

# Faith Speaks

One time at a church staff meeting, all of us were sitting around waiting to start, and someone asked, "Hey, what's your favorite book of the Bible?" Everyone took turns answering. I think I said Hebrews or something. It's hard for me to stick to my favorites. But I'll never forget the answer of a very sweet custodian lady. She said, "You know, I just read the gospels and the New Testament. I can't stand the Old Testament. It's too confusing!" People were nodding along and waiting for the next answer, but I was flabbergasted.

How can someone "not stand" the Old Testament? Sadly, there are Christians today and even some pastors that have decided to "unhitch themselves" from the Old Testament. They will claim it's outdated, it's been fulfilled, it's been replaced. They forget that the Old Testament was Paul's Bible. It was Jesus' Bible! When they quoted the "scriptures," they were quoting the Old Testament. And nowhere are we told that the Old Testament is done or replaced. In fact, we are told the opposite by Jesus himself. "For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished" (Matt. 5:18).

I think the frustration some may have with the Old Testament is that they don't understand how to read it and how it fits in with the grand overarching narrative of the Bible.

Starting at the end of July, we will move out of the Gospel of Mark on Sunday mornings and into the Old Testament prophecy of Jonah. Let's talk about some helpful tips for reading the left side of our Bibles to get us geared up for a new adventure in an old book.

Tip #1 ... Look for Jesus because it's all about him! On the road to Emmaus, the resurrected Jesus came up beside two confused disciples and helped them to see how all of the writings of Moses and the prophets were pointing to Christ (Luke 24:27). It's easy to look at the Old Testament and think it's all ancient history, record keeping, and poetry. But God is actually telling a story through all that history, a story about how his Son will one day come to right every wrong, defeat death, rescue his people and make all things new. Now, this doesn't mean that every single verse contains some hidden meaning about Christ, but every passage is ultimately telling the story that leads to Christ.

Tip #2 ... The New Interprets the Old. The Apostle Peter tells us that "no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). By in large, the Old

Testament writers and prophets understood what they were writing. However, there were many things that they did not understand fully. For example, when Isaiah wrote about the suffering servant carrying the iniquities of God's people, he could not have known that this would be an actual man, Jesus, God incarnate. And when Abraham was told by God that through him, all of the nations of the world would be blessed, he probably did not have in mind that God would one day make spiritual born-again children of Abraham from every tribe, nation, and tongue, not just the Israelites. But, because we have the New Testament, we can see how God has chosen to fulfill his promises. So, when you're reading the Old Testament and come across something confusing, look in your modern Bibles for a cross-reference in the New Testament. What was unclear in the Old Covenant is made clearer in the New Covenant.

(Continued on Page 2)

**Jesus  
Fulfilled  
The Law!**

## Church Staff

### Pastor

Rev. John Cleveland

### Church Administrator

Melinda Hawkins

### Music Director

Nancy Lowry

### Financial Secretary

Brooke Echols

### Treasurer

Ronnie Burch

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## 2023

### Session Members

John Cleveland  
Gregg Coniglio  
Keith Lovern  
Dan Patterson  
Mark Watts

### Deacons

Jimmy Brock  
Alan Dennis  
Cameron Dennis  
Zohrab Najarian

Ask the Lord to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit for counsel, wisdom, understanding, and the fear of the Lord, that we may share in our Savior's life and grace.

For the following, pray for health, comfort and fellowship with God during a period of sickness, that the Lord will give them faith, patience, joy and submission to his will.

- ◆ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ◆ **Miles Pass:** 5y/o with leukemia
- ◆ **Jordan Israel**
- ◆ **Rod Ayers:** cancer
- ◆ **Kay Horvath:** Alzheimer's
- ◆ **Donna Criger:** Corticobasal Degeneration
- ◆ **Dan Patterson:** hernia recovery
- ◆ **Paula Patterson:** recovery from fractured pelvis
- ◆ **Nancy Burch:** rotator cuff surgery recovery
- ◆ **Bob Brown:** pain and discomfort
- ◆ **Sydney & Laney Norton:** moving away from home
- ◆ **Anderson Family:** moving back to be with Kevin
- ◆ **Neil & Sue Henson:** moving away to be with family
- ◆ **Zohrab Najarian:** back pain
- ◆ **Wilson Station EPC in Tennessee**
- ◆ **Children in Foster Care**
- ◆ **Our Shut-Ins**
- ◆ **The Lost**
- ◆ **Our Elders and Deacons**
- ◆ **President Biden and Congress**
- ◆ **Supreme Court**
- ◆ **Persons serving in our Military**
- ◆ **Law Enforcement Officers**
- ◆ **Emergency Responders**
- ◆ **Our Nation**

