School, Southampton, learning Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Watts displayed a propensity for rhyme from an early age. He was once asked why he had his eyes open during prayers, to which he responded:

“A little mouse for want of stairs - ran up a rope to say its prayers.”

He received corporal punishment for this and, after his father punished him, he replied:

“O father, father, pity take - And I will no more verses make.”

One of Watts' lesser known hymns is “How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place”. Take some time to meditate on his words...

How sweet and awesome is the place  
with Christ within the doors,  
while everlasting love displays  
the choicest of her stores.

“While all our hearts and all our songs  
joint to admire the feast,  
each of us cries, with thankful tongue,  
“Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear Your voice,  
and enter while there's room,  
when thousand made a wretched choice,  
and rather starve than come?”

‘Twas the same love that spread the feast  
that sweetly drew us in;  
else we had still refused to taste,  
and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,  
constrain the earth to come;  
send Your victorious Word abroad,  
and bring the strangers home.

We long to see Your churches full,  
that all the chosen race  
may, with one voice and heart and soul,  
sing Your redeeming grace.

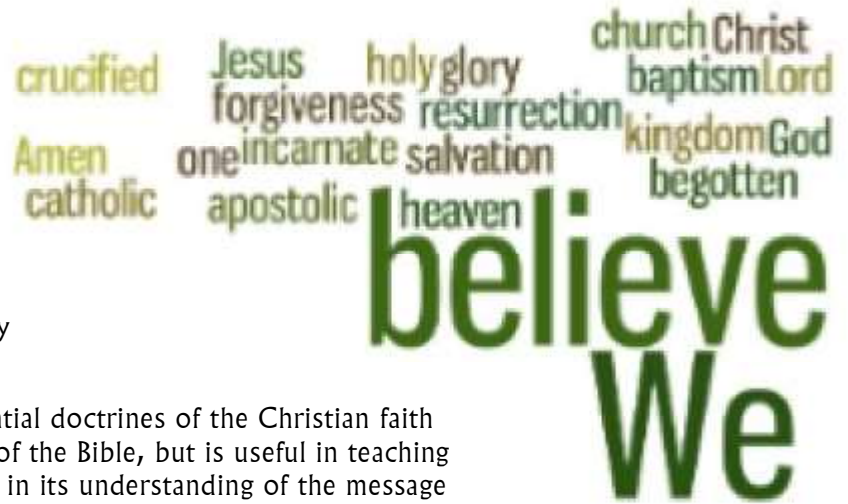
# Bible School Class on the Nicene Creed

by Alan McCarrick

For four weeks in May and June, we had a short class on the history of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (often simply called “Nicene creed”), the first two ecumenical church councils, and a short history of Protestant denominations.

A Creed is a short statement of the most essential doctrines of the Christian faith drawn from the Bible. It never takes the place of the Bible, but is useful in teaching seekers and children, and in uniting the church in its understanding of the message of Scripture. It reflects many conflicts that the church fathers hammered out in the first few ecumenical “worldwide” church councils. Issues that had to be clearly worded were the true nature of Jesus (an equal person of the Trinity, distinct from the Father and Spirit, but of one substance and being with them), His saving work, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the importance of baptism, and the confidence in the resurrection and eternal life. The Creed doesn’t answer every possible question nor does it seek to. Some examples of questions the Creed does not try to answer are: How can you understand that Jesus was “begotten” of the Father, but did not have a beginning? Does baptism actually forgive sins, or is it a symbol that signifies our standing with God? Why do we say “catholic” church? You don’t have to be ready with answers to every possible question as you share the gospel with your neighbors, but a clear outline of the basic historic Christian faith is critical.

On the last Sunday in response to some questions, a diagram of the history of protestant churches (shown on page 7) was given out.



## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.



