

Faith Speaks

It's October, which means it's

REFORMATION MONTH! Last October, I used this article to highlight an important Scottish reformer and the founder of the Presbyterian church, John Knox. This Reformation month, I want to highlight another significant theologian from the Reformation. In fact, one could argue that, next to Martin Luther, this man is the most well-known reformer. I'm speaking, of course, about John Calvin.

Most people know John Calvin as the namesake for the theological position known as Calvinism. Calvin, of course, was a pastor, writer, and thinker who wrote volumes upon volumes, including the first systematic theology book of the Reformation, the "Institutes of the Christian Religion." Calvin is usually understood as this sort of stuffy French professor who started a somewhat controversial way of thinking about salvation and God's electing grace.

However, what most people don't realize is that John Calvin was one of the greatest missionaries and church planters in the history of Christendom. This may come as a shock to many because one of the common criticisms that is leveled at Calvinists is that our view of God's sovereignty in salvation renders evangelism unneces-

sary. Therefore, there are some who actually say that Calvinists don't evangelize. Well, don't say that to John Calvin!

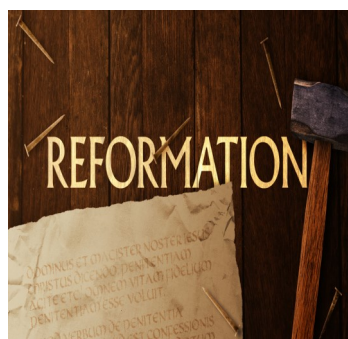
In one of Calvin's sermons, titled "The Call to Witness," he says, *"If the gospel be not preached, Jesus Christ is, as it were, buried ... Let us not deceive Jesus Christ in the testimony we owe Him, by stopping our mouths, when it is needful to maintain His honor, and the authority of His gospel."* It was passionate preaching such as this from Calvin that stirred the hearts of many French refugees in Geneva during the 1550's. These refugees yearned to return to France and preach the saving gospel. What was Calvin's response to their evangelistic fervor? He offered to train them before they went.

Calvin's missionary school in Geneva had over 1,500 students within its first five years, and at least 100 of those students became missionaries to France. A couple of pastors were even sent by Calvin as missionaries to Brazil! Both Calvin and the missionaries he trained ended up planting 2,150 churches in France by 1562, just

two years before Calvin died. This missionary school wasn't just something Calvin had attached to his name. He personally trained, did assessments, wrote letters to missionaries, and prayed with them.

While John Calvin is often thought of as the theological mind of the Reformation, the truth is that his doctrine stretched beyond his head and his books and into his heart and his boots. That is what theology should always do. What we know and love about God should fuel our love for others and our boldness to give the gospel. This November, I will be leading a four-week Wednesday night study of evangelism. I want to invite you to join me. Let's learn together to do what good Calvinists do - share the gospel. Blessings to you all, and happy reformation month!

Pastor John



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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2024

Session Members

John Cleveland
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Andy Martin
Dan Patterson

Deacons

Jimmy Brock
Randy Cononge
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis

Pray that the Lord will bless the preaching and teaching ministry of the church to gather and build up the saints, that God's word will grow and multiply, and that our witness, love, and holiness will increase by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

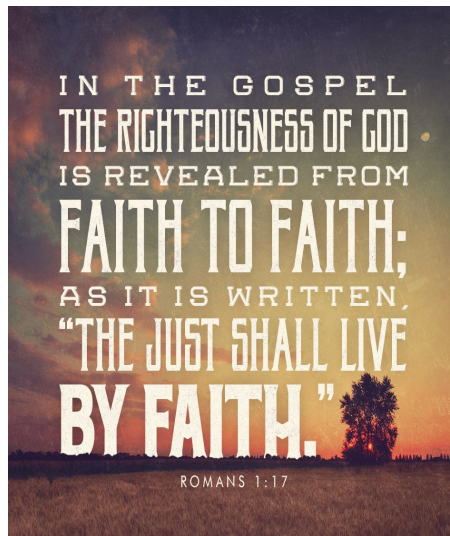
- ♦ **Billie Miller:** fighting cancer
- ♦ **Jimmy Brock:** cancer treatment
- ♦ **Chris Ober:** continued cancer treatment
- ♦ **Richard Ingram:** chemotherapy
- ♦ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ♦ **Jordan Israel**
- ♦ **Wade Crumley:** cancer
- ♦ **Bonnie McEachern:** recovery from heart surgery
- ♦ **Teresa Harvey:** traveling mercies for her return visit to the States.
- ♦ **The Anderson Family:** settling in Germany
- ♦ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center
- ♦ **Those affected by Hurricane Helene**
- ♦ **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**

