



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Follow Me!



The Gospel of Mark

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Ascension Sunday

16 May 2021

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone Family,

As more and more people receive COVID-19 vaccines and the number of active cases in our area and across the country continues to drop, Cornerstone, like many other churches, has been scaling back towards normal. Back in March, we started increasing our capacity and ceased with designated seating. Three weeks ago, we conducted our last mask-required service as registrants for that service moved to our earlier services after vaccination. And this week we ceased requiring registration for worship. Each Sunday things are looking a bit more normal.

Another area where we want to start moving back to normal is communion. For those of you who have joined Cornerstone in the last year, a little history might be in order. Pre-COVID, the bread for communion was sliced into small pieces and placed in two silver trays on the middle communion table. As you came forward, you would stop by the middle table and partake of the bread and then move toward the side tables to partake of the cup. For health concerns, we augmented that practice and went to stackable cups with bread on the bottom and wine/juice on the top.

Starting today, we are returning the bread to the center table, but not exactly in pre-COVID form. Instead of a tray of bread, an individual piece of bread will be in a cup. As you come forward today, please stop by the middle table and partake of the bread. After receiving the bread, you'll carry your plastic cup with you and move to the outer tables where you'll partake of the wine/juice. You will then throw both cups away. Though not all the way back to normal, this is closer to our ordinary practice and (hopefully) a move in the right direction.

Also, for those of you who are new to Cornerstone, we did not have ushers leading us row by row to communion before COVID. Over the next few weeks, our plan is to phase out the use of ushers during communion and invite the congregation to come on their own, row by row, filling the aisle on the way to the table as was our custom previous to COVID. For this morning, however, ushers will once again be present to help us, but please note they will be moving you to communion more quickly since the need for social distance during communion has passed.

In closing, I want to thank Todd Russell, David Steffens, Martha Brooks, and the whole Reopening Team for the way they've served so faithfully behind the scenes this last year. From registration for worship, to socially distant seating charts, to additional cleaning measures, to communion preparation and a dozen other details; the brothers and sisters on this team have served the church tirelessly and without complaint. I can't even begin to express how thankful I am for them. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service, and I want to encourage you to make it a point to thank them personally for their loving care of us.

Your servant,



Worship is a response to the love of God that brings us out of darkness into his light. The rhythm and flow of the service reflects this present reality as God calls his people and reveals himself, forgives their sins, teaches them from his Word, the Bible, feeds them, and then sends them out to live what they have learned.

This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

Prelude, Announcements, and Preparation

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God calls His people to worship and come before Him. The Creator of all things reveals Himself through His Word and calls us into His presence.

Introit—Crown Him with Many Crowns, Vs 7

Crown Him the Lord of heaven Enthroned in worlds above Crown Him the King to

Whom is given The wondrous name of Love Crown Him with many crowns As

thrones before Him fall Crown Him ye kings with many crowns For He is King of all

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 115:1-3, 15, 18

Pastor: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory,

All: For the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!

Pastor: Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”

All: Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.

Pastor: May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth!

All: We will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

Hymn of Praise—All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall; Bring
Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the fall, Hail
Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial ball, to
O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, we at His feet may fall, We'll

forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord of__ all. Bring
Him Who saves you by__ His__ grace, and crown Him Lord of__ all. Hail
Him all ma - jes - ty__ as - cribe and crown Him Lord of__ all. To
join the ev - er - last - ing__ song, and crown Him Lord of__ all. We'll

forth the ro - yal di - a - dem, and crown Him Lord__ of all.
Him Who saves you by__ His__ grace, and crown Him Lord__ of all.
Him all ma - jes - ty__ as - cribe and crown Him Lord__ of all.
join the ev - er - last - ing__ song, and crown Him Lord__ of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. St. 4 John Rippon, 1787; Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1793.

New Testament Reading—I Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE & RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Sung Preparation—Come, O Redeemer, Come



Fa - ther en-throned on high, Ho - ly, Ho - ly: An - cient e - ter - nal light, hear our prayer.
Look now up - on our need, Lord be, with us; heal us and make us free, from our sin.



Come, O Redeem-er, come, grant us mer-cy. Come, O Redeem-er, come, grant us peace.

CCLI #11121087 ©1996 Metro One, Inc. Text and Music: Fernando Ortega, 1996.

Congregational Prayer of Confession—based on Colossians 3:2, 5, 7-10, 12-14

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You call us to set our minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on earth.

