



The Creek Courier

Weekly Update August 20, 2022

Loving God

Learning Together

Leading Others to Christ

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned."
John 15:1-6

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift, not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.
Ephesians 2:8-10

Dear Church,

Picture a healthy, tall oak tree covered in leaves with birds nesting in it. If you were to cut off a branch, it would wither and die. Not so with the branches that remain connected to the healthy tree; they thrive and flourish just like the tree itself.

The analogy of the oak tree and branches reminds us of the powerful image of the vine and branches Jesus gave us in the John 15 passage above. The Lord's warning is clear—"you can do nothing without me."

The power connection is absolutely necessary. While it may sound like a noble idea, we are not called to go solo in attempting Kingdom work for His glory. Rather we are called to develop a moment-by-moment dependence upon His Spirit flowing into us and through us to those we encounter on the journey. It is only when we are connected to Christ that opportunities and blessings we cannot imagine in our own strength become available to us. Rather than being limited by our own capacity and strength, we have His power available to us.

Every person called by the Lord is equipped by the Lord. We are indeed His workmanship and He has created us for the good works He has specifically prepared for us. Just as He called and equipped Moses and Joshua and many others we read about in Scripture, He has done the same for us.

The Lord's power is like that towering oak tree. That means we can let go of our personal expectations and self-sufficiency. The life He has prepared for us goes far beyond anything we can imagine or achieve on our own. And the best part? He is forever with us and we can remain connected to Him in every moment of our lives. It is in our best interest to have our focus fixed on the Lord. He is life.

-Bruce

A closing thought: "I am to become a Christ to my neighbor and be for Him what Christ is for me." —Martin Luther

LifeGroups
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.

Prayer Ministry
Sunday afternoon at 5:00
in the Family Life Center

Deacon Ordination Service

Sunday Evening at 6:00

Jamie Falkner and Dylan Hoyle will be ordained Sunday evening as we recognize and affirm the Lord's call of these two men to deacon ministry.

From Pastor Tim

We encourage everyone to come out Sunday evening at 6:00 pm as Jamie Falkner and Dylan Hoyle are ordained into the Deacon Ministry. Let's show our love and support for these men and their families as they make such a significant commitment to our Lord and our church.

-Tim .

Requesting Prayers for our Transition Efforts

The Steering Committee for transition efforts has begun meeting. We are requesting your prayers for this committee as they meet and put together a vision for our Youth Ministry. Members of the committee are as follows:

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| Danny Wright, Chairman | Kathie Adcock, Secretary |
| Jackie Ayscue | Tim Burgess |
| Phyllis Burnette | Zack Holt |
| Larry Johnson | Kim McKinney |

Please also pray for these folks who have stepped up and taken on new responsibilities as part of the overall transition:

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| Zack and Kaylan Holt | Dylan and Allie Hoyle |
| Blake Massengill | Emily Parker |

Pastor Tim and your deacons are available to help with any needs you might have.

On-call deacon for the next week is Elliot Fuller.

Elliot can be reached at 252-425-0376.

Pastor Tim can be reached at 252-432-6780.