Praise

- ♦ **Miles Pass:** 7y/o with leukemia got to ring the bell and has finished his treatments

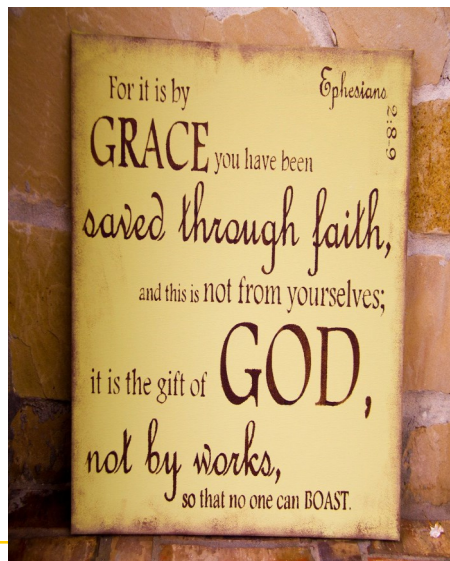
Please pray for our missionaries:

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



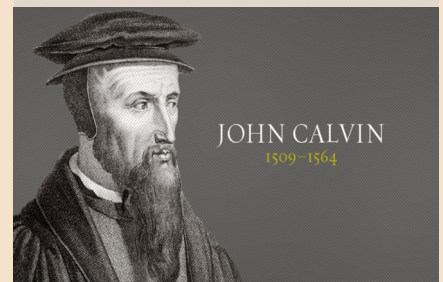
If you have a prayer request or a praise report that you would like to have included in the next newsletter, please email them to:
faithepcrus@gmail.com
 by Thursday,
 October 31st.

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



Let us consider this settled: that no one who has made progress in the school of Christ who does not joyfully await the day of death and final resurrection... Let us not hesitate to await the Lord's coming, not only with longing, but also with groaning and sighs, as the happiest thing of all. He will come to us as Redeemer.

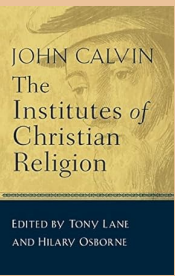
John Calvin



A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.

John Calvin

From the Pastor's Shelf...



JOHN CALVIN
The
Institutes of
Christian
Religion

EDITED BY TONY LANE
AND HILARY OSBORNE

“Institutes of the Christian Religion” by John Calvin

Normally, I don't recommend really big, heavy books, but since it's Reformation month and we're talking about John Calvin, I just cannot skip this one. So, one of Calvin's crowning achievements in his lifetime was the “Institutes of the Christian Religion”. He worked on this book, revising it several times, for over thirty years! The Institutes is the first systematic theology of the Reformation. It is a seminal work that has shaped Christian theology through the ages. Is it dense and hard to read? Yes. Is it worth it? Yes! To this day, whenever I have a pressing theological question, I will still thumb through the Institutes to see what Calvin had to say. And I am always shocked at how insightful he can be despite having written in the 1500s.

Girlfriends of Faith

Mark your calendar for our next brunch meeting on **Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m.** We will continue to finalize our plans for the **Mission opportunities discussed in September.** All ladies of the church are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship of good food, sisterhood in Christ, and the joy of opening our hearts to those in need.

Women's Bible Study

Ladies **EVENING Bible Study** has completed their study of Isaiah and will resume again in January. Be on the lookout for the schedule and new topic of study.

Men's Bible Study

Our Men's Bible Study meets on **Thursday's at 7:00 pm.** We are studying the book of **Philemon**. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. **Contact Gregg Coniglio for more information.**

Fellowship News

Revival describes a renewal of spiritual life, while reformation describes a renewal of the forms and structures of society and culture. It is not possible to have true reformation without first having true revival. The renewal of spiritual life under the power of the Holy Spirit is a necessary condition for reformation but not a sufficient condition for it. Therefore, though it is not possible to have reformation without revival, it is possible to have revival without reformation.