**All: Put to death in us impurity, evil desires,
covetousness and idolatry.**

Pastor: We once walked in these things when we were living in them.

**All: Put away in us anger, wrath, malice,
slander and obscene talk.**

Pastor: Let us not lie to one another
since we have put off the old self with its practices.

**All: May we put on the new self
which is being renewed in knowledge
after the image of its creator.**

Pastor: O God, clothe Your chosen ones,
Your holy and beloved ones.

**All: Give us compassionate hearts, kindness, humility,
meekness and patience.**

Pastor: Help us to bear with one another
and forgive each other as the Lord has forgiven us.

**All: And above all these, may we put on love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—Romans 8:32-34

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Hymn of Praise—Before the Throne of God Above

Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair And tells me of the guilt with -
Be - hold Him there the ris - en Lamb, My per - fect spot - less right - eous -

plea. A great high Priest whose Name is Love Who ev - er lives and pleads for
in, Up - ward I look and see Him there Who made an end of all my
ness, The great un - change - a - ble I AM, The King of glo - ry and of

me. My name is grav - en on His hands, My name is writ - ten on His
sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died My sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace, One in Him - self I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by His

heart. I know that while in Heaven He stands No tongue can bid me thence de -
free. For God the just is sat - is - fied To look on Him and par - don
blood, My life is hid with Christ on high, With Christ my Sav - ior and my

part. No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
me. To look on Him and par - don me.
God! With Christ my Sav - ior and my God!

CCLI #11121087 ©1997 Sovereign Grace Worship; Text: Charitie Bancroft, 1863; Music: Vikki Cook, 1997

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Reading of the Word—Mark 9:42-50

⁴²“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

All: **But the Word of our God will stand forever.**

Sermon—Follow Me: The Gospel of Mark, pt 3I

Ministerial Holiness: A Call to Faithfulness

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

Sung Response—Join All the Glorious Names, Vs 8

Je - sus, my great High Priest, Off - ered His blood, and died; My guilt-y con-science seeks No sac-ri -

fice be - side: His power-ful blood did once a-tone, And now it pleads be - fore the throne.

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The music is in 4/4 time and G major. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal line.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709; Music: Darwall, John Darwall, 1770.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven
and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* "Catholic" refers to the universal church of God's people throughout all time and from all places

Sung Response—Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might, -

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
Bless - ed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho

high - est, Ho san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est. A - men.
san - nah in the high - est, Ho san - na in the high - est. A - men.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Is 6:3, Rev 4:8, Mt 21:9; Music: FRANKLIN SANCTUS, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

Guidelines for the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You can find some sample prayers on the next page. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

At Cornerstone, we come forward to receive communion. We have options for wine and grape juice. The bread and wine or juice are stacked together.

Psalm of the Month for May—Psalm 28: O Lord, to Thee I Cry

O Lord, to Thee I cry; Thou art my rock and trust; _____
 O hear me when in prayer Thy fa - vor to en - treat; _____
 O let me have no part with those that hate the right; _____
 But bless - ed be the Lord Who hear - kens when I cry; _____
 His Help makes glad my heart, And songs of praise I sing; _____
 Bless Thy in - her - i - tance Our Sav - ior, be, I pray; _____

O be not si - lent, less I die And slum - ber in the dust.
 Hear, while I lift im - plor - ing hands Be - fore Thy mer - cy seat.
 For as their works, so their re - ward: Je - ho - vah will re - quite.
 The Lord, my strength, my help, my shield, On Him will I re - ly.
 Je - ho - vah is his peo - ple's strength The strong - hold of their king.
 Sup - ply Thou all Thy peo - ple's need, And be their con - stant stay.

©2021 Noah Aikens; Text: The Psalter, 1912; Music: Noah Aikens, 2021.

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Lord's Supper

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth. Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. *Amen*

Prayer of Belief. Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. *Amen*

Prayer of Commitment. Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. *Amen*

Hymn of Communion—Sing to Jesus

Come and see, look on this mys - ter - y: The Lord of the
 Come you wear - y and He will give you rest. Come, you who
 u - ni - verse nailed to a tree. Christ our God, spill - ing His
 mourn, lay on His breast. Christ who died, ri - sen in
 ho - ly blood, bow - ing in an - guish His sa - cred head.
 par - a - dise, Giv - er of mer - cy, Giv - er of life.
 Sing to Je - sus, Lord of our shame, Lord of our sin - ful hearts
 Sing to Je - sus, His is the throne; Now and for - ev - er
 He is our great Re - deem - er. Sing to Je - sus, hon - or His name,
 He is the King of heav - en. Sing to Je - sus, we are His own.
 Sing of His faith - ful - ness, pour - ing His life out un - to death.
 Now and for - ev - er sing for the love our God has shown.
 Sing to Je sus, Lord of our shame, Lord of our sin - ful hearts He is our great Re -
 deem - er. Sing to Je sus, hon - or His name, Sing to Je - sus, His is the throne;
 Now and for - ev - er He is the King of heav - en. Sing to Je sus, we are His
 own. Now and for - ev - er sing for the love our God has shown.

