NOVEMBER 2023

VOL. 11

<u>NEWSLETTER</u>



IN THIS ISSUE

GRAND OPENING OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING

<u>6 THINGS GOD DOES</u> WITH OUR SIN

TRAIL LIFE

A WORD FROM PASTOR WILSON

Grand Opening of Our Church Building

By: Doyle Rowan

Dear Friends and Members of Rekindled Church,

We are delighted to share some exciting news with you, as the long-awaited moment has finally arrived. The grand opening of our new church building is just around the corner! After lots of prayer, planning, and hard work, we are thrilled to invite you to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion.

Date: Sunday, November 19th Time: 11AM Location: 105 Moss Springs Road

A Journey of Faith and Dedication

This journey has been filled with unwavering faith, dedication, and a profound sense of community. From the initial vision to the preparing of our building, we have witnessed the power of faith in action. As a congregation, we have come together, supporting one another in our mission to create a place where we can worship, connect, and serve our community.

What to Expect

The grand opening of our new church building promises to be an inspiring event, filled with joy, reflection, and anticipation. Here's a sneak peek of what you can expect:

1. Dedication Ceremony: We will begin the service with a special dedication and our weekly church service.



Grand Opening (Cont.)

2. Tours and Open House: After the service, we will open the doors for guided tours of our beautiful new church. You will have the opportunity to explore the sanctuary, and discover the new spaces designed for children, youth, and community activities.

3. Fellowship and Thanksgiving Lunch: The day will conclude with a time of fellowship and our annual Thanksgiving Lunch, allowing us to connect with one another and share in the joy of this milestone.

Your Presence Matters

We want to emphasize that your presence at this grand opening is incredibly important to us. It is a time for our congregation to come together, as well as an opportunity to welcome our neighbors and friends to see our new home.

A Community of Hope and Love

As we stand on the threshold of this new chapter, let us reflect on the remarkable journey that has brought us here. Our new church building is not just a physical structure; it is a testament to our shared faith, resilience, and love for one another. It will be a place where we can continue to grow as a community and share the light of our faith with the world.

We are excited to share this moment with you and look forward to celebrating together. Thank you for being an integral part of our church family and for helping us make this dream a reality. See you on November 19th at 11am as we come together to celebrate this grand opening!





By: Caleb Cangelosi

In one of the many memorable sections of his Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin compares God's revelation of Himself to His creatures to a parent or a nanny who speaks to children on a level that they can understand. Just as we "baby talk" with infants, so God condescends to our feebleness, stooping "far beneath his loftiness" to "accommodate the knowledge of him[self] to our slight capacity" (Institutes, 1.13.1). Calvin is referring specifically to the way that the Bible speaks of God's body parts, such as His mouth, eyes, ears, nose, hands, and feet. God does not have a body like men, but He refers to bodily aspects of His being in His communication to us so that we can better grasp the truth about Him. The same accommodating manner of expression is found in the various similes and metaphors used throughout the Bible, particularly regarding how God treats the sins of His repentant and believing people. These word pictures paint the grace of forgiveness in unforgettable imagery so that we might better grasp with head and heart the great love of God for us in the gospel. In the words of these images, there are at least six things that God does with our sins.

1. He removes them as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12).

In <u>Psalm 103</u>, David praises God for His steadfast covenant love. In mercy and grace, He does not deal with us according to our sins or reward us according to our iniquities (<u>Ps. 103:10</u>). On the contrary, He separates our transgressions of His holy law from us. How far does He take them away from us? As far as east is from west. This simile comes between two other comparisons, one likening the greatness of God's loving-kindness to the height of the heavens above the earth, and the other relating the Lord's compassion to a father's compassion for his children (<u>Ps. 103:11, 13</u>). In His infinite, unfailing love, and in His fatherly pity, He sends our sins away from us, and they are nowhere to be found or seen near us. Obviously, on a round earth, east and west eventually meet. But the point God is making with horizontal cardinal directions is that when He pardons our iniquities (<u>Ps. 103:3</u>), He puts them on the opposite pole of the spiritual universe from where we are. Though we look out over the horizon as far as the eye can see, we will never see our sins. Neither will He. Because of the finished work of Jesus Christ, He no longer holds us accountable for them, and they no longer have a condemning grip on us.

