



First Associate Reformed PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A welcoming family of Reformed believers committed to the historic Christian faith and life.

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EVENTS

JANUARY

17 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

21 Sunday School—9:45 AM, The Lord's Day Morning Worship—11 AM, Evening Worship—6 PM

24 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

28 Sunday School—9:45 AM, The Lord's Day Morning Worship—11 AM, Evening Worship—6 PM

31 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

FEBRUARY

4 Sunday School—9:45 AM, The Lord's Day Morning Worship & Lord's Supper—11 AM, Evening Worship—6 PM

6 Men's *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Lunch—11 AM, Southbound Sandwich

7 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

11 Sunday School—9:45 AM, The Lord's Day Morning Worship—11 AM, Evening Worship—6 PM

13 Stated Session Meeting—10:30 AM

14 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

18 Sunday School—9:45 AM, The Lord's Day Morning Worship—11 AM, Evening Worship—6 PM

20 Session Prayer Meeting—10:30 AM

20 Men's *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Lunch—11 AM, Southbound Sandwich

21 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

25 Sunday School—9:45 AM, The Lord's Day Morning Worship—11 AM, Evening Worship—6 PM

28 Ladies' *Westminster Confession of Faith* Study—11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study—7 PM

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

My childhood home was heated with a wood stove. In late summer or autumn, we'd arrive home from school and a load of wood would be piled at the street. Several afternoons were spent hauling it up the driveway and stacking it for the arrival of winter. At the first cold snap of the year, we laid a fire and enjoyed its aroma, sound and warmth.

In long stretches of cold we kept the stove fed and our house was always toasty. It was someone's nightly duty to fill the stove one last time before bed. Each morning the fire died down to a bed of gray ashes. The long stretch between bedtime and breakfast consumed the fuel. Pushing aside the top layer of ash, however, revealed a bed of orange-hot embers. Adding kindling and wood to the fire box soon made for a roaring 600-degree fire.

I tell you this childhood memory to illustrate what remaining sin in the life of the believer is like. Remaining sin, also commonly called "the flesh" or the "sin nature" or "indwelling sin" in the Scriptures (Romans 7), is one of the enemies of the Christian. There are remnants of sin in every Christian and in some way, the hot embers that hide under the ash show us the potential for danger in our lives.

When we become Christians, God pardons our sins because of Jesus' life, obedience, and death (Romans 3). We receive His righteousness by faith. Sin no longer rules us though it does remain in us until we go to heaven. The Holy Spirit subdues in us our sinful desires, making us able and ready to forsake the flesh, devil, and world. These enemies come at us constantly, relentlessly, and from every direction. God's sufficient grace for the Christian life helps us to live by the Spirit and not according to the flesh (Romans 8, Galatians 5).

Air, kindling, and wood will quickly build up a fire from embers. Yielding to worldly desires, falling for Satan's snares, and indulging in personal temptations will set our lives on fire with dangerous sin. Feeding our lusts for things contrary to Scripture will build a raging fire, one that can consume, burn, and destroy our lives and hurt those close to us. King David's life tragically went this way (2 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 51).

Perhaps you struggle with a particular sin. God knows this. Scottish Theologian Thomas Boston (1676-1732) noted that God uses sin to humble us, stir us to prayer, make us watchful, and lean on Christ. Your whole lifelong struggle with sin keeps you looking to Jesus. If He pardoned us at the get-go, why then didn't Jesus rid us of this great trouble? So that His word, grace, and comfort would be ours by faith and that He would be glorified in giving us the battle-gear and the victory (Ephesians 6).

God is always ready to help those who ask! Pray to the Lord that you would be rescued from interest and opportunity (1 Corinthians 10:13). Cut off, remove

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

19 David Allred

20 Julie Snow

23 Claudia Peters

ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

3 Cathy & John Young

Psalm 97

O LORD, unto Whom all glory and honor do belong; replenish us with spiritual joy: grant that, all idolatry and superstition being put away, the whole world may be so enlightened with the light of Thy holy Word, that every man may give himself over to a perpetual praising of Thy holy Name, and may give unto Thee most hearty thanks for all the benefits which we continually receive at Thy fatherly hand; through Jesus Christ Thy Son.

Amen

TITHES & OFFERINGS
may be mailed to
FIRST A.R.P. CHURCH
2250 SADDLE CLUB RD.
BURLINGTON, NC 272715

yourself from, or steer clear of what may spark a flame (Colossians 3). Keep those embers dormant and under ash. Read the Scriptures and pray, asking the Lord to remove from you desires contrary to godliness and place in you virtues of grace. "Lead me not into temptation, and deliver me from the evil one" is a well-known portion of the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11).

Don't play with fire!

Grace to you,



**Men's Westminster Confession of Faith Study meets
on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
at 11:00 AM at Southbound Sandwich.**

**Ladies' Westminster Confession of Faith Study
Wednesdays at 11 AM at the church building.
A lunch outing is planned for the fourth Wednesday of each month.**

Wednesday Bible Study gathers at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**"Legalism cannot be cured unless
we recognize its harmful symptoms and diagnose it as a problem."**

**Dr. Sinclair Ferguson, *Suspicious Symptoms*
To hear this sermon visit renewingyourmind.org.**

◆ STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT ◆

Tithes & Offerings 1/14/23	\$ 2,497.83
Year To Date 2023 Giving	\$ 6,340.83
2 Week Average	\$ 3,170.41
Weekly 2023 Budget Needs	\$ 4,523.00
Legacy Fund	\$ 149,687.00
Sanctuary Fund	\$ 113,979.00

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