

August 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY 9:30 am WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY 6:30 PM (WELTI HOME) WIC PRAYER TIME 7 pm			READERS GAME NIGHT 6:00 PM (HILL HOME)	
7 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm		9 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY 9:30 am SESSION MEETING 6PM WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY 6:30 PM (WELTI HOME)	10	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	15 Men's Book Study 7 pm	16 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY 9:30 am WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY 6:30 PM (WELTI HOME) WIC PRAYER TIME 7 pm	17	18	19 PARENT'S NIGHT OUT 6 pm	20 WOMEN'S RETREAT 9am -5 pm The Mason Boutique Hotel
21 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	22 Youth Fellowship 6 pm	23 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am	24 CHURCH PICNIC 5:30 pm	25	26	27 MEN'S MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST 8 am
28 Sunday School 9:30am Officer's Training Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	29	30 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 6 am	31 WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES RESUME 5:30 pm			

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 2022

From the Pastor

Covenant of Redemption

We are working through the biblical covenants in order to go deeper in our understanding of *what God had promised to do* and *what he has done* to redeem his people from their fallen state. Last month, we explored the Covenant of Works. The LORD God established a Covenant of Works with Adam in the garden, promising life for obedience and death for disobedience to his command.

We saw that because Adam disobeyed, and subsequently brought death upon humanity, Christ comes as a man born into the Covenant of Works to once and for all earn the promised life through his perfect obedience. This promised life he gives to all those who are *in him* by faith. This gift comes according to the Covenant of Grace.

But a question might remain: Is the sending of God the Son as a man a reactionary decision on the part of God the Father after Adam sins? Scripture is clear that no such reactionary decision was needed by the Father. Instead, many Reformed theologians have spoken of a third covenant—the Covenant of Redemption (CoR)—in drawing attention to the eternal decreed will of God to redeem. It should be noted that the CoR is not universally held by the Reformed church. Godly men on both sides debate whether God's eternal plan to redeem should be viewed through the lens of a covenant. However, as I will hope to demonstrate, there is good Scriptural evidence for seeing a CoR.

The Covenant of Redemption is understood as an eternal covenant made with-

in the Trinity between God the Father and God the Son, whereby the Son agrees to become Savior of those with whom God makes the Covenant of Grace. In his *Systematic Theology*, Louis Berkhof defines the CoR as “the agreement between the Father, giving the Son as Head and Redeemer of the elect, and the Son, voluntarily taking the place of those whom the Father had given Him.” Understood in this way, the CoR provides the foundation for all other covenants made by God. That the Triune God makes covenants with his creation finds its prototype in his own tri-Personal covenantal work in eternity. To put it simply, the CoR takes us within the veil of the eternal interpersonal relationship between the Father and the Son as our one God decrees to redeem his people.

The Scriptural evidence for the Covenant of Redemption is manifold. The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 1:4-11, unfolds the eternal saving purposes of God for his people. In this passage, we learn that God “chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world” (v. 4). The plan to save is eternal. Paul will speak there of God saving according to “his will” that is “according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time” (vv. 5, 9-10). The plan to save is according to an intentional purpose. This purpose comes to fulfillment in the Person and Work of Christ—God the Son incarnate. God's plan to save is both eternal and purposeful and directly involves the Son's work.

When Christ himself speaks of his work to save he will speak of doing the

Father's will. He says in John 4:34, “My food is to do *the will of him who sent me* and *to accomplish his work.*” And in John 6:38, “I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but *the will of him who sent me.*” The Son is sent on mission, according to the eternal saving purpose of the Father, to secure and safeguard the salvation of all who belong to him. Behind these words from the lips of Jesus are two Messianic Psalms that specify two parties in conversation regarding salvation—Psalm 2:7-9 and Psalm 40:7-9. In both, the Messiah is found agreeing to the plan set forth by the LORD for him, on condition of his fulfillment of the plan.

These passages give us the parties involved, the purpose set forth, and the condition to be fulfilled. These are the essential elements of a covenant. Although Scripture will not speak directly of a Covenant of Redemption between the Persons of the Trinity, the Scriptural evidence of the eternal plan provides all the necessary elements to see a prototypical covenant being made. The Father covenants with the Son, and the Son willingly agrees to become the Surety and Redeemer of God's elect people.

The Covenant of Redemption beautifully presents us with the God who eternally loves his people so well that he would fully guarantee their redemption according to his own fulfillment of the binding condition of a covenant. On such a basis, believer, you can say with Paul, “In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

Pastor Kevin Vollema

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MISSIONS MINUTE

*A note from Harris Bond
church planter in Monroe, LA*

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your generous partnership of prayer, giving, and encouragement! God has used your fellowship to get us from our "parachute drop" into Northeast Louisiana to our official "launch" into morning worship this Easter. But this milestone sets us up for others. So what has been happening since our Launch? And how are we faring over the dog days of summer? We are encouraged and energized! We are having more and more visitors and look to be adding people! We are an infant of a church plant, averaging 25-30 on a Sunday morning, although the broader cycle of regular involvement is probably about 45. Please pray that this dynamic continues and that the Lord bless and establish this!