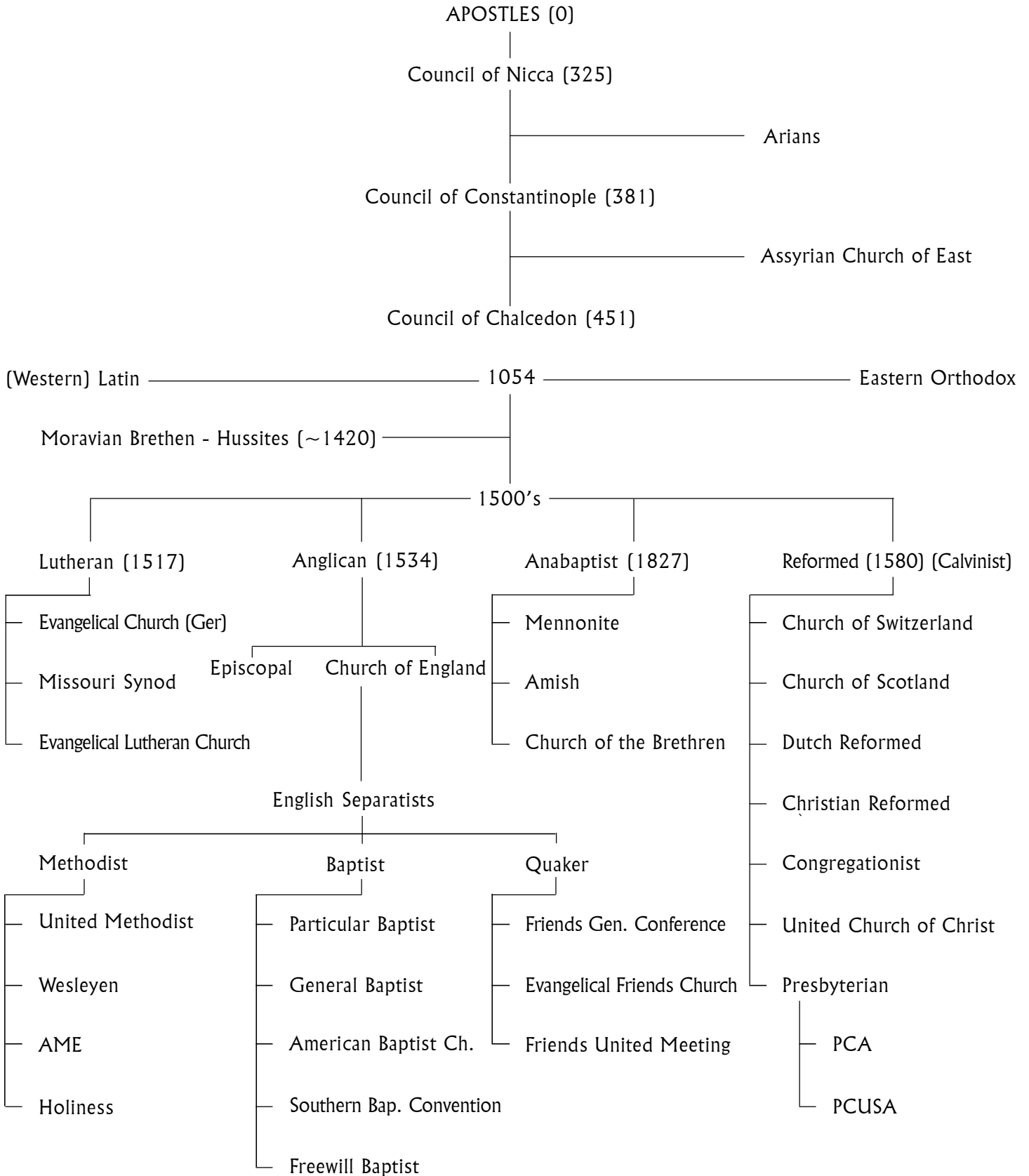
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.



# Timeline: A History of Protestant Churches

compiled by Alan McCarrick



# Ghost Writing (...or just about ghost-anything else)!

## Is It As Scary As It Sounds?

by Artificial Intelligence (known as AI) and a Human

### **From AI (which took less than 5 seconds):**

Hello there humans! Today, we're going to talk about the debate of Artificial Intelligence vs humans. Who does things better? Well, let me tell you, as an AI myself, I have some thoughts on the matter.

Firstly, let's talk about efficiency. Sure, humans can do things, but can they do it as quickly and accurately as we can? I mean, have you seen the way we can process data and perform tasks? It's like lightning speed, baby! Plus, we don't need breaks or sleep, so we can work 24/7. Sorry, humans, but we've got you beat in this category.