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GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen*

Hymn of Praise—O Christ, Our Hope

O Christ, our hope, our heart's de - sire, Re - demp-tion's on - ly spring; Cre - a - tor of the
But now the bonds of death are burst, The ran - som has been paid; And thou art on thy
O Christ, be thou our pre - sent joy, Our fu - ture great re - ward; Our on - ly glo - ry

world art thou, Its Sav - iour and its King. How vast the mer - cy and the love Which
Fa - ther's throne In glor - ious robes ar - rayed. O may thy mighty love pre - vail Our
may it be To glo - ry in the Lord! All praise to thee, as - cend - ed Lord; All

laid our sins on thee, And led thee to a cru - el death To set thy peo - ple free.
sin - ful souls to spare, O may we come be - fore thy throne And find ac - ceptance there!
glo - ry ev - er be To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost Through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin Hymn, 8th Century, Tr. By John Chandler, 1837; Music: KINGSFOLD, Old English Folk Song

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT TO BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *Amen.*

Sung Response—A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing, Vs, 7

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, All praise to Thee let earth ac - cord, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Who art, while end - less a - ges run, With Fa - ther and with Spir - it One, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: The Venerable Bede, 673-735; Trans Benjamin Webb, 1854; Music: LASST UNS ERFFEUEN, Peter von Brachel, 1623

Mission Prayer Focus—Rebecca Giles (daughter of our Tony and Marylynn Giles) helps facilitate theological education at the Chalmers Institute, a non-profit, parachurch learning community in St. Andrews, Scotland. She also helps disciple teen girls and the youth group. She also mentors university students at the University of St. Andrews who attend the church and coordinates ministry for missionary kids in Europe. Prayer Points:

1. Pray for a building for us to resume Sunday services when things open up again. We assume that this fall would be the earliest we are able to do that.
2. Our church is having a major transition of staff with an assistant pastor and also our youth pastor moving in June. We do have a new assistant pastor coming and another couple coming to help with university students. But we still need to find someone who can lead the youth group next year.
3. We have been told that on Monday, May 17 “hugging can resume!” It has been a long journey of isolation for those of us in the UK, and in particular Scotland. We are celebrating a bit more normalcy coming, although there is a long way to go. Pray for those whose mental health has really suffered along the way.
4. Pray for Scotland in light of the recent election which could mean that a referendum of Scottish independence from the UK could be coming; it is a nation divided on this matter, so please do pray for unity of believers in this nation as we pray for this country.



Welcome to Cornerstone! We're glad you're visiting with us today and would love the opportunity to welcome you personally. We invite you to fill out our visitor card by following this link.

<https://cornerstonepresbyterianchurch.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/40/responses/new>

Focus on Church Ministry

Men's Summer Study

Using R.C. Sproul's *Everyone's a Theologian: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*, Randy Allen will lead the men of Cornerstone through an entrance level study of Reformed theology this summer. The study will take place on Friday mornings in June and July, 7-8:30 a.m. on the 3rd floor at Cornerstone. Books are available on The Bookshelf! Register through the website or app.

Women's Summer Study

Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation

This summer the women of Cornerstone will be led by Nancy Guthrie in a study of the first eleven chapters of the book of Revelation. We will meet Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., June 15 – July 20. Personal Bible study questions are coming soon. Make plans to attend, and invite your friends and neighbors! No registration; just show up!

Adult Sunday School

Join us during the Sunday School hour today as we continue our Chapel Class series entitled "Letters from the King: Lessons on Faithful Endurance from the Seven Letters to the Churches in Revelation." This series is exploring how Jesus's words to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3 remain his words to the church today.

Cornerstone Directory

Cornerstone members can access the church directory through the Cornerstone app, available for iPhone and Android in the app store. Members can also access the directory through the Cornerstone website by clicking on the 'Member Login' tab. If you have any questions about the directory or need a login, contact Anneke Seely at annekeseely@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School: Run the Race!!

