

When I was a youngster, I would lay in front of our television (black and white, not color; squinting at snow covered pictures. If you're not 60 years old yet, ask someone who is what that's like) waiting for Leonard Bernstein to conduct the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. He had a TV series called, Young People's Concerts that I tried never to miss. He would conduct small sections of each piece before performing them. He would ask us to listen to the different sections of the orchestra pick up the melodies, and then highlight the counter melodies being played by other sections at the same time. I was fascinated by the way he fit everything together into a beautiful symphonic sound.

I must admit as much as Leonard Bernstein could captivate me with his descriptions of the orchestra, my interest in how Jesus orchestrated the final days of His life captivates, even mystifies me far more. And, I am enjoying our current series of sermons more than nearly any other I've preached here in Converse.

Knowing about and predicting the suffering He would endure and the death He would die prior to His final week makes the events of that week so.... Final; powerful; meaningful; fulfilling; conclusive; significant; consequential; AMAZING! Jesus is moving from event to event, giving His final words of instruction to His followers, many of which they would not fully understand until the Day of Pentecost. He is bringing to an end all the old ways of thinking and initiating a whole new way of thinking. He is bringing to a climactic finish everything that was written about Him in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms.

I may always walk to the beat of a different drum (my own) but, for me it's like hearing the flutes play the melody and move into their counter melody; and then the violins pick it up and move off of it; then the cellos; then the brass and then in one giant unison the entire orchestra drives it home. Jesus is marching to the cross, where He will utter those famous words, "It Is Finished"; where the beauty and majesty of the greatest life ever lived will be laid down in love, for His friends!

I can't wait for the encore, can you?

Upward and Onward,

“Helping people become Christ-Centered in their daily lives.”

Converse Church of Christ

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John Clark, Senior Minister; Joe Wisley, Family Life Minister; Jeff Thompson, Associate Minister; Jordan Delks, Student Minister; Joy Elzinga & Becky Middlesworth, Children's Ministers; Shane Tracy, Worship Minister; Connie Percifield, Worship Minister; Pam Green, Kids Hope Director; Kerry Highley, Office Manager

CHRISTIAN CALLER

Righteousness

Did you know...
If you're in Christ, you are holy and blameless, above reproach? That's what the Bible says! Look at Colossians 1:21-23a (NLT, emphasis added):

“This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and ***you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.***”

It sounds to me like Jesus paid a pretty high price to reconcile you back to God. (i.e., to have right-standing with God...i.e., righteousness). So here's the awkward question, the elephant in the room...

Why are you still identifying yourself as a sinner?

Are there any asterisks in that Scripture we just read? Fine print saying, “He has reconciled you to himself”...**of course, you'll always be a sinner, so don't get your hopes up too high. You're not THAT reconciled.* No way!*

Romans 3:23 is often misquoted in this way, let's look at it a little closer in context: “²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:21-24)

Did you catch it? What do verses 21, 22, and 24 say?

Here's the thing: righteousness isn't a hall pass. It's a lifestyle. If you've denied yourself and follow Christ, then your life is now found in Christ, right? (Luke 9:23, Colossians 3:3) So why do you tediously strain and sweat to try to be righteousness? Righteousness is a lifestyle because it's Christ's *life-style in and through you*.

I think it's time we accept his free gift and see ourselves the way he clearly see us, as the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21) If a child fails, do you call him a failure? Do you think your Heavenly Father does that ***if you sin?*** (1 John 2:1-2) *Stop identifying yourself in false humility as a sinner. You're dead to sin, alive in Christ. A new creation. Believe it, friend!*

Shane

CCC Attendance & Giving

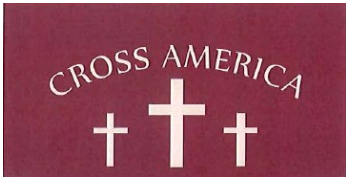
	3/3/2019	3/10/2019	3/17/2019
Worship		472	505
Life Groups		252	275
General Fund, Missions & Building Fund	\$ 14,652.56	\$ 7,768.05	\$ 7,534.00
Designated Missions	\$ 3,318.00	\$ 5,581.00	\$ 2,560.00
Ark Christian Ministries			
Easter/Thanksgiving/Other	\$ 176.00		
Total	\$ 18,146.56	\$ 13,349.05	\$ 10,094.00

Parish Nurses offer a **Lab Draw** on Sunday, April 28th 7:45-9:00am in the gym. Fasting is required for some tests. Sign up at the Welcome Center and adult Life Groups rooms beginning Sunday, April 7th.,

Prayers & Praises

Paul Rennaker—recovering from surgery, Howard Community Hospital, Room 206, Kokomo
Lee Brookshire—recovering from heart issues
Rodger Cameron—health concerns
Jane Dill—recovering from medical event at Wellbrooke Rehab, 2200 S. Dixon Rd., Kokomo, in

