

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30 am FELLOWSHIP MEAL No Evening Service	5 Labor Day Church Offices Closed	6 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am WIC Prayer Time 7 pm	7 Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm Choir 7pm	8	9 READERS GAME NIGHT 6 pm (Hill Home)	10
11 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	12 Men's Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	13 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	14 Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	15 Women's Study 1pm (Hill Home)	16 PARENTS NIGHT OUT 6 pm	17
18 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	19 Youth Fellowship 6 pm	20 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Book Study 9:30 am Session Meeting 6 pm Women's Book Study 6:30 pm (Welti Home) WIC Prayer Time	21 Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	22 Women's Study 1pm (Hill Home)	23	24 Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast 8 am
25 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	26 Men's Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	27 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Women's Book Study 9:30 am Women's Book Study 6:30 pm (Welti Home)	28 Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	29	30	

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



September 2022

From the Pastor

Covenant of Grace 1.1

We continue our study of the covenants of Scripture. Let me keep before us the definition of a covenant from Kevin DeYoung: "Covenants are about people. A covenant is a commitment that establishes a relationship between two or more persons." The study of covenant theology seeks to mine the riches of Scripture for God's covenanting with mankind, as he establishes a relationship with them and ultimately promises to save them. We have explored the Covenant of Works that God makes with Adam—and mankind through him—for perfect obedience in the garden with the promise of eternal life. Last month, we surveyed the Covenant of Redemption, where God the Father covenants eternally with God the Son for the Son to become the incarnate surety of salvation for the elect.

We will explore the inauguration of the Covenant of Grace this month. Following that, we will move through the Covenant of Grace as it unfolds through Scripture—from Noah to Abraham to David to Christ.

The Covenant of Grace immediately follows upon the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:15, as we will see, is the highpoint of this inauguration. However, we can begin with Gen 3:8-9 to consider the nature of the holy, offended LORD's response to original sin. As we do, we are immediately surprised at how the LORD comes to meet with the man and woman who have just rebelliously disobeyed his direct command. The LORD had promised death for disobedience (Gen 2:17, lit. *death you will die*). But, when we come to the aftermath of the disobedience, it is not death as we expect that meets the man

and woman. The LORD God comes to the man and woman in the garden. While his coming may not be the serene, tranquil picture many of our translations suggest by speaking of the "cool of the day" (the Hebrew may also convey a *strong wind*), his coming is *to* the man and woman. And, instead of bringing death, he comes to call to them.

Grace upon grace, mercy upon mercy. The LORD God comes to the fallen man and woman and holds a conversation with them. He asks them penetrating questions to draw them out of their fearful hiding. And only then do we come to Gen 3:15 and the words spoken to the Serpent in the presence of the man and woman. Here, we find what has been called the Proto-Evangelium—the first announcement of the gospel. The Westminster Confession of Faith 7.3 says, "Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by [the Covenant of Works], the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the Covenant of Grace; wherein He freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ." The Covenant of Grace is immediately inaugurated upon the failure of Adam within the Covenant of Works. The words of this Covenant of Grace are announced in these words, "I will put enmity between you [the Serpent] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." This is the promise of one who will bruise (lit. *crush*) the head of the Serpent.

As we will see with each unfolding of the Covenant of Grace, the LORD takes

upon himself all the conditions of the covenant. If a covenant establishes a relationship between parties, here in Gen 3:15 we find the beginning of the LORD promising that in this relationship with his people he alone shall act on their behalf. This will become clearer when we come to the Abrahamic covenant. There, the LORD alone enters into the agreement. But here, in Gen 3:15, we find in seed form (pun intended) the Covenant of Grace. Here, the LORD promises to take upon himself the whole work of redeeming his fallen people. He will experience death, taking upon himself all the Father's condemnation due for the sin of his people. He will have his heel bruised. The bruising of the heel is serious. It is fatal, but it is not final. He defeats death and rises again. And by this death and resurrection, he surely becomes the Serpent head crusher. There is no greater reason that we call this covenant the Covenant of Grace. It is a covenant from grace for grace—originating in grace to demonstrate and secure grace.

Just as a rose unfolds to reveal its manifold beauty, so from the bud of Gen 3:15 the Covenant of Grace unfolds up to the coming of the Christ to reveal all its diverse beauty for a redeemed, re-created people. The remainder of our series will track this unfolding beauty.

Pastor Kevin Vollema



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MISSIONS MINUTE

*Update from Paul and Lizzie Sanduleac
church planters in Moldova*

Dear friends and partners,

Well, it finally happened. After 2.5 years of avoiding COVID-19, (we think) we finally got it along with the rest of the family last week. Most of us have recovered quickly, with Paul taking the longest due to his intermittent asthma. He's better now and we're thankful for the good medical care he's gotten here.

In other major news, our plans for this academic year have become clearer. The Lord opened a door for Paul's father to finish up his studies at RTS, so their family will be spending the next 10 months in Jackson. Paul will fill the pulpit most Sundays in Cupcini while they are gone, preaching through the Sermon on the Mount and teaching occasional seminars on the Westminster Confession. As we have time, we will also begin connecting with people in Chişinău, where we want to be long-term, in hopes of gathering a fellowship group there this fall.

