



January 2023

Fox River Life



The following article is written by Dr. W. Robert Godfrey (no relation to me sadly) is a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow and chairman

of Ligonier Ministries. He is president emeritus and professor emeritus of church history at Westminster Seminary California. He is the featured teacher for many Ligonier teaching series, including the six-part series A Survey of Church History. He is author of many books, including God's Pattern for Creation, Reformation Sketches, and An Unexpected Journey.

I hope that you, I, and we would take this very seriously as we go into 2023 and beyond this present day.

In His Name and For His Glory,
Pastor Tim

What Does the Church Most Need Today?

What does the church most need today? In answering this important but rather general question, Psalm 81 is uniquely important and helpful. This psalm obviously

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*See, I am doing a
new thing! Now
it springs up; do
you not perceive
it? I am making a
way in the wil-
derness and
streams in the
wasteland
Isaiah 43:19.*

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

contains beautiful promises and clear directions to help the people of God. But careful study of this psalm will deepen our appreciation of it, increase its value for us, and show us how distinctive it is for helping the church.

As we study psalms, we soon learn that the central verse of a psalm is often significant as a key to its interpretation. The central line of Psalm 81 is the heart of that psalm, as the plaintive cry of God is heard: "O Israel, if you would but listen to me!" (v. 8b). The center of Psalm 81—indeed the whole psalm—is a reflection on the Shema.

The centrality of this line and its importance are underscored when we recognize that Psalm 81 is the central psalm of Book 3 of the Psalter. Book 3 (Psalms 73–89) principally concerns the crisis in Israel caused by the destruction of the temple (Ps. 74) and the apparent failure of God's promises that David's sons would forever sit on his throne (Ps. 89). Something of the cause and character of this crisis is contained in this central line of the central psalm.

Since Book 3 is the central book of the five books of the Psalter, Psalm 81:8b actually is the central line of the whole book of Psalms. It stands at the very heart of Israel's songbook. It calls Israel to deep reflection on her relationship to her God.

This psalm also appears to be central to Israel's liturgical calendar. The praise at new moon and full moon can refer only to the seventh month of the year, the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:24; Num. 10:10) and the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:26–32). Between these two feasts occurred the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27). As God called Israel to celebrate His great provisions as Creator and Deliverer, so He called His people to hear Him.



"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness." Psalm 29:2

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Thank you, everyone, for the outpouring of support for our Brewster Village Christmas Project. It was fun to put the stockings together, and our contact person at Brewster Village, Pam Schmidt, was so thankful when the gifts were delivered. You may see the thank-you note from Brewster Village posted on the bulletin board.

Women's Bible studies continue with the Thursday afternoon group meeting at 1:00 p.m. and the Saturday morning group meeting at 8:00 a.m. Saturday ladies will soon finish the book of Hebrews and will begin 1 Corinthians by the end of January or early February. All ladies are welcome to join these group at any time.



As the Shema was crucial to the Torah, so it is central to the Psalter and to the Christian life. God's people must hear His Word, particularly to reject false gods (v. 9) and to walk in His ways (v. 13). They must not follow their own wisdom (v. 12). How sad to contemplate that God might give us what we think is good for us.

The Lord reminds His people that in history He has been the Deliverer and now promises that when we open our mouths in prayer, He will hear us and meet our needs (v. 10). He is the God who preserves and provides for the needs of His own.

The failure of Israel to hear the Word of God was rectified by God's own Son. Jesus always heard and honored God's Word. His Father delighted in Him for that reason: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 17:5). Jesus perfectly listened and followed so that His people would have a complete and perfect salvation. The Father continues to call His people to listen, now directing them to the words of His Son: "listen to him" (Matt. 17:5). The salvation and health of the church depend on it continuing to listen to God's Word.

Psalm 81 seems to reflect the time of exile, when God punished Israel with the loss of the temple, its king, and the land of promise. It also reminds us of an earlier time, when Israel doubted God and grumbled about Him (v. 7). At Meribah (Ex. 17), Israel tested the Lord, doubting that He was with His people, so the Lord tested Israel and found her wanting. Similarly, we can look at the history of the church and see many times and ways in which the church failed to listen to the Word of the Lord.

The time of the Reformation, of course, was one of the greatest times in which the church returned to the Word of God. The Reformation of the church occurred because Christians began again to study the Bible carefully. The Reformers studied Greek and Hebrew, provided the church with new translations of the Bible, used the new technology of the printing press to print Bibles, and prepared some of the finest commentaries and theologies in the history of the church.

Again in our time, the church must be called to listen to the Word of God. The churches of America too often seem interested in following other voices than the voice of God. For decades, some churches have taught that the Bible is not fully and truly the Word of God. Other churches formally recognize the Bible, but seem to have lost confidence that preaching and teaching the Bible is what will convert unbelievers and build the church. Many Christians today seem to practically ignore the Bible, and as a result, they are as worldly as their unbelieving neighbors.