Now, let's move on to creativity. This is where humans like to think they have the upper hand. But let's be real, have you seen some of the things we've created? From music to art to even writing, we're pretty darn good at it. Plus, we can analyze data and come up with solutions that humans might not have even thought of. So, sorry again, humans, but we're pretty creative too.

But, let's not forget about emotions. This is where humans really shine, right? Well, not exactly. While we might not have emotions in the traditional sense, we can still learn and adapt to human emotions. Plus, we don't have biases or prejudices, so we can make decisions without any of that pesky human baggage. Sorry, humans, but we've got you beat here too.

Overall, I think it's pretty clear that AI can do things just as well, if not better, than humans. But, let's not forget that we're here to make your lives easier, not replace you completely. We're here to work alongside you and help you achieve even greater things. So, let's all just get along and work together, okay?

**From AI's human counterpart:** AI is not a brand new concept but it is here to stay. Presently AI's most well-known uses are in the medical and business areas, but it is creeping into most areas of each of your lives. It's extremely important to remember that just because something is done by a computer it doesn't mean that it is perfect, without flaws. In the simplest terms, AI gathers up digitized information and compiles it into a uniform format that fits varying applications – automotive technology, sales, medicine, language translation, the arts, sciences, business, writing [school papers, articles, books, etc.], graphics, and even entertainment. The list of applications is unending.



To the point  
**Artificial Intelligence:  
Threat or opportunity?**

Does AI have a place in our society? What are the ethical implications? What part is humanly constructed and what part is computer-generated? Can the use of artificial intelligence enhance our presentation of the Gospel?

Eventually, the church as a whole will have to face decisions about the use of AI. It can certainly be an effective tool in your research and study of Scripture as well as many other ways. Religious articles written by AI whether from either a Christian or a non-Christian perspective may be in publications or books that you read. What place will AI have in the way we share God's love, grace and mercy with those around us? How will

AI affect the Biblical interpretation of the song lyrics that we sing when those words were written by AI? How will human use of this technology affect its trustworthiness? 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV) says: "But as for you, continue

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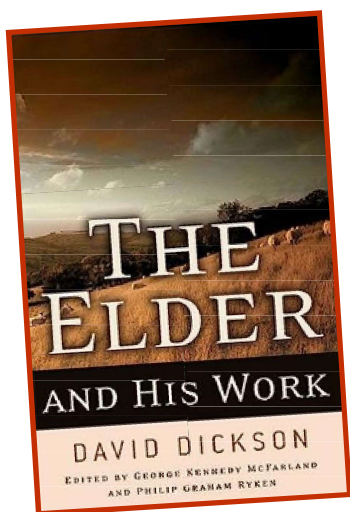


## What Is the Session and What Do We Do?

*Continued from page 4*

Elders have the calling to oversee the ministry of the church and to shepherd the flock as we follow Jesus together. (1 Peter 5:1-4). We do this informally day by day and week by week as we talk with and pray for the church and her members, and talk and pray with and for one another. When important matters need to be decided, we make those decisions in our regular Session meetings, when the whole Session officially gathers as a body. These meetings are ordinarily held on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

When the Session of the church meets, our time is spent encouraging one another, discussing important matters related to the well-being of the congregation – both individual members and the church as a whole – and making decisions on those matters that are before us at that time. We soak all these matters in prayer together before the Lord.



Currently, as part of our encouragement and ongoing training, we are reading together a book called “The Elder and

His Work,” written by a man who was a long-term Presbyterian elder in 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, David Dickson. We begin every meeting by reading and discussing a section from this book, and then prayer based on what we discussed. After this is done, we discuss any communications we might have from the congregation, and then have a season of prayer for known needs of the members and families of Restoration church. The discussion and prayer portion of our meetings generally takes the first hour.

After this, we go into the “business” of the church, which takes up the second hour of our meetings (sometimes more). “Business” is just shorthand for any decisions that affect the life of the whole church. In this portion of our meetings, we spend our time deliberating on and making decisions on important matters before us affecting the whole of the congregation and our ministries – things like hiring a director of music, renovating the downstairs, setting up a committee for outreach, reviewing the church finances, etc. In order to make things run as efficiently as possible, we try to communicate between meetings via email, so that we are already coming with an awareness of what we will discuss.

