



CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

First Sunday of Christmas

27 December 2020

Pastoral Notes

Dear Cornerstone family,

The beginning of a new year is often a time for transition. Whether starting new jobs, or moving to new places, or just turning over a new leaf, the shift from one year to the next is a natural time to make changes. As 2020 fades and 2021 begins, I want to inform you of several pending transitions in the church staff and leadership.

First, our Female Youth Intern, Eva Lewis, is stepping down from her position on staff on December 31st. Eva has served our junior high girls faithfully this past year. She has led small groups, met one-on-one for discipleship, organized numerous fellowships, and helped out supportively in countless ways. We are grateful for the spiritual investment Eva has made in the lives of our youth! By stepping down from her intern role, Eva will free up the time she needs to finish her studies at New College Franklin this Spring. Thankfully, Eva is not going anywhere right away. She will continue to worship at Cornerstone and volunteer in our youth ministry until the end of the school year.

Second, after six years of service as a ruling elder, Jim Payne will be taking a yearlong sabbatical starting January 1, 2021. Jim has served us faithfully as a shepherding elder. He started our prayer ministry from scratch (with much help from faithful prayer warriors across this congregation). He's also served as head of our missions committee, helping evaluate and approve our various mission supports—campus ministries, church plants, and foreign missionaries. As you can see, this sabbatical is past due and much deserved! We will most certainly miss Jim's wit and wisdom on the session and his loving care as a shepherd of the congregation, but we're grateful he's taking this year to rest and recharge for the work of ministry.

Finally, we're deeply saddened to say goodbye to Terry and Barbara Cheney. From day one of Cornerstone, the Cheneys have been present with an all-hands-on-deck attitude. Barbara has taught women's Bible studies and mentored women—old and young—throughout our congregation. Terry and Barbara both have a heart for struggling marriages, and have given sacrificially of their time and wisdom to counsel and disciple couples in how the gospel transforms marriages. On the session, Terry was always a dependable servant of the Master. His workman spirit revealed a heart committed to the duty of an elder shepherd, which added much needed ballast to our leadership core. Needless to say, he will be sorely missed. In case you're wondering, God has called them to a mission field closer to family in sunny Florida. It's a quick transition—today is their final Sunday with us! We will honor God's work through them today in worship and send them off with a prayer of blessing.

Speaking of prayer, take a moment today to remember Eva, Jim & Becky, and Terry & Barbara before the Lord. While you're at it, pray for Cornerstone generally. 2021 is a milestone year for us. Though I can hardly believe it, we are beginning our 10th year of ministry! As we close in on a decade of ministry, there's so, so much to be thankful for, and yet so much I still long for God to do. Will you join me in praying that this next year will be the most fruitful and faithful year of Cornerstone's ministry to date? By God's grace, may it be so.

Grace & Peace,
Nate

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—O Splendor of God's Glory Bright, Vs I

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "O Splendor of God's glo - ry bright, O thou that bring - est light from light, O". The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Light of light, light's liv - ing spring, O Day, all day's il - lum - in - ing." The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: St. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 90:I-4, I2,

Pastor: LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world.

All: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Pastor: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

All: For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

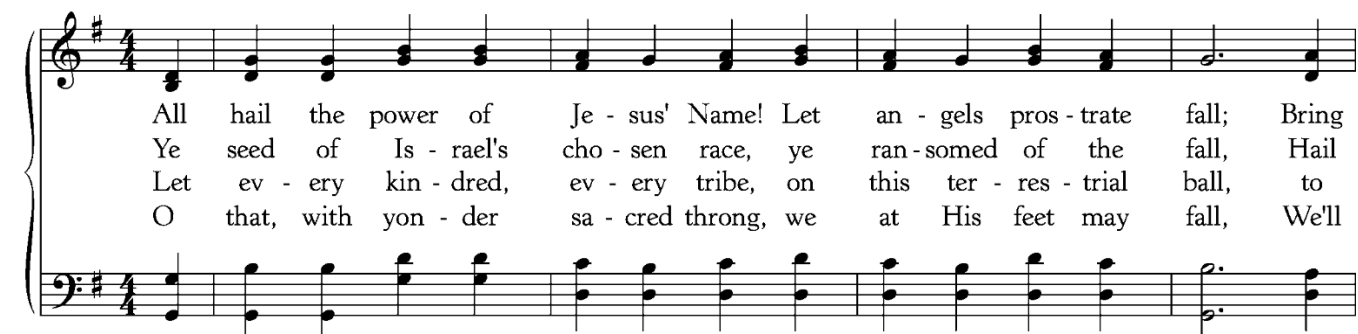
Pastor: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