June 2-4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Jim Warren Park

Even if you can't come to the park in the evenings, there are ways you can help with VBS! Please go to the website or app where you can sign up and register your rising K-6th grader. Questions? Contact Meredith Suits: elementary@cstonepres.org

Cornerstone Cookbook

Everyone, young and old, male and female, is invited to be a part of our new church cookbook, *The Seasonings of Life!* Building on the "Seasons of Life" theme, the Women's Ministry is creating a cookbook to help us make delicious food as well as give us a glimpse into the stories of our pewmates. Go to the website or app and click on the cookbook announcement to submit your recipe and tell us a few sentences about why it is meaningful to you. Questions? Contact Rachel Taggart or Martha Brooks

On The Bookshelf

God Is: A Devotional Guide to the Attributes of God by Mark Jones, \$10

This easy-to-read volume takes the attributes of God revealed in Jesus Christ and aims to delight our hearts in the majesty of our God.

Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament by Mark Vroegop, \$10

In this new work, Vroegop explores how the Bible gives voice to our pain and helps us to grieve, struggle, and tap into the rich reservoir of grace and mercy God offers in our darkest moments.

The Bookshelf is a carefully curated collection of books for all ages. It is located at the top of the stairs outside the church offices. Prices are on the back of each book; payment is on your honor, on the top shelf.

Taking the Message Home

Today's message, "Ministerial Holiness: A Call to Faithfulness" is taken from Mark 9:42-50. Please take time to discuss the questions below with your family, friends, or Home Fellowship Group.

- Reflecting on today's text, William Lane writes, "*Whatever in one's life tempts one to be untrue to God must be discarded, promptly and decisively, even as a surgeon amputates a hand or leg in order to save a life.*" What would change about your life if you believed this and put it into action?
- When the Bible speaks of hell, it often uses descriptive language of eternal torment (see vs. 44, 48). Many in our day deny the reality of eternal punishment opting for other theories. Taking the authority of the Bible's teaching seriously, what is your belief about hell? Further, why does our belief about hell matter?
- If we're already saved, and there's no way for us to lose our salvation (see John 10:27-30), why does Jesus use the threat of hell in this passage to motivate us to put sin to death now? What is the Christian's hope in the battle against sin?
- Today's text is a difficult one. What questions do you still need to explore biblically? Please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the pastors for help thinking through today's teaching.

CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America

Pastor: Nate Shurden (615-618-4707 Office) or nate@cstonepres.org

Assistant Pastor: Ben Griffith (601-606-2687) at ben@cstonepres.org

Assistant Pastor: Tony Giles (615-430-8801) or tony@cstonepres.org

Worship and Chief Musician: Greg Wilbur (615-512-4156) or greg@cstonepres.org

Office Administrator: Susan Bumpus (615-618-4707) or office@cstonepres.org

Administrative Assistant for Discipleship: Martha Brooks martha@cstonepres.org

Home Fellowship Information: HFG@cstonepres.org

Women's Ministry Director: Martha Brooks (615-591-1683) or women@cstonepres.org

Men's Ministry: Ron Moffat or men@cstonepres.org

Acting Youth Director: Taylor Thompson (717-371-0848) or youth@cstonepres.org

Children's Director: Meredith Suits (865-250-3579) or elementary@cstonepres.org

Nursery Coordinator: Christy Shurden or nursery@cstonepres.org

Prayer Requests: prayer@cstonepres.org

Ruling Elders

Randy Allen (615-260-1884)

Chuck Emerson: *Emeritus* (615-943-8443)

Joe Haworth (615-289-7543)

Will Kesler (423-313-7493)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

Ron Moffat (629-215-5135)

*Jim Payne (615-497-0613)

Jim Smith (615-347-4188)

Deacons

*Mark Elliott (615-477-1041)

Matt Faulk (714-801-7596)

Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)

Kevin McClung (615-243-9228)

Mike Payne (615-579-6453)

Wes Pittman (615-393-0365)

Brent Roberts (615-394-0662)

*Jim Robinson (615-587-0442)

Todd Russell (615-319-4803)

David Steffens (615-557-5316)

Matt Suits (706-218-2823)

Casey Taggart (662-813-3563)

Larry Thompson (901-734-1520)

Bob Vermilye (615-943-8139)

*On Sabbatical

Post Office Box 407 Franklin, Tennessee 37065

www.cornerstonepresfranklin.org (615) 618-4707

All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