RC Sproul

Reference: The Spirit of Revival by Archie Parrish, Introduction, Copyright 2000, Crossway Books, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton Illinois 60187, www.crosswaybooks.org, p. 17.

BOOK NOOK

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

The September regular Session meeting was held on Thursday, September 12th, at the church at 5:30 PM.

For the devotion, the Session read Chapter 2 of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

The Session discussed the future land use of Faith Church's 15 acres and will request a proposal from land engineers to draft a plan. This would encompass parking lot additions or expansions, recreational space, and potential building sites if needed in the future.

Faith's future social media presence, church website, and community outreach ideas were also discussed.

Revisions were made to the current church building use policy. These revisions are necessary should a non-member rent the facility for approved events.

The weekly attendance book procedure was discussed, and some changes will be forthcoming in the near future.

Prayer needs were discussed and lifted to God.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for October 10th, 2024

Faith Presbyterian EPC Session

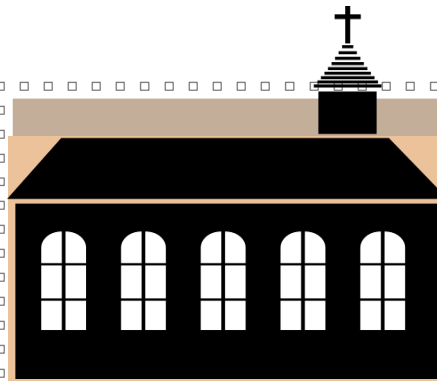
John Cleveland, Moderator
Dan Patterson, Clerk
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Andy Martin



Starting October 13th at 2:30 pm we will be hosting a Grief Share ministry. Grief Share is a Christ-centered support group for those mourning the loss of a loved one. The program is 13 weeks long, absolutely free and open to all who wish to join and participate. Visit this link below to learn more and register:

<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/247024>

Contact Dody Morris for details.



Calendar

- ◆ October 3 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ October 6 The Lord's Day
- ◆ October 6 Communion
- ◆ October 10 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ October 12 Youth Hangout
- ◆ October 13 The Lord's Day
- ◆ October 17 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ October 19 Ladies Meeting
- ◆ October 20 The Lord's Day
- ◆ October 24 Men's Bible Study
- ◆ October 26 Youth Hangout
- ◆ October 27 The Lord's Day
- ◆ October 31 Men's Bible Study

September 2024

Financial News

Donations

\$40,507.50

Expenses

\$30,033.33

P.O.P. Fund

\$7,572.00

Mortgage Principal

\$734,181.91

All God's promises depend upon Christ alone. This is a notable assertion and one of the main articles of our faith. It depends in turn upon another principle – that it is only in Christ that God the Father is graciously inclined towards us. His promises are the testimonies of His fatherly goodwill towards us. Thus it follows that they are fulfilled only in Christ...

Secondly, we are incapable of possessing God's promises till we have received the remission of our sins and that comes to us through Christ.

John Calvin

Reference: Commentary.



Are you a
4th to 12th
grader?

You don't want to
miss out on the fun
and excitement!

Our next Hangouts
are

Saturday,

October

12th and 26th

at 6:00 pm

Outreach News

NEED HELP?

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
Randy Cononge
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis



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!



Mission of the Month



Operation Christmas Child

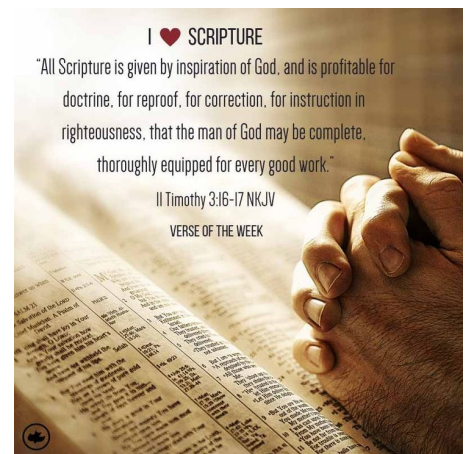
www.samaritanspurse.org

Needs

You can find the list of approved donations on the table in the back of the sanctuary or make a monetary donation. We will gather gifts to fill our shoeboxes on November 16th.

Please place your items in the mission box in the back of the sanctuary.

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



I ♥ SCRIPTURE

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

VERSE OF THE WEEK

People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.