2. He treads them under foot (Mic. 7:19).

The ending of Micah's prophecy is one of the most encouraging portions of the prophetic literature. He depicts God as the incomparable forgiver, "passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance" out of delight in steadfast love (Mic. 7:18). The God who delivered His people from Egypt will also rescue them out of coming exile, dealing not only with the Assyrians and Babylonians but with the true source of their captivity: sin. In judicially pardoning His people's sins, however, He also crushes them with martial power. Micah's metaphor uses a Hebrew word that means "to subdue, to subjugate." The prophet personifies iniquity as an enemy that is completely conquered by our warrior Lord. God treads on His and our great foe, trampling it down so that it is unable to rise in strength again. Through His Son Jesus Christ He has defeated sin, and it no longer has power over us (see Rom. 6:1–14).





6 Things God Does with Our Sins cont. From TableTalk Magazine

3. He casts them into the depths of the sea (Mic. 7:19).

On the heels of one metaphor, Micah uses another. He assures us that God throws all our sins into the bottom of the ocean. How deep is the bottom of the ocean? The deepest part of the Mariana Trench is approximately 36,000 feet (6.8 miles) deep. This distance is so deep that if Mount Everest (approximately 29,000 feet or 5.5 miles high) were able to be dropped into the trench, its peak would still be more than one mile under the water's surface. God has drowned our sins in the depths, crushing them under the pressure of the ocean, and they will never be able to come up for air or live again. Though we might search for our sins, they cannot be found (see <u>Jer. 50:20</u>).

4. He casts them behind His back (Isa. 38:17).

Hezekiah speaks these words in grateful acknowledgement of God's mercy in prolonging His life. To cast something behind one's back is to treat it with disdain and forgetfulness, to not see it or regard it as significant. It's the way that we treat peanut shells at a baseball game. The beauty and power of Hezekiah's metaphor is found in the fact that it is also used in reference to God's people, but in an opposite way. They had thrown God and His law behind their backs in their stubborn disobedience (<u>1</u> <u>Kings 14:9</u>; <u>Neh. 9:26</u>; <u>Ezek. 23:35</u>; <u>Ps. 50:17</u>). But Hezekiah declares that God casts His people's sins behind His back. We had disregarded God; in grace He disregarded our disregard of Him. We chose not to pay attention to Him; in mercy He chose not to pay attention to our inattentiveness. We treated Him and His Word as insignificant; in love He willed not to treat as significant our low esteem of Him. In love He refused to see all the ways that we transgress His holy law and declined to count our sins against us but counted them against His Son Jesus on the cross (<u>2 Cor. 5:21</u>).

5. He wipes them out like a disappearing cloud (Isa. 43:25; 44:22).

In <u>Isaiah 44</u>, having mocked those who worship idols, God reminds His people that He will not forget them. Indeed, He has blotted out our transgressions like a cloud and our sins like a mist. As cumulus clouds disappear from the sky as they move through the atmosphere on a partly cloudy day (see <u>Job 7:9</u>; <u>30:15</u>) or as a morning fog dissipates as the sun rises, so the Lord causes our sins to vanish. For His name's sake and for the sake of His Son, rather than blotting us out of His book (see <u>Deut. 9:14</u>; <u>Ps. 9:6</u>), He expunges our offenses from our record and wipes our disobedience out of His sight like a teacher cleaning a whiteboard.

6. He remembers them no more (Isa. 43:25; Jer. 31:34).

In Jeremiah's great prophecy of the new covenant, God declares that His forgiveness of our sins is tantamount to His forgetting the ways that we have defied Him. He is referring not to an intellectual amnesia, of course, but to a volitional refusal to hold our sins in His memory as He relates to us. If God were to observe and take note of all our sins, none of us could stand in His holy presence. But there is forgiveness with Him—there is forgetfulness with Him—that we might live our lives in the fear of Him (<u>Ps. 130:3–4</u>). We know the joy of a fellow human's not recalling all the ways that we have hurt or offended him as he lives in relationship with us. How much more glorious is it that the Creator of the universe refuses to bring to mind our rebellion against Him?