Please pray for our missionaries:

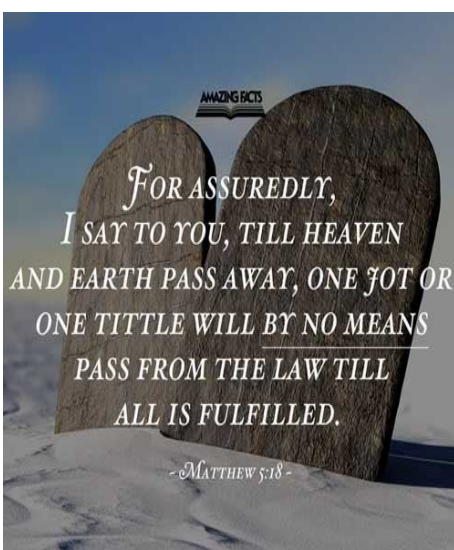
- ◆ **Phil and Diane Thrash**
- ◆ **Gary and Jackie Burnett**
- ◆ **Santosh John**
- ◆ **Keith and Rachel Keller**
- ◆ **Jeff & Veronique Kim**
- ◆ **Jenny Coon**
- ◆ **Mike Rasmussen**

Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

Matthew 5:17<sup>nl</sup>

**If you have a prayer request or a praise report that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please email them to:**  
**faithepcrus@gmail.com**  
**by Monday,**  
**July 31st.**

**This would include any NEW or OLD requests that you would like to have included. This section is renewed monthly.**



(Continued from page 1)

**Tip #3 ... Take big bites.** So many today want to have devotions where they come away with a small nugget, a verse, or even half a verse that speaks to them. If you read Proverbs, you'll definitely get that. That's kind of the point of proverbs - bite-sized wisdom. But the rest of the Old Testament is not meant to be read that way.

The historical books are filled with grand sweeping narratives, and many of the minor prophets are meant to be Old Testament epistles - letters written to a group of people. If you're hunting and pecking your way through the Old Testament, it's going to get confusing and annoying fast. Instead, read whole narratives. Wrap your mind around the stories of the Old Testament, so you can more easily piece them together.

I hope those tips help you. Remember, every word of God is profitable and useful, and inspired. Let's feast upon the whole counsel of His Word. Amen.

*Pastor John*

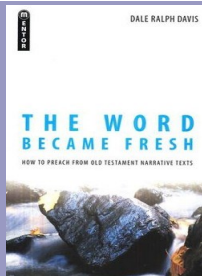
***The Lord Jesus regarded the Old Testament as a trustworthy, authoritative, unerring guide in our quest for enduring happiness.***

***Therefore we who submit to the authority of Christ will also want to submit to the authority of the Book He esteemed so highly.***

***John Piper***

*Desiring God, 1996, p. 275,*

## From the Pastor's Shelf...



**“The Word Became Fresh: How to Preach From Old Testament Narrative Texts”**  
-by: Dale Ralph Davis

Dale Ralph Davis is one of those writers. I find myself wanting to read everything he writes. He's refreshing and witty and clear and succinct. He's also one of those pastors/professors who love the Old Testament. This book, “The Word Became Fresh,” is meant for pastors and preachers, but don't let that turn you away. Really, this book is a short and accessible college course on how to understand and apply the Old Testament to your own life. Chuck Swindoll is a preacher known for making the Old Testament stories come alive. For me, Dale Ralph Davis is right up there with him. You won't regret this book!

*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

*John 5:39*



Are you a 4th to 12th grader?  
You don't want to miss out on the fun and excitement of our hangouts!  
Our next hangout July 8th at 6:00 pm  
Bring a friend!

## Fellowship News

**Girlfriends in Faith**  
We are breaking for the Summer. We will begin meeting again in the Fall! We hope that you will join us then! Watch for details!

**Men's Book Study**  
Our Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. We are studying 1 Corinthians. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. Contact Mark Watts for more information.

**Ladies Bible Study**  
Our Ladies Bible study is studying the book of Galatians. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Contact Sara Cleveland if you have any questions. Jump in and join us!

BOOK NOOK

Check out the bookshelf in the Narthex. We have excellent books available for your Christian growth.



The June Session Meeting was held on Thursday, June 8th, at the church.

The Session discussed the book reading of Revelation, the last assignment, and the new upcoming reading of "Gentle and Lowly", by Dave Ortlund.

Mark Watts went over the financials and the completion of the Playground expenses.

The Session reviewed our current missionary ministries. There are a couple of new ministries that we are considering for 2024.

The upcoming Vacation Bible School and preparation for next year's budget were discussed based on this year's expenditures.