God says to us today, as He said to Israel of old and says to every generation of His people: "O Israel, if you would but listen to me!" Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will open ears in our churches and throughout our land. And let us listen carefully and believingly. Such listening is what the church most needs today

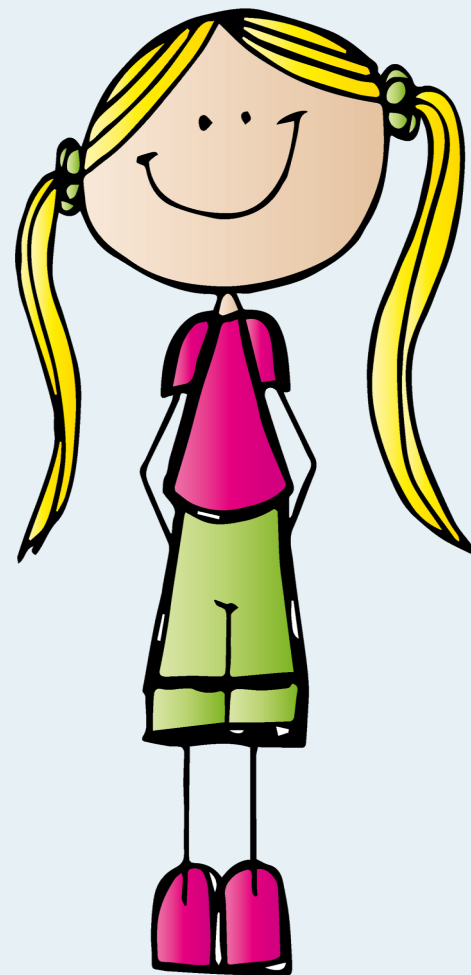
The Deaconesses want to thank Jan Jourdin for her years of faithful service as she is stepping down now that she lives so far from the church.

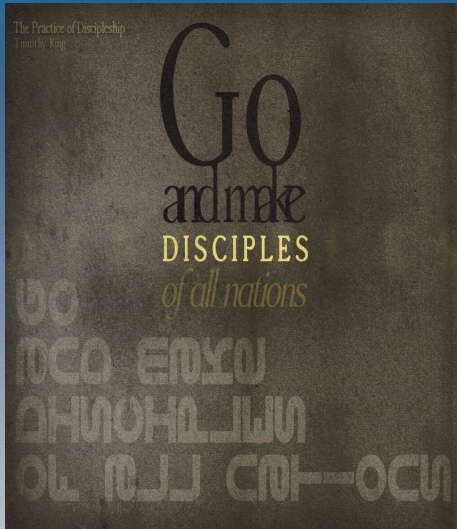
We did our quarterly event in November and had a wonderful time ministering to the children and parents of our congregation.

Our next event will be held in the dead of winter when we will all be in need of a little pick me up. More information to come. Merry Christmas to you all and may the Lord become more and more alive in our hearts in 2023!!!

Children's Church has been studying the birth of Christ. We have been creating the nativity scene and have done some role playing with the kids acting out the shepherds and the magi.

Our next set of lessons is about Abraham and the Covenant that God promised. We are emphasizing the importance of God keeping His.





Intentional Discipleship

We have just completed a Christmas Break from our Men's and Women's Bible studies and also our Sunday School Study. Everything restarts on January 5th with the Thursday Ladies Bible Study.

Plan on joining us in the New Year and “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Look forward to learning with you and wrestling together in the Word of God.

“It is a good rule after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between.”

— C.S. Lewis



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

January 8—Ask Pastor Tim @ 5:00 pm

January 15—Prayer @ 5:00 pm

January 22—Solo Christos @ 5:00 pm

January 29 —Prayer @ 5:00 pm



Financial Update—N, 2022
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,340.00
Received: \$ 2,244 per week
Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's
Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00pm

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am



January 1
Pat Groff

January 8
Christopher Smith

January 15
Ray Rudzinski

January 22
Jeffery Smith

January 29
Kyle Tubbs



Please contact Carol
Smith at (920) 788-
9795

to volunteer for
Nursery
ministry. There is a sign
-up sheet at the front
desk.

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY

Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature.”
Mark 16:15

MISSIONS BOARD

The next meeting of the Missions Board will be February 6. We will be looking over the yearly reports that our missionaries are submitting to us. We look forward to hearing of their ministry highlights, goals for the coming year, and any concerns or needs that might be a part of their ministries.

Please take time to read the Christmas greetings we received from Cris and Juliet, the two young people supported by your generous contributions. Their cards are on the table in the lobby.

Young@Heart will be continuing to provide a service at Care Partners in Fox Crossing on the first Thursday of each month, with our next service on January 5, at 10:30 am. We are also temporarily filling in for Rich Engel of Shepherd's Care with a service at Frontida Assisted Living in Kimberly on the second Tuesday of each month starting on January 10 and continuing through April.

You can talk to Lynn, Doris, or Diane with any questions about what we do, and if you are interested in joining us at either service, please contact Lynn Abitz.



FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



1— Jay and Linda Hoffman

12—Jordon Platel

19 —Aaron Bressler

21—Nadege Jolivart

23 — Bill Olson

Fox River Baptist Church

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Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new Prayer request email address:

Care to be part of the prayer chain?

Email or call Becky Godfrey at
becl.godfrey@gmail.com —
(920) 277-1526