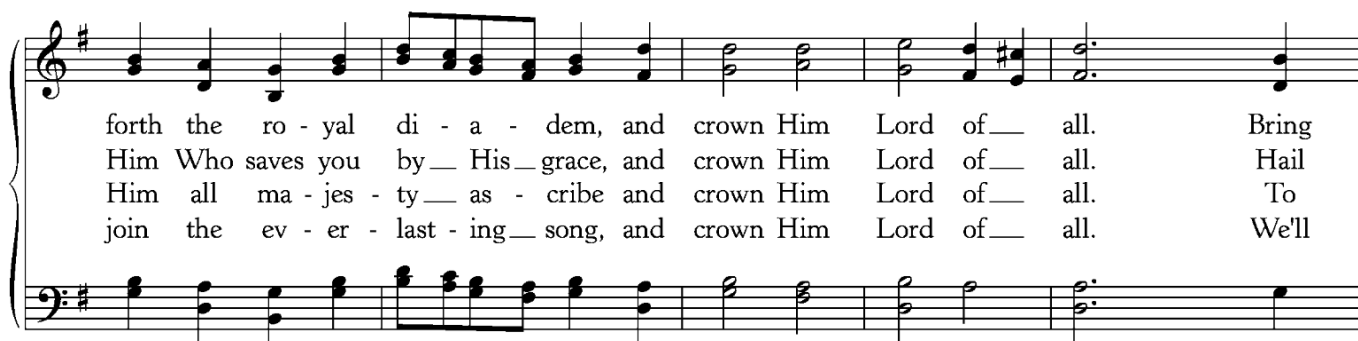
Pastor: Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;

All: Yes, establish the work of our hands!

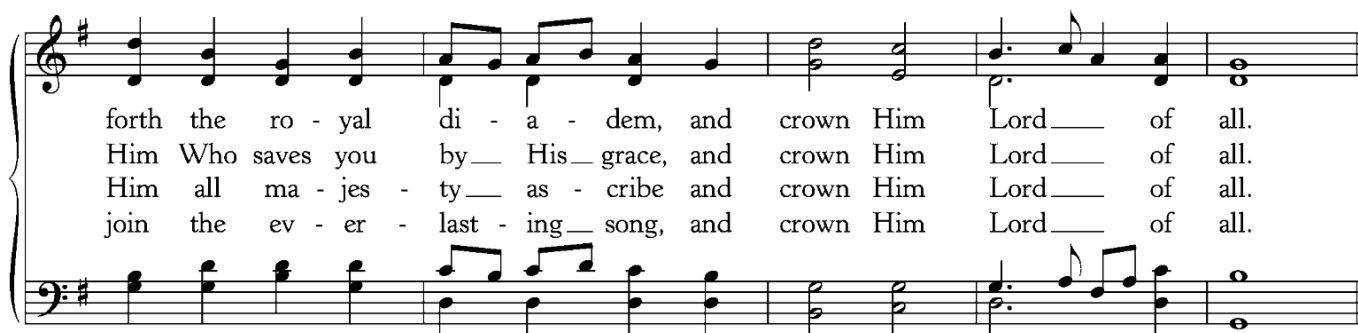
Hymn of Praise—All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



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.