The kitchen committee was discussed, and the Session reviewed the duties list provided by Laurie Brannan and Marcia Daniel.

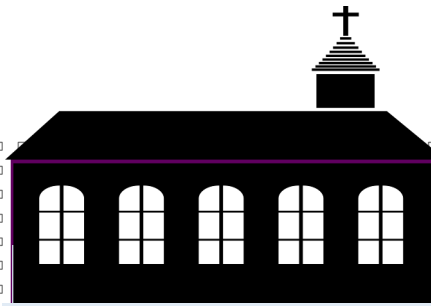
The annual Homecoming service was discussed, and the date was set for Sunday, August 6th, with a covered dish luncheon.

The new home fellowship groups were discussed to begin in September 2023.

The Session reviewed the congregation's care needs and prayed for each need.

The next Session meeting will be on July 6th at 5:30 PM.

John Cleveland, Moderator  
Dan Patterson, Clerk  
Gregg Coniglio  
Keith Lovern  
Mark Watts



### Calendar

- ♦ July 2 The Lord's Day
- ♦ July 2 Communion
- ♦ July 6 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ July 8 Youth Hangout
- ♦ July 9 The Lord's Day
- ♦ July 11 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ July 13 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ July 15 Family Movie Night
- ♦ July 16 The Lord's Day
- ♦ July 18 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ July 20 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ July 22 Family Game Night
- ♦ July 23 The Lord's Day
- ♦ July 25 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ July 27 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ July 30 The Lord's Day
- ♦ July 30 Missionary Luncheon

### July 2023

### Financial News

#### **Donations:**

**\$33,137.95**

#### **Expenses:**

**\$29,015.93**

#### **P.O.P. Fund:**

**\$1,200.00**

#### **Mortgage Principal:**

**\$798,123.86**

Jesus never challenged the accuracy or veracity of a single Old Testament passage. In fact, He never even broached the subject of an errant Scripture because the integrity of the text was always assumed and repeatedly affirmed. Christ never once indicated the slightest need to correct any statement in the Old Testament. Rather, He affirmed its truthfulness to the smallest details.

(Matt. 5:18; John 10:35)

**John MacArthur**

God's Word by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue taken from Biblical Doctrine by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, copyright 2017, Crossway Books, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton Illinois 60187,

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets**

and the **Psalms** must be fulfilled."

<sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the

**[one]** of **Scriptures.**  
BIG STORY

Luke 24:44-45

## Outreach News

If you have a need that arises, or know of anyone that is in need, please reach out to our Deacons for assistance. They have the ability to reach out to the congregation on your behalf as well as physically meet your needs, or they can point you in the right direction for help.

### Deacons of Faith

Jimmy Brock  
Alan Dennis  
Cameron Dennis  
Zohrab Najarian



We will host a Mission's Luncheon Sunday, July 30th following the worship Service to hear more about the work that Missionary Grady Davidson is doing. He serves pastors and church leaders as a Global Instructor with Timothy Two.

The Church will provide the meat and drinks.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for side dishes. Please sign-up to RSVP

We hope that everyone will stay to hear what the Lord is doing through this ministry.

[www.timothytwo.org](http://www.timothytwo.org)



## July Mission of the Month

### Creekside Christian Academy

[www.creeksidechristian.academy](http://www.creeksidechristian.academy)

### Needs

#### Amazon Gift Cards, Home Depot Gift Cards

These will be used to purchase items for their math/STEM program.

You can view the wish list at

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2YTW6U9LS42P2?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2YTW6U9LS42P2?ref_=wl_share)

Please place your items in the mission box in the back of the sanctuary or give to Heather Skelton.

Thank you for always giving so generously to those in need!



### Volunteers Needed For Fellowship Time!

If you would like to provide refreshments, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

Speak to a Deacon if you have any questions!

### Children's Sunday School

We have Sunday School classes for all ages!

We are in need of teachers!

Contact Susan Jones if you are interested in serving!



### Mark Your Calendars!

July 15th  
Family Movie Night  
6:00 pm

July 22nd  
Family Game Night  
6:00 pm

**Watch for more  
details coming  
soon!**

## UPDATE FROM THE KELLER'S

We are headed back to PRAGUE!

June 15th - 30th

Rachel, Luke, and I are headed back to Prague, our first time after having to move back to the States. We are beyond excited.

While there we will reconnect in person with many of our friends and ministry partners, people that you have prayed for over the years.

Our primary purpose for going back is to work with our ministry partners who are leading Battle for the Heart. Those who are carrying the baton forward by investing their lives in seeing others know Christ deeper have asked us to come and invest in their own deepening and spiritual growth. We are grateful for these leaders who have poured so much of their time and energy into many others and we are honored for this opportunity to strengthen and encourage them.

