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PASTOR'S DESK

A Milestone Worth Celebrating

By Pastor Jonathan Cornell

On a recent trip to Walmart, I noticed something surprising. With mere weeks to go before a major milestone, there is literally zero attention being paid in the store. This is so unlike Walmart, after all school supplies have been available since the day after school let out, and Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations will probably be on the shelves next week.

Sadly, I found no decorations, no special recipes, no party hats to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation: October 31st, 1517, "a date that will live in infamy."

But before you roll your eyes all the way back, I want to commend to your remembrance this event. It's a much bigger deal than we might realize. The Reformation is a major turning point in human history. And not just because a monk in Wittenberg filled out a comment card with 95 "suggestions," and then posted it on the door of Castle Church. The world of the 16th Century



was pulsating with possibility, and ready to emerge from a very dark age.

Now among the many cultural, scientific, and religious changes that took place were:

- The Heliocentric understanding of our solar system.
- The development of the modern university system.
- Invention of the Guttenberg Printing Press.
- Translation of the Bible from the Latin into the common tongue, German. Not only did it foster literacy, but it was the first time that people were able to read the Bible for themselves. Luther's Translation of the Bible was also the standard for modern German language.

But at the heart of the Reformation was a renewal of the Church's central mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ above all. Individuals like Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin sought to draw the Church back to her original purpose by stripping away layers and layers of religious "stuff" that had built up over the years, obscuring the precious gem of the Gospel.

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Milestone (con't from pg. 1)

Among the many significant steps towards greater clarity are five bold affirmations that emerged—we know them as the *five solas*. They provide the razor-sharp focus of what this movement was all about.

At the heart of the Reformation was a renewal of the Church's central mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ above all.

Sola gratia – “By grace alone.” We rely on God’s grace alone for our righteousness.

Sola fide – “By faith alone.” Nothing we do can win the righteousness we need before God, it’s only by faith.

Solus Christus – “Christ alone” is our Savior.

Sola Scriptura – “Scripture alone” is our authority and instruction for faith and life.

Soli Deo Gloria – “To God alone be glory.” God has made all things and controls them all in divine love. God alone is to be praised and honored.

These five core affirmations give us our central focus, one that Protestant Christians for nearly half of a millennia have shared. And as the recipients of this focused, uncluttered, and hopeful message of faith and salvation, we have a chance this October to join Christians all over the world in recommitting our lives to Christ alone, through faith alone, by grace alone, by the mediation of scripture alone.

Who knows, maybe before then maybe even Walmart will take notice.

Soli Deo Gloria

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 1st – Megan Frank
- 3rd – Lois Jones
- 4th – Katie Baer
- 5th – Dennis Gray
- 10th – Mildred Paullus
- 10th – Adam Zwiebel
- 12th – Lilean Meadows
- 16th – Judy Waggoner
- 19th – Emerson Zwiebel
- 19th – Erica Moore
- 22nd – Chloe Miller
- 24th – Amira Siddiqui
- 26th – Bryan Frank
- 27th – Blayne Gouvan
- 28th – Julie Lavache
- 28th – Matt Brane

Anniversaries:

- 3rd – Don & Barb Maggart
- 3rd – Julie & Duke Lavache
- 10th – Bob & Issy Lewis
- 11th – Terrence & Kendall Hoover
- 12th – Pete & Susie Jones

People I want to connect with this month (i.e., card/call, coffee/lunch, prayer, Bible study):

Community & Missions

*Loving people
with the heart of Christ
in the heart of Wabash*

Feed Our Community

You are always encouraged to bring canned/dry goods for the F.I.S.H. food pantry and drop them off in any of the boxes throughout the church. This month, we are collecting cereal and canned fruit.

WPC MISSION PARTNERS

- Peabody Retirement Community
- Kemmerer Village
- Meals on Wheels
- City of Refuge (Ghana)
- Thammavongsa Family Mission
- Wabash Ministerial Association's Assistance Program
- Wabash County Habitat for Humanity
- White's Family Residential Service
- Winchester Community Center
- 85 Hope
- Arc of Wabash County
- The Access
- Campus Life
- F.I.S.H.
- Character Building of Wabash County

Backpacks for Access – Thank You!

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who donated a backpack for The Access back to school drive. For the past few years, the Access has provided at no cost, backpacks and school supplies for hundreds of Wabash school children. Many local churches participate in this drive and this year Wabash Presbyterian Church donated 28 backpacks to be added to the distribution.

If you missed the drop off date, but would still like to contribute a backpack, please drop it off at the church office and it will be delivered to the Access for further distribution. Thanks again for helping support our local students!

PRESCHOOL PALS

With the new school year right around the corner, and the first for The Presbyterian School, you are invited to participate in a new outreach to families of preschoolers. Preschool Pals are members/families from the WPC Family who are paired with a family in our preschool. As pals, we look for ways to encourage, support, and share God's love with children and their families. Together, we will cross over with the love of Christ to the people we serve throughout the week. More information, including registrations, to come in the month of August. Hope you will join us in crossing over!

Support Our Rice Bowls Project

Kids in Godly Play are "redefining Happy Meal" as they raise money to help feed orphans across the world.

How You Can Help:

- Ask Godly Play kids about the Rice Bowls. What are they for? Why are we raising money?
- Try to think of small jobs the kids might be able to do for you to earn money for their Rice Bowls. For example, "If you _____, I'll give you \$1 for your Rice Bowl."

Keep in mind, just \$30 will provide enough meals to feed a child for an entire month! Learn more at ricebowls.org.



August Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Friday Book Study (11am)	5
6 Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am) <i>Loose Offering: Gas Vouchers</i>	7	8 ROMEO Men's Lunch (12:30pm @ Michael's Diner)	9	10 Summertime Social (6pm) Missions Team (6:30pm) Buildings & Grounds Team (7pm) Worship Team (7pm)	11 Friday Book Study (11am)	12
13 Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	14	15	16	17 Session (7pm)	18 Friday Book Study (11am)	19
20 Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	21 Helping Hands Ministry	22	23	24	25 Friday Book Study (11am)	26
27 Worship (10am) & Fellowship Hour (11am)	28	29 JULIET Women's Breakfast (8am @ Fried Egg) The Presbyterian School Orientation Night (6:30pm)	30	31	<i>Mark your calendar: Celebration Sunday will be on September 10th!</i>	

Business Notes

July Session Minutes

- Session did not meet in July.

Loose Offering | WPC's Gas Voucher Program

The loose cash that is collected on August 6th will help provide gas vouchers to those in our community who come to the church for aid.

Help Us Weather the Summer Slow-down –

Summer is a great time to step away from our routines to recharge our batteries. We ask that you help us stay on top of our finances by staying current in your pledge commitment or by enrolling in our electronic giving through our website. Thank you!

Financial Report

	<u>June</u>	<u>Total 2017</u>
Income:	\$24,009	\$129,083
Expenses:	<u>18,451</u>	<u>131,436</u>
Balance:	\$5,558	-\$2,353

**We used \$14,500 from the Endowment Account to cover our expenses in June.*

[Give online.](#) Use our secure site to set up recurring gifts (like pledges) or for one-time gifts (like paying for a Bible study book or supporting our Mission Partners).

Worship & Connect

Summertime Social

You're invited to a Summertime Social with members from the Westminster Presbyterian Church (Marion), Thursday, August 10th. Appetizers and refreshments will be at 6pm at Gallery 64, with dessert and music at WPC at 8pm. Please RSVP to the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall by August 6th if you plan to attend.

Want a Quiet Place to Meet with God?

There is now a prayer room available on the upper level of the Christian Education building. Open during Office Hours. Feel free to swing by or contact Kari to reserve a time slot.

Save the Date | Celebration Sunday

Our Celebration Sunday service will be held on September 10th, 10am. This will be a family-friendly service, so no Godly Play that day; you'll be able to worship together as a family. More information to come!

Connect & Serve

Like to Work with Little Ones?

If you enjoy interacting with little ones and have a flexible morning schedule, consider being a substitute preschool teacher during the school year. Class hours are 9:00-11:30am (with no classes on Wednesdays). Contact the church office for more information.

Looking to Volunteer in the Community?

Living Well is hosting a Volunteer Information Event on Thursday, August 10th, 3pm. During this time, you can learn about their volunteer opportunities, talk with current volunteers about what they do, enjoy refreshments, and receive a free gift! Living Well is located at 239 Bond Street.

Collecting Jugs

We're starting to collect gallon and half-gallon jug containers to use for our seasonal decorating this winter. You can drop off any jugs in the kitchen or Fellowship Hall. Thanks for helping!

DIG DEEPER

Finding God in the Ordinary

By Kari Bartkus

How have you experienced God today?

Some days, it's hard to find His presence. Not because He isn't there, but because my focus is on other things, like the tasks that need to be accomplished each day. I become too busy, rushing from one thing to the next.

But as those who have gone before us teach us, and as the Bible itself teaches us, God is always with us as believers. And He invites us to draw close to Him.

"Come close." That has been my heart's calling over the past year—God's sweet invitation to me to draw near to Him.

This invitation requires me to "steal away" from the crowd to find a quiet place to be with Jesus. Which, in the midst of parenthood and work life, is probably one of the most challenging things to do. It takes effort to get away, and yet this time is so vital to my soul. It is something I simply must do.

However, this invitation to "come close" also calls me to learn to see God in the midst of everyday life, because *all* of life is sacred, not just those quiet moments with Him or worshiping with others in a church service. But what does this look like?

First, I learn to see God in the ordinary tasks of life.

Most of us need help with this, help "unearthing God in our midst." Esther de Waal has words of wisdom to share:

"...seek God here and now, just as I am, caught up in all the absurdly down-to-earth chores and demands which I feel trap me day by day... I should look around me and see that God does not demand the unusual, the spectacular, the heroic. It asks of me as wife, mother, housewife that I do the most ordinary, often dreary and humdrum things that face me each day, with a loving openness that will allow them to become my own immediate way to God."

Jessica Brown expands more on this: "Parents' lives are soaked in the material world... It is so easy to see these chores on the outskirts of holiness, or even to see them as getting in the way of real spiritual growth. The reality is they are tiresome and repetitive and sometimes soul-draining. But the reality is also that daily chores are a place, and humble items the tools, of blessedness, of meeting God and being met by him."

Is your heart open to God as you do these tasks? Can you see Him there?

Second, I become aware of how I view God by the way I interact with others.

A common saying in the spiritual formation world is that we become like the God we worship. Lacy Borgo shared an example of how she got a glimpse into her own view of God when interacting with her children.

*Come close to God, and
God will come close to you.*

James 4:8a NLT

As a mother of young children, she became impatient with them. Know what that's like? The edgy comments, the exasperated sighs, the quick discipline? Yet she came to realize that she actually saw *God* as being an impatient God. She began to see this pattern in the way she talked with Him and expected Him to respond.

How do you see God? Look at the way you interact with your kids. Ask God to reveal the way you view Him—what's true and what's a false idea of Him. Give Him the space and time to heal that in you.

So what about you? Are you ready to find God in the midst of the ordinary?

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**Loving people with the
heart of Christ in the
heart of Wabash**



RICE BOWLS

Ask Godly Play kids how you can support them in their venture to raise money for kids who are hungry.

More info on page 3.

*Summertime
Social*

**Thursday,
August 10th**

Starts at 6pm.
More info on page 5.

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