These six word pictures—east and west, treading under foot, the depths of the sea, behind the back, a disappearing cloud, forgetfulness—paint a canvas of grace that God wants us to behold every day of our lives. May He grant us the ability to believe the truth to which these metaphors point—that in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven forevermore—and to walk in confidence and humility because of His mercy.

Editor's Note: This post was first published on October 25, 2023.

Rev. Caleb Cangelosi is senior pastor of Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church in Ridgeland, Miss., and founder of Log College Press.

ARTICLE LINK



Adventure > Character > Leadership

Rekindled Church of Albemarle is chartering a Trail Life USA troop! We're hosting an Interest meeting Thursday Nov 9th at 6:30 pm at 105 Moss Springs Rd Albemarle.

> Free to attend. We'll have some refreshments available. This meeting will last for about an hour. Join us to ask questions about the organization, program, leadership, etc...



A WORD FROM PASTOR WILSON

Hi Church Family,

This is November, and I wanted to share my thankful heart with you all. I am so blessed to be your pastor. There is no other place I want to spend my time with than with you all. You all have so many gifts and talents that make this church special. I love each of you. I am so blessed to shepherd this flock.

I wanted to remind you all of the Grand Opening. Please take the chance to come to this special day! There are not many times that I ask you to please mark it down and be there, but I really desire that you please be in church that week. The date is November 19th. We are planning to have a meal together that day too. We are going to have meat with all of the trimmings, and we ask you to all bring side dishes. I'm also asking that you guys please join us on November 18th, which is a Saturday, and invite our community. Please mark this weekend down to be with us. We have about 250 cards that we are going to carry to the community and invite them. So as your pastor, will you please commit to be with us at Rekindled this weekend. Also, we want YOU to INVITE your friends and family too to be with us. This is going to be an exciting day for us all and we want to showcase all the things God is doing in the life of our church family.

Again, I love you all. Please know, I am on my face sometimes, and knees, praying for this church family, and I see God doing such good things in your lives.

I love you!

Pastor Wilson

*If you have any ideas or would like to contribute an article, insight, good news or anything to the monthly newsletter, please let Doyle or Tessa know! We welcome your ideas and your help.

If anyone is interested in taking over sending out the cards and welcome cards, it is welcomed. The church provides the cards and stamps, you just have to write an encouraging note and send to people.

REKINDLED CHURCH

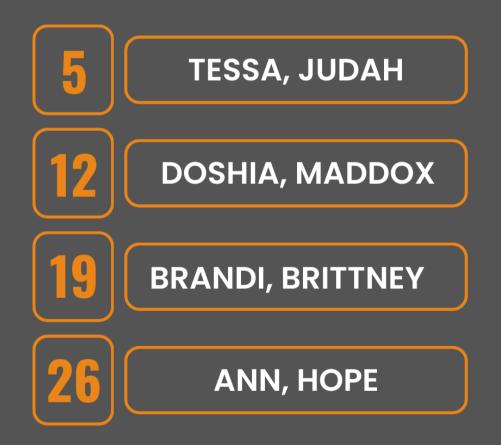
BBBBEK

WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM

www.rekindledchurch.com



CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2023

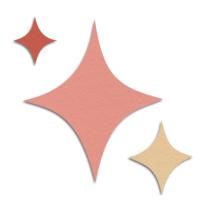




NOVEMBER

6 JACOB BROWN

8 DAVID FORREST







Enroll Your Son in Trail Life USA! COMMUNITY INTEREST MEETING

Thursday Nov 9th 105 Moss Springs Rd Albemarle,

"The world of tomorrow will be carried forward by the boys of today." -Herbert Hoover

6:30 pm

For more information call or text 704-991-5120