We will join our Deep Community Experience team for a retreat with 9 our Czech and missionary friends for "Phase Three" of our process, called Redemption of our Stories.

We have seen some of the deepest and most powerful change in the lives of others after this retreat. Please pray for these 9 who will attend, that they will be refreshed in their ministry, and that they will experience the deep love of Christ for them.

During phase 3 we see some of the deepest change AND it is one of the most intense retreats that we hold. It is hard work! Pray for our team as we enter into some hard places of each person's lives.

Please pray that our team would be held and kept in the strength of Christ's love for us. Pray for wisdom, discernment, and courage as we enter into what is often intense spiritual warfare.

We will see many others outside of the retreat as well. We are looking for-

ward to seeing Peter, a person you have prayed for often. Pray for opportunities to continue to share the gospel with him.

Unfortunately, Martin and Danka will not be able to attend the retreat. They had their first child recently! Martin has been the driving force of seeing Battle for the Heart expand in Czech. We will get some precious time with them, but not near as much as we hoped.



### ON THE FAMILY FRONT:

Eli continues forward with pilot training. He is now a licensed multi engine pilot! Next step is becoming a multi engine instructor and then being hired as an instructor with a training school. He will continue to build his hours on his way to getting hired by one of the airlines. It has not been an easy road, requiring lots of hard work and patience. We are proud of his diligence and commitment!



Zeke is still stationed in California. A teacher some years ago used the term "Zekeness" when describing him, and that fits. He makes his presence known where ever he is and we love hearing stories of how his Zeekness is felt there. He is planning on being home with us at the end of July in time for Luke's birthday and some other planned family time! We can't wait to see him in person!



Luke is going home to Prague with us for this trip. We're happy that he will be able to reconnect with friends. When we return he will gear up for college where he will be a part of the Georgia Film Academy. We look forward to what God will do in his heart!



Rachel and I continue to serve the families of Southpoint Fellowship and count it an honor to be included in that community. We are thankful for their commitment to serve us and send us as we serve ministry leaders and missionaries in places around the world where there is little to no access to the gospel.

We are thankful for you who pray often and give generously. It is a privilege we don't take lightly to be supported by your prayer and finances. What an incredible honor to be held up by you as we invest in those who would not have this opportunity otherwise. It is a gift to those who will come and be invested in! I look forward to sharing with you the fruit of your investment over the next couple of weeks.

Here's more information about our sending organization and our role: <https://www.paraclete.net/associate/keith-and-rachel-keller/>

With much love and gratitude,  
**The Keller's**





To the glory of God,  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
has been called together to  
faithfully proclaim the  
Gospel, to make and equip  
disciples for Christ, and to  
advance God's Kingdom  
in our families, community,  
and world.



Faith Presbyterian Church is a  
congregation of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
([www.epc.org](http://www.epc.org))  
and the Presbytery of the Southeast  
([www.epcsoutheast.org](http://www.epcsoutheast.org)).

**Our Church Website:**  
[www.FaithMcDonough.com](http://www.FaithMcDonough.com)

**Church Email:**  
[faithepcrus@gmail.com](mailto:faithepcrus@gmail.com)

**Church Phone Number:**  
770-648-5288

**Mailing Address:**  
**Faith Presbyterian Church EPC**  
**1185 East Lake Road**  
**McDonough, GA 30252**

Law + Prophets = Jesus

*Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*  
*Luke 24:25-32*

### CHOIR NEWS

If you would like to join  
our choir, contact Nancy Lowry!  
We would love for you to join us!

If you are interested in joining Faith Presbyterian Church (EPC), you may do so by a profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, by a re-affirmation of your faith, or by a transfer of your membership from another church.  
Please speak with the an Elder concerning your desire.

## HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS!



Kevin Anderson	7/06
Matthew Echols	7/06
Dan Patterson	7/08
Lauren Hawkins	7/14
David Donehoo	7/16
Nicholas Echols	7/16
Jere Echols	7/16
Donna McCormick	7/19
Richard Echols	7/21
Peggy Thomas	7/21
Mike West	7/23
Paul Peters	7/25
Jeff Thomas	7/29
Kate Rocker	7/31



### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

# July 2023

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
<b>2</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	3	4 	5	6 7:00 Men's Bible Study	7	8 Youth Hangout 6:00 pm
9 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	10	11 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	12	13 7:00 Men's Bible Study	14	15  Family Movie Night 6:00 pm
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	17	18 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	19	20 7:00 Men's Bible Study	21	22  Family Game Night 6:00 pm
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	24	25 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	26	27 7:00 Men's Bible Study	28	29
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship Missions Luncheon	31					