Conntinue to Prayer for: Bo Castanon, Jean Cooley, Tara Dieterman, Ryder Dodson, Leeanna Fansler, Rich Gamble, Tyler Hagan, Brad Harts, Beth Holt, Chuck Lawson, Susie Middlesworth, Cynthia Mullinix, Jim Needler, Kellee Slaughter, Glenna Smith, Terry Anderson, Angie, David Bowman, Grace Braun, Mike Cassidy, Steve Dazzell, Nancy Floyd, Ronda Garrett, Ron George, Jeff Graf, Betty Guy, Lori Haalck, Harley, Katie Harrison, Lowell Harter, Heidi, Mark Horner, Ruthie Sommers Horner, Dana Hudson, Kim Jentes, Jillian, Cooper Johnson, Evan Johnson, Mark Krabbe, Cindy Linn, LouAnne, Ken Machala, Sarah Matthews, Paul McGuire, Leo Melle, Hadlea Mendenhall, Michelle, Nancy, Nici, Susan Phillips, Ann Pond, Bob Preusz, Teresa Ratliff, Laudi Reffett, Fred Richards, Betty Richey, Jean Rohrer, Gina Rolfs, Scott, Michelle Scrafton, Kristy Sellers, Jerry Smith, Judy Smith, Dawn Staggs, Heidi Vance, Suzanne Werner, Stephanie Walls, Jan Waters, Will & Julie White, David Christian Wittrock, Terri Zimmerman



Senior Saints
Tour of Cross America, Kokomo
Wednesday, April 17th
Bus leaves Converse @ 10am
Luncheon @ 11:30pm
Program: Cross America @ 12:30pm
Bus returns to Converse @ 1:30pm



Miriam Circle—will meet on Tuesday, April 2, 1:30pm in Room 21. The lesson is Ruth 2:1-4 and the lesson leader is Dottie Brookshire. Debbie Carter and Wendy Ross are hostesses.

C3 would like to send as many kids as possible to The Ark Christian Ministries for a summer camp opportunity. 1 way we do that is by covering 1/2 the cost of all campers who attend C3 and all Kids Hope students. For some, the rest of the cost is still unattainable. We have a camp scholarship set up for those who need the extra help. That fund was used up last year. Please consider donating to the C3 camp scholarship fund. You can place your donations in the offering plate and mark it “CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND”

Thank you for making a kingdom difference.
Pam Green

MOPS ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

MOPS (Mothers of preschoolers) is pleased to announce our annual basket silent auction! This year will feature some exciting themed baskets that just might fit what you need as a gift for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduation, wedding, bridal shower or perhaps a treat for yourself. Baskets will be on display and available for bidding in the gym on **April 7th** and **April 14th**. Silent bidding will close following the services on **April 14th**. A big thank you to Life Groups who are contributing items for the baskets! All proceeds of the silent auction benefit our C3 MOPS group.

Here’s a sampling of some of the baskets being featured: *A Taste of Grant County, Inspiration for the Soul, Car Care, Let’s Do Coffee, Dig It, Picnic in the Park, Dog’s Day, Relax and Unwind, Grilled to Perfection, Road Trip and Hairs to You.*



Everyone needs a place to start and here at C3 that place is our Square 1 class. Square 1 will help you see what we are all about and how we have a place just for you here at C3. This class also serves as an “on-ramp” to C3 membership.

Square 1 will meet Sunday, April 28th at 12:00pm in the Old Chapel. We will serve you lunch and have child care available for your kiddos.

Please RSVP on the C3 app, at our website or email Jeff Thompson at jthompson@conversechurch.org by April 21st.

Take home a meal to support Show Low on Sunday, April 28th

A group of individuals from C3 (Converse Church of Christ) will be traveling to Show Low, Arizona this June to love on the Apache Nation hand in hand with Thy Will Ministries (Pete and Kim Kemp). Please order a meal (or several) to support the Show Low team. Containers are reusable, microwaveable, dishwasher safe and freezable. Order meals at C3 in the Life Group Classrooms, at the Welcome Center and Church office or by calling 395.3361. You may also order by placing a comment on our Facebook Event. Your FREE WILL donation can be in cash or check (Make checks out to Converse Church of Christ with Show Low in the memo line....checks without the memo will not be credited to the mission trip.)

- ~Menu~
- Pulled Pork
 - Roll
 - Green Beans
 - Macaroni and Cheese
 - Salad
 - Cake

Meals will be pre-packaged and available for pickup from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the church gym for a FREE WILL donation.

2nd Chance Pickup at the Church Office from 8am-Noon on Monday, April 29th!