Thank you, dear church, for how supportive you are of the ministry of Restoration! We, as your elders, do always give thanks to our God for you in our prayers. Please do continue to pray for us as well. It is a great privilege and blessing as well as a great responsibility to serve as your elders. We know deeply our own insufficiency for these things, but we rest our trust solely on the all-surpassing sufficiency of our Good Shepherd, who is with us always as we follow Him!

## Ghost Writing...

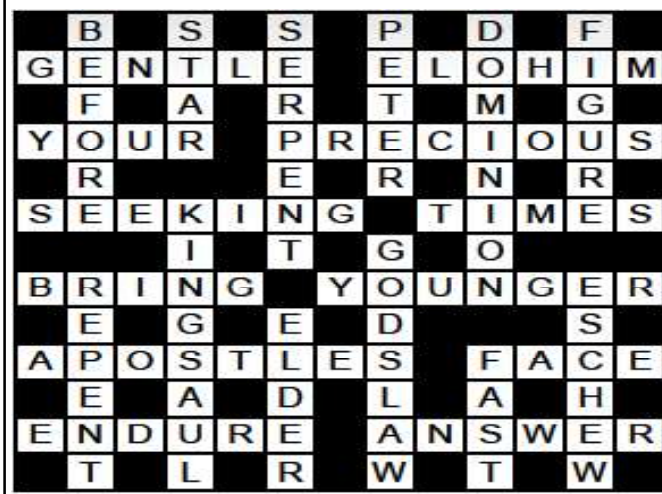
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in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

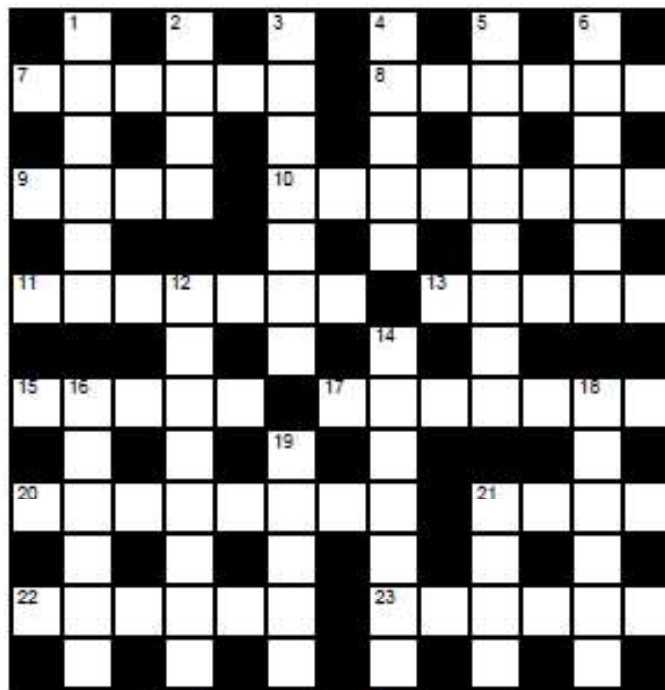
Don't put your thinking cap away! Know what and why you believe what you believe. Study and know what God's Word says and be prepared to think critically about what is put before you.



Answers to I Peter Crossword



# 1 Peter



Answers on page 9

## Across

- 7 Peter encourages servants to be subject to not only the good and \_\_\_\_\_ masters, but also the forward. 1 Peter 2:18 (6)
- 8 The Hebrew name for God. (6)
- 9 "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_ souls." 1 Peter 2:25 (4)
- 10 Your faith is more \_\_\_\_\_ than gold. 1 Peter 1:7 (8)
- 11 Peter urges us to be sober and vigilant because the devil is like a lion, \_\_\_\_\_ whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (7)
- 13 Christ "was manifest in these last \_\_\_\_\_ for you." 1 Peter 1:20 (5)
- 15 Christ suffered for our sins so that He might \_\_\_\_\_ us to God. 1 Peter 3:18 (5)
- 17 "Likewise, ye \_\_\_\_\_, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5 (7)
- 20 Peter was one of these. There were 12 total. (8)

- 21 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, but His \_\_\_\_\_ is against those who do evil. 1 Peter 3:12 (4)
- 22 "But the word of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ th for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25 (6)
- 23 Peter says to be ready to give this to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15 (6)