You can be praying for us in this transition, especially as we take on more practical duties both at home and at the church. We are thankful for the community of saints with whom we'll be spending much time -- they love the Word of God and they love us.

Kevin DeYoung once said that whenever he takes up a new ministry job, he lets them know that he wants to do three main things: preach, pray, and be with people. Lord-willing, that's what we want to do in this first year as we plant the seeds of God's Word and plant ourselves in Moldova long-term.

With much love,
Paul and Elizabeth

MOVE-UP SUNDAY

Sunday school will officially “move-up” on **September 4th**. On that Sunday, children/students who, because of their age or new school year grade, should move into the next class can “move-up.” We want to make much of this move as your child has grown another year old and/or enters a new grade. Having an official date for this move also helps our teachers know when to expect the movement of students either into or out of their classroom. As things stand, this is our breakdown of classes:

- 3 - 5 year olds - taught by Elise Ethridge, class meets in the room to the right of the nursery
- 1st - 3rd grade - taught by Kim Clark, class meets in the first room across from the bathrooms in the main building
- 4th - 6th grade - taught by Drew Gunn, class meets in the first classroom to the right in the modular building
- 7th - 12th grade - taught by Gary Morrow, class meets in the first classroom to the left in the modular building

Additionally, September 4th serves as our official new rollout of a new Sunday School curriculum. We will begin using the curriculum One Story Ministries which is published by Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS. It is a comprehensive curriculum that from grades K-6th takes a child through all the Scriptures (Genesis to Revelation). Building on this, the curriculum takes grades 7th-12th through a more in-depth study of the Scriptures and seeks to encourage their application and implementation of its truths into all their lives.

We hope to see you there!

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

There will be a church fellowship meal on Sunday, **September 4** following morning worship. Each family is asked to bring a side dish and a dessert to share. The church will provide the meat, bread and drinks. There will not be an evening service.

REMINDERS

◆ *Women’s Prayer Time* date this month is at 7 pm, on **September 6** and **September 20** in the home of Carmel Madeja. [420 Eastwood Street]

◆ *Men’s Prayer Breakfast* dates for this month are **September 6, 13, 20, and 27 @** 6 am.

◆ The next *Reader’s Game Night* is **September 9** at 6 pm. [Hill Home]

◆ The *Lord’s Supper* will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, **September 4**, during morning worship.

◆ There will be a *Session Meeting* on Tuesday, **September 20**, at 6:00 pm.

◆ *Parents’ Night Out* will be **September 16** from 6-9 pm. Please make sure to pick up your children by 9 pm.

◆ The *Men’s Monthly Fellowship Breakfast* is **September 24** at 8 am.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Northpointe will be hosting a marriage conference at a later date to be determined. Please watch for more details to come.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Northpointe Youth!! We will meet **September 19** from 6-8:45 at the Elliott’s (5323 Linmoor Drive). We will have dinner, play games, and discuss Acts 15 and 16. We look forward to seeing you there!

WOMEN’S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will begin an in-depth study on the book of Romans using video lectures from Dr. Michael Kruger, president of RTS Charlotte, on Tuesday, **September 20**. A morning group will meet at the church at 9:30am and childcare will be provided. An evening group is also meeting at the home of René Welti (8315 Harvey Cut Off Rd) on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Study notes will be provided.

WOMEN'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are invited to participate in a 7 week study on “*Understanding the Discipline of Fasting*” by Paul Washer. The meetings will be Thursdays beginning, **September 15**, at 1 pm, in the home of Betsy Hill . (7989 Poplar Springs Drive) There will not be a meeting on 9/29 and the last week will fall on 11/3, with extra weeks available if we need to extend. Each woman is asked to purchase their own book available through Amazon. Call or text Carmel Madeja with any questions. (815-861-8900)

MEN’S BOOK STUDY

The men will begin the study “*Behold Your God*” by John Snyder. The study includes a video and a workbook. See Bill Madeja to for information on obtaining a workbook. The meetings are scheduled for every other Monday, at 7 pm in the home of Bill Madeja. (420 Eastwood Street) The dates in *September are set for the 12th and 26th*.

MEN’S RETREAT

All men (ages 8+) are encouraged to join us for a retreat at Lake Forest Ranch in Macon, MS on **October 21-22**. Our speaker will be Billy Dempsey, minister of congregational care at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson. Registration is \$35 for three meals and overnight stay, or \$15 for Saturday attendance only. For all the details and to register by October 16, please visit northpointepca.org/events.

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

1	Ben Ausbrooks
2	Scott Joransen
5	Cooper Thaggard
9	Tracey Greene
10	Annabeth Elliott
11	Ben McEachin
12	Bret Boes
13	Gavin Aull
15	Harold Hill
16	Levi Wadley
17	Greg Thaggard
19	Mason Kiple
20	Hans Tulip
23	Elijah Thaggard
26	Mandy Phillips