

October — December, 2019



# THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends,

Well, football season is upon us again. That means we'll be hearing a lot about losers and winners, the vanquished and the victorious, and the conquerors and the conquered. That language makes sense, of course, after all football is a game, so someone is going to win and someone is going to lose. But what happens when we talk about the so-called "game of life?" Or, perhaps more specifically, the "Christian life."

There is a great passage I want to share with you. It's 1 John 5:3-5 — "For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Now, let's be clear, this doesn't mean that bad things won't come our way; they will. Instead the passage is telling us that our faith in Christ will keep us connected to God, no matter what life throws at us. Our spiritual link will remain strong, in spite of frustrations and failures, breakdowns and betrayals. As Paul writes to the Romans, "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Nothing will be able to separate us. Absolutely nothing. That's victory. That's world conquest.

And it's clear too that this victory has nothing to do with domination, and everything to do with transformation. Jesus changed the world forever when he gave his life on the cross, and we follow this path when we imitate him with lives of sacrifice and service. Jesus conquered the world and its death-dealing powers by rising to new life, and we show our own commitment to his way by responding to darkness, despair and evil with light, hope and goodness. As Christians, our goal should never be to crush the world. Instead, it should be to change it.

Yours in Christ,

John Pruitt

## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church  
611 Oakhurst Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

Office: (336) 993-7358  
Fax: (336) 993-5526  
www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt  
Minister

Ms. Jane Johnson  
Church Secretary

### Services:

The Gathering — 6:00 p.m.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month)

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.



## Birthdays

### October

14 Carol Mandzik  
14 Megan Tincher  
23 Fran McKinney

### November

6 Rodgers White  
8 Sam Henderson  
8 Tom Parker  
17 Mike Polinsky  
22 Scott Forrest  
23 Spencer Sharp  
24 Marjorie Bailey  
24 Priscilla Henderson  
30 Lisa Newton

### December

4 Lynne Forrest  
7 Donna Myers  
9 Margaret Burks  
11 Elizabeth Kerr  
13 Rosalie Nicholson  
16 Chess Maxwell  
17 Darcy Polinsky  
23 Ellen Watts

*If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## Anniversaries

### October

Nothing on File

### November

1 Nick & Jean Nitkin

### December

Nothing on File

*If your anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## First Presbyterian Church Session Members

### Class of 2019

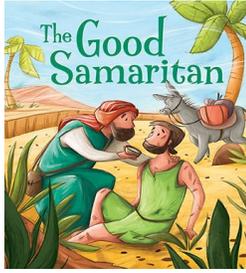
Lorna Foster  
Lynda Self

### Class of 2020

Sam Henderson  
Rich Tincher

### Class of 2021

Kerry Kerr  
Rusty Sudderth



## The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Mike Southern

The Jewish man had a long way to go  
on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho,  
and no one to travel with him...  
but he went anyway.  
Other people came and went this way  
so he wouldn't really be alone, would he?

He was so confident  
that he didn't even hear the bandits approach.  
They beat him until he was barely alive;  
they took his money  
and his clothes  
and left him for dead by the side of the road.

Eventually another man came that way—  
a Jewish priest with his mind on holy business.  
He saw the man lying there, barely alive;  
it made him sick to his stomach...  
so he moved to the other side of the road  
and walked away as quickly as he could.

In time another man also passed that way—  
a Jewish assistant from the Temple in Jerusalem,  
on his way to begin his time of service.  
He too saw the man, barely alive,  
but he was in a hurry to get to the Temple  
and couldn't afford to get his holy robes bloody...  
so he also moved to the other side of the road  
and hurried along so he could go serve his God.

It was late in the day when the third man came by—  
a man from Samaria, a man hated by most other Jews,  
riding on a donkey.  
When he saw the man, he rushed over  
and knelt by his side,  
sickened to see his fellow man in such a state  
but relieved to learn he still lived.

The Samaritan dug through his pack  
until he found ointment and some fresh cloth.  
He cleaned and bandaged the Jewish man's wounds  
as well as he could,  
then put him on his donkey  
and carried him to an inn  
where he cared for him overnight.

The next morning he went to the innkeeper  
and gave him a couple of days' wages.  
"Care for my friend," he told him,  
"and should his expenses run higher than this,  
make a bill in my name;  
I will pay you back when I return."

"Now, which of these men acted as a neighbor  
to the man attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.  
"Go and do the same."

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*The Parable of the Good Samaritan is recorded in only one of the gospels — Luke 10:25-37. Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" (Verse 29) and He replied with this parable. But while no explanation was given, the meaning is clear; as Jesus told His disciples, "Go and do the same" (Verse 37)*

# Worship Service Schedules

## October 2019

### Greeters/Ushers

6 *Comm* Norman Self  
Lynda Self  
13 Rich Tincher  
Anne Waddell  
20 Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
27 Rusty Sudderth  
Priscilla Henderson

### Lay Reader

6 *Comm* Nancy Bolen  
13 Kerry Kerr  
20 Kitty Thach  
27 Rich Tincher

### Element Preparation

6 *Comm* Nancy Bolen  
Bernie Krecklow

### Assisting Elders

6 *Comm* Rusty Sudderth  
Dale Watts  
Rich Tincher  
Millie Vernon  
Lorna Foster

## November 2019

### Greeters/Ushers

3 Lorna Foster  
10 *Comm* Norman Self  
Lynda Self  
17 Anne Waddell  
Rich Tincher  
24 Rusty Sudderth  
Bernie Krecklow

### Lay Reader

3 Tom Parker  
10 *Comm* Dottie Roudabush  
17 Dee Barham  
24 Nancy Bolen

### Element Preparation

10 *Comm* Priscilla Henderson  
Millie Vernon

### Assisting Elders

10 *Comm* Kae Mattingly  
Tom Parker  
Sam Henderson  
Lynda Self

## December 2019

### Greeters/Ushers

1 Priscilla Henderson  
Dale Watts  
8 *Comm* Joy Lynn Budkey  
Jim Ingram  
15 Lorna Foster  
Millie Vernon  
22 Bernie Krecklow  
Lynda Self  
24 *Christmas* TBD  
*Eve* TBD  
29 Rusty Sudderth  
Anne Waddell

### Lay Reader

1 Donna Myers  
8 *Comm* Kerry Kerr  
15 John Mills  
22 Rich Tincher  
24 *Chris. Eve* TBD  
29 Kitty Thach

### Element Preparation

8 *Comm* Lynda Self  
Bernie Krecklow  
24 *Chris. Eve* TBD  
*Comm* TBD

### Assisting Elders

8 *Comm* Kerry Kerr  
Priscilla Henderson  
Dale Watts  
Ellen Watts  
Anne Waddell  
24 *Chris. Eve* TBD  
*Comm* TBD  
TBD  
TBD  
TBD