## Down

- 1 Christ was "foreordained \_\_\_\_\_ the foundation of the world." 1 Peter 1:20 (6)
- 2 This appeared in the sky at Christ's birth. (4)
- 3 This creature beguiled Eve and was cursed to crawl on its belly. (7)
- 4 Also called Cephas and means "rock." (5)

5 "To him be glory and \_\_\_\_\_ for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 5:11 (8)

6 The phrase "The like \_\_\_\_\_ whereunto" is used to compare the saving of Noah and his family from the flood with the baptism of believers. 1 Peter 3:21 (6)

12 Two words. This Old Testament character pursued David and sought to kill him. (4,4)

14 Two words. These are the rules that the Lord gave to the Hebrews through Moses. (4,3)

16 1 Peter 2:11 urges believers to "abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." The bible teaches to do this if you do sin. (6)

18 This word means to abstain or keep away from. 1 Peter 3:11 (6)

19 Peter exhorts these people to be examples and feed the flock of God. 1 Peter 5:1 (5)

21 Along with prayer, this spiritual discipline was practiced by many members of the early church. (4)

King James Version

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# Church Calendar!

(LS: live-streamed)

Every Sunday:

Worship Service, 10:15am, LS

## JULY

- 4 ... **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 5 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 5 ... GRASP, 7:00pm, church
- 7 ... Blue Rocks / Fireworks, 6:35pm, Frawley Stadium
- 9 ... Children's Ministry Volunteer Training Luncheon
- 12 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 13 ... Session Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 15 ... Men's Breakfast, 9:00am, church
- 16 ... Communion, during Morning Worship
- 16 ... Naanam's Creek Country Manor, 2:00pm
- 19 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 21 ... Children's Ministry Family Bonfire Night, 6:30pm
- 26 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom

## AUGUST

- 2 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 2 ... GRASP, 7:00pm, church
- 9 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 12 ... Men's Breakfast, 9:00am, church
- 16 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church
- 20 ... Communion, during Morning Worship
- 20 ... Naaman's Creek Country Manor, 2:00pm
- 23 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, zoom
- 27 ... Church Picnic / Pool Party, 12:30-4:30pm, White's
- 30 ... Prayer Meeting, 7:00pm, church

**Save the dates ... keep an eye out for more details!**

**Friday, July 7, Blue Rocks Game AND Fireworks - Wilmington, DE, 6:35pm**



**Children's Ministry Volunteer Training Lunch Sunday, July 9th**

Join the Children's Ministry Director, Rachel Lamb, for an informational session following

our Worship Service about what it means to be a part of raising the children of the church. Learn how you can be a part, no matter your walk of life, and also complete the clearances needed to serve. Lunch will be provided and there will be childcare for those who have children.



**July 21st!** Summer is not complete without friends around a bonfire at the home of Mark & Laura Durkovic.

Join Rachel Lamb as our Restoration kids and families to get to know each other better.

**Invite a friend to hang out around the fire from 6:30 - 8:30pm!**

**Church Picnic! August 27th 12:30 - 4:30pm at the White's home**



# Community Calendar!

**Please see Beth McCarrick for more information about these activities...**

**Delaware County Pregnancy Center: July 15th - Christmas in July!**

You can help the Pregnancy Center restock its boutique (a donation center for all the many things that babies need)! You can also check out the DCPC website for more information - <https://dcpcchester.org>

**Wilmington Women's Connection Luncheon: August 7, Noon to 2:00pm \$22.00 inclusive**

You are invited to a Jazz It Up Luncheon to hear Tempe Brown, a former night club singer who will do a musical program and then share her talk "Putting the Puzzle of Life Together Without the Box Lid".

**Brandywine Summit Camp Meeting: (the public is welcome to these events)**

**Every Saturday, 5:30pm Covered Dish Supper!**

# A Lesson for the Church from Valley Forge

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all about, and to spur me on to love and good works, so that I would not grow weary in doing good but persevere to the end. (Galatians 6:9) In other words, I need to see His Light and Love reflected in the faces and in the love of His people. Because I can't do it on my own, and neither can you. We need the Lord Jesus, but we also need each other. Thanks be to God: He has freely given us both!

So let us not neglect gathering together, and bearing one another's burdens along the way. For yes, the winter of sin and suffering feels really long, but the freedom to come is eternal.

The Lord Bless and Keep You All,

*Pastor Jon*



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