D.A. Carson

UPDATE FROM JENNY COON

Quick Update



Hello,

I just wanted to send a quick update as many of you are likely watching what is happening in Beirut on the news. The "war" that I had mostly been living on the fringe and second hand through the stories of patients and helping the scores of refugees / displaced that came from the south/east into my community finally arrived on my doorstep. As a friend said, "Beirut's turn finally came." Although I am "safe" in my neighborhood, I was up with most of Beirut the whole night as the bombs fell one after another in the southern suburbs, just a few miles away. Hearing, feeling, watching the city you love under attack is not something I can not adequately put into words.

We don't know what comes next at this point. Balassan, the

church, and myself appreciate your prayers for wisdom in how

to help and healing for all of our hearts, bodies, and souls. The level of trauma and destruction over the past week is too much to bear. We are angry, sad, grieving, worried, and so much more. I am grateful for my community here and going through this together with them. I know God is with us and even in the midst of this, I can see Him at work in ways I can share in a later update.

Over the past week, I have focused on treating my ever growing number of patients, coordinating on behalf of Balassan with our pastor and our medical doctor on ways that we can help with the refugees, co-ordinate trauma trainings with our social worker, and resource diapers/mattresses/milk to the family members of our patients from the south/east. I will send more of what that practically looks like in a later update.

Today, I am leaving Beirut in God's hands and taking a break so I can be ready for what next week holds.

Thank you for your prayers and for your concern. I know many of you have been asking how to pray. For now, the best I can say is pray for peace.

With gratitude,
Jenny

Email from Jenny 9/26/24

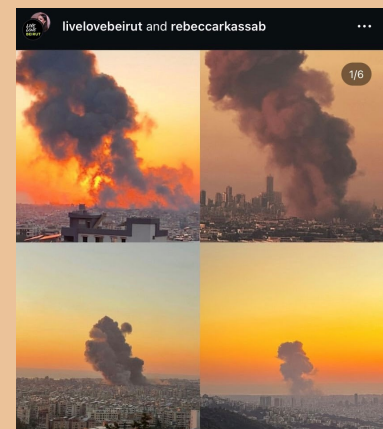
Thanks for checking in. I appreciate it! It has certainly been a rough week. Where I live in Beirut is technically safe, but we are receiving lots of refugees from parts of the country that are being bombed. I have been busy both treating patients and coordinating at the clinic to help those displaced. As always in these situations you see the best and worst of people. I can speak for myself and the local church here that we ask for prayer for wisdom in how to help, how to care well for those who have lost loved ones and homes, and that God would use this displacement of people to bring them to Himself.

Thanks!

If I have any tangible needs in the near future, I will let you know.

I definitely appreciate your prayers!

Jenny



Dahiyeh (southern suburbs)



Families sleeping on the Corniche (seaside) that fled their homes suddenly with no where to go



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)
and the Presbytery of the Southeast
(www.epcsoutheast.org).



*For the word of God is
living and active, sharper
than any two-edged
sword, piercing to the
division of soul and
of spirit, of joints and
of marrow, and discerning
the thoughts and
intentions of the heart.
And no creature is hidden
from his sight, but all are
naked and exposed to the
eyes of him to whom we
must give account.*

Hebrews 4:12-13

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!



NA Higginbotham	10/07
BJ Newton	10/07
Connie Donehoo	10/08
Lloyd Hunt	10/10
Lori Hendrix	10/10
Les Glinski	10/11
Emily Hubbard	10/19
Marcia Daniel	10/19
Kay Horvath	10/23
David Hendrix	10/25
Pam Fraticelli	10/29
Ralph Uecker	10/30
Peggy Campbell	10/31



Our Church Website:
www.FaithMcDonough.com

Church Email:
faithepcrus@gmail.com

Church Phone Number:
770-648-5288

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

CHOIR NEWS

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

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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 if you have any questions about joining.

October 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study

6 Communion

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship

7

8

9

10

11

12

*6:00 pm
Youth
Hangout*

7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study

13

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship
2:30 Grief Share

14

15

16

17

18

19

*10:00 am
Ladies
Meeting*

7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study

20

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship
2:30 Grief Share

21

22

23

24

25

26

*6:00 pm
Youth
Hangout*

7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study

27

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 Worship
2:30 Grief Share

28

29

30

31

7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study