Old Testament Reading—Psalm I

- 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

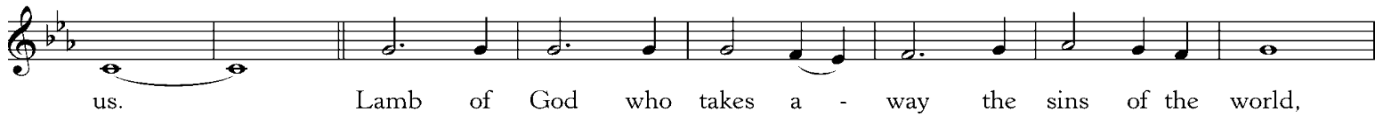
Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

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 Response—Lamb of God



Text: John I:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Corporate Confession of Sin—based on Romans 6:10-23 & 7:4-6

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. When we were slaves to sin,
we were free to ignore righteousness.

**All: But the fruit we were getting at that time
was from things of which we now are ashamed.**

Pastor: The end of those things is death. But now we have been set free from sin
and have become Your slaves.

All: And the fruit we get leads to sanctification and eternal life.

Pastor: For the wages of sin is death, but You give us the free gift of eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: We have died to the law through the body of Christ.

Pastor: We have died to the law and are free to belong to one another
and to Christ who has been raised from the dead—

All: In order that we may bear fruit for You.

Pastor: For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law,
were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

**All: But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive
so that we may serve in the new way of Your Spirit.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon—based on 2 Corinthians 4:6 & 15

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Hymn of Praise—O God Our Help in Ages Past, Vs I-4, 7

O God, our help in ages past, our
Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy
 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight are
 O God, our help in ages past, our

hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; *suf - fi - cient* is Thine
 earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that
 hope for years to come: Be Thou our guard while

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
 Thou art God, to end - less years the same.
ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678-1727.

The Reading of the Word— Psalm 11

In the LORD I take refuge;
how can you say to my soul,
“Flee like a bird to your mountain,
² for behold, the wicked bend the bow;
they have fitted their arrow to the string
to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;
³ if the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?”
⁴ The LORD is in his holy temple;
the LORD’s throne is in heaven;
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.
⁵ The LORD tests the righteous,
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
⁶ Let him rain coals on the wicked;
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.
⁷ For the LORD is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face.

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;
All: **But the Word of our God will stand forever.**

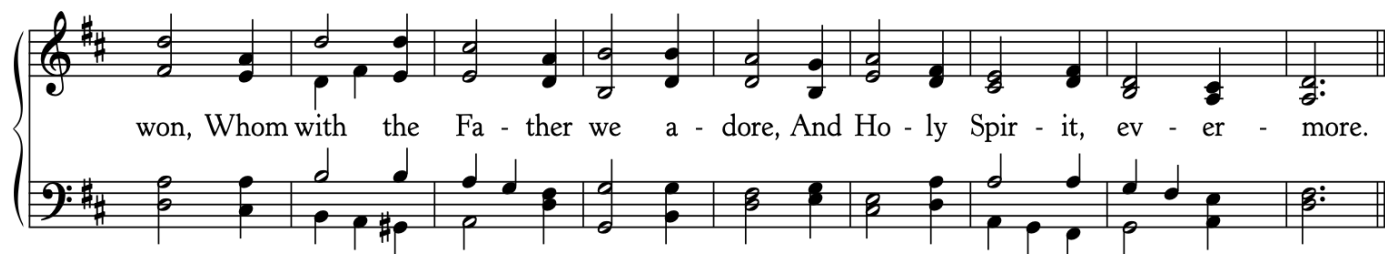
Sermon—Christ, Our Certain Hope, pt 5
To See the Face of the Lord

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*

Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright



All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad - vent has — our free - dom



won, Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Luther; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

Profession of Faith—from Philippians 2:5-11

We believe, that though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sung Response—Gloria

WOMEN



Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth.

MEN



Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace to His peo-ple on earth. We praise earth. Glo-ry to God in the high - est! Peace on earth. We praise You! We bless You! We a - dore You! We glo - ri - fy!