Another encouraging highlight is our Community Groups and the relationship-building going on there. Both our Men's and Women's groups have been going through Dane Ortlund's *Gentle and Lowly: the Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. The women's group has probably seen the most growth, and it's been so wonderful to hear stories of how much they look forward to it. When asked if they wanted to take a summer break, they answered, "no way!"

Please pray for the following:

- ◆ Praise the Lord for our gather-scatter dynamic, that the Lord bless this and establish us in both numerical and spiritual growth.
- ◆ Ask the Spirit to lead us into new contexts for Gospel ministry in our lives, for additional "fishing holes" for the Gospel.
- ◆ Pray for Jesus to be present and provide in our membership process as we continue to build on the foundations and gather a Gospel Community.
- ◆ Pray that the Lord will guide us into a strong start for this Fall.
- ◆ Pray for God to lead us to people open to the grace and glory found in Jesus and His Kingdom. Pray for conversions!
- ◆ Pray for spiritual "homecomings."

We treasure so many individuals and churches supporting us in this work. The great thing about helping church plants is that you are helping gather others who bring their resources for new missions. And if all goes well, we will only need assistance for a few years.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Below you will find the financial summary for the 2nd quarter (months April, May and June) of 2022 and the year to date financial statement for this year. As you will see, the Lord was extremely good to us during the past year. We are so thankful for God’s goodness to us as a body.

2nd Quarter Report for 2022

April - June

Tithes and Offerings	\$ 177,732
Expenses and Benevolent Giving	<u>\$ 117,530</u>
Total of Giving over Expenses	\$ 60,202

Year-to-date Financial Report for 2022

January – June

Tithes and Offerings	\$ 321,886
Expenses and Benevolent Giving	<u>\$ 220,670</u>
Total of Giving over Expenses	\$ 101,216

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 601-482-7744.

REMINDERS

- ◆ *Women’s Prayer Time* date this month is at 7 pm, on **August 2** and **August 16** in the home of Carmel Madeja [420 Eastwood Street].
- ◆ *Men’s Prayer Breakfast* dates for this month are **August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 @ 6 am**.
- ◆ The next *Reader’s Game Night* is **August 5** at 6 pm. [Hill Home].
- ◆ The *Lord’s Supper* will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, **August 7**.
- ◆ There will be a *Session Meeting* on **August 9**, at 6:00 pm.
- ◆ The *Men’s Book Study* is scheduled for **August 15 @ 7 pm**. [Mason Kiple Home].
- ◆ *Parents’ Night Out* will be **August 19** from 6-9 pm. Please make sure to pick up your children by 9 pm.
- ◆ The *Men’s Monthly Fellowship Breakfast* is **August 27** at 8 am.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Northpointe Youth!! Mark your calendars for August 22. We'll have food, games and discuss Acts 13 and 14. We'll start at 6 and go till 8:45. (5323 Linmoor Drive Marion) Bring your friends, we'll look forward to seeing you!

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Registration for the Women's Retreat is now open! Join us Saturday, **August 20**, from 9am-5pm at the Mason Boutique Hotel in Louisville, MS. The theme is “Reflect: Mirroring God's Faithfulness” with speaker Lauren Felker from First Presbyterian Jackson. *The cost is \$40 if paid by August 15*. Details and registration at northpointepca.org/retreat. Make payments to Becca Tulip or place in the book rack lockbox in the church foyer. If you pay with a check, please make it payable to Northpointe Pres. Church.

CHURCH PICNIC

There will be a church wide picnic on Wednesday, **August 24** at the church beginning at 5:30 pm. Please bring a few side dishes and a desert. The church will provide the meat, bread, and drinks.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES TO RESUME

Our regularly scheduled Wednesday Night activities will resume on **August 31**. Dinner will be served at 5:30, and classes will begin at 6:15 pm.

FALL MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Northpointe will be hosting a marriage conference led by Ed and Emily Hartman beginning Saturday morning, **September 24**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

MEN’S RETREAT

A Men’s Ministry Retreat is being planned for **October 21-22** at Lake Forest Ranch, Macon MS. More details to follow. Billy Dempsey, Assoc. Pastor, First Presbyterian of Jackson will be the speaker.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gabriella Wadley
- 3 Caroline Hoskins
- 4 Mary Elizabeth Thaggard
- 9 Dawn Boes
- 10 Sadie Ausbrooks
- 11 Ray McIlwain
- 12 Justus Ericksen
- 13 Toby Tulip
- 18 Harrison Hill
- 25 Brighton Joransen
- Ramsey Rushing
- 30 Gunner Joransen