We give You thanks for Your glo - ry. We give You thanks for Your glo - ry.

We give You thanks for Your glo - ry. We give You thanks.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Luke 2:14; Music: FRANKLIN GLORIA, Gregory D Wilbur, 2012 ©2012 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.

Hymn of Communion—Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a
way as gives us breath; Such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast, Such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move, Such a love as none can
strife, Such a life as kill eth death.
length, Such a strength as makes his guest.
part, Such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1633; Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911.

Hymn of Communion—Holy Father, Hear My Cry



Ho - ly Fa - ther, hear my cry; Ho - ly Sav - ior, bend Thine ear;
Fa - ther, save me from my sin; Sa - vior, I Thy mer - cy crave;
Fa - ther, let me taste Thy love; Sav - ior, fill my soul with peace;
Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit— Thou One Je - ho - vah, shed a - broad



Ho - ly Spir - it, come Thou nigh; Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Spir - it, hear.
Gra - cious Spir - it, make me clean: Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Spir - it, save.
Spir - it, come my heart to move: Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, bless.
All Thy grace with - in me now; Be my Fa - ther and my God.

CCLI #11121087 Text: Horatius Bonar, 1843; Music: Gregory D Wilbur, 2010.

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*

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—Be Thou My Vision

The musical score for 'Be Thou My Vision' is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; nought be all
Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
Be thou my bat - tle - shield, sword for my fight; be thou my
Rich es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach
else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by
with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,
her - i - tance now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,
heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what
day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: *Rob to mo bhoile, a Comdi cride*, Ancient Irish Poem, 8th century, trans Mary Byrne, 1880-1931;

Music: SLANE, Traditional Irish Melody.

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—from Luke I:76-79

Go before the Lord to prepare His ways. Give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high—to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Barocha (Numbers 6:24)

The Lord bless you and keep__ you. The Lord make His face shine up - on__ you,
and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er. The
Lord be gra - cious to__ you. The Lord turn His face__ to - ward__ you,
and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er.
And give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace for - ev - er.

CCLI #11121087 © 1989 Birdwing Music; Text and Music: Michael Card, 1989.

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.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/40/responses/new>



Focus on Church Ministry

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry is in need of a PreK teacher beginning in January, 2021. We also need folks who are willing to step into classrooms and sub when regular teachers and assistants have to miss. If you would like to be a part of the important work the Children's Ministry is doing in laying a foundation for our covenant children, go to the app or website to fill out an interest form, or contact Meredith Suits. elementary@cstonepres.org

Women's Ministry

Come study the Psalms with other Cornerstone ladies beginning in January. There are three day and time options on both ends of the county. Sign up on the website or app. Contact Martha or Julie for more info or if you have questions. women@cstonepres.org

Year End Giving

Any gift for tax credit in the year 2020 should be postmarked by December 31. Questions? Contact Susan Bumpus in the church office. 615-618-4707 or susan@cstonepres.org

Worship Service Times

We will return to our regular service schedule January 3, 2021 with worship services at 8:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Giving

There are boxes for tithes and alms at both entrances to the chapel, or you can give safely and securely online through the website or app.

Exploring Cornerstone Class

If you're interested in learning more about Cornerstone or uniting in membership, please join Pastor Nate for the next Exploring Cornerstone Class in early 2021. In this class, you will learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone as well as meet key ministry leaders. The class dates and details will be determined in relationship with registrants. If you have any interest in being a part of this class, please email Susan Bumpus today. susan@cstonepres.org

Cornerstone Youth – One-Day-Getaway!

We will be kicking off the Spring semester Saturday, January 16, at Deer Run Camp with a day of worship, teaching, eating and games. Cost is \$20, and scholarships are available. Register and find more info on the website or app. Questions? Contact Taylor Thompson: youth@cstonepres.org

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: Martha Brooks and Julie Kesler at 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)

Terry Cheney (615-579-7089)

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

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version

