



CORNERSTONE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

*First Sunday of Christmas*  
*31 December 2023*

# *Pastoral Notes*

Dear Cornerstone Family,

I trust your family had a wonderful Christmas holiday, and that you're preparing to make the turn into 2024.

For some of us, 2024 will prove to be an incredible year. Despite the rumors, you're going to survive high school and walk across the stage in May and graduate. Despite the waiting, he's finally going to pop the question and you—yes, YOU—are going to be married. And despite all the interviews and rejections, despite almost giving up, you will land the dream job this year. That's right, 2024 is *the* year.

For others of us, 2024 will be anything but incredible. I don't mean to be a downer, but it's true. Lots of disappointment and heartache will come this year. Whether a dreaded diagnosis, or an unexpected cutback at work, or the loss of a baby that did not make it to term, we can be sure 2024 will have its fair share of sorrows.

All of this is to say that 2024 is shaping up to be a typical year in the subjected-to-futility-world that eagerly waits for redemption (Romans 8:19-20). Knowing this to be true, how should we then live?

In May of 2020, Christy and I found out that the little girl we were expecting was almost assuredly Down Syndrome. That news knocked the wind out of us. In the days following, we worried, questioned, prayed. We'd collect ourselves for a while. Then, we'd think or say something, and the cycle of questions and worries would start back over. With each passing day, however, we were learning (again and again) not to face tomorrow's troubles with today's grace.

In the midst of that season, I revisited what I call, "The five R's." The simple but profound instructions of the five R's carried us through that season. The five R's, however, are not just for difficult seasons. They are truths we need every day of every year. What are the five R's?

- *Remember the truth of God's promises (Isaiah 26:4)*
- *Remember to rest in God's providence (Romans 8:28)*
- *Remember you are redeemed by God's love (Romans 8:37-39)*
- *Remember to repent of and release all worldly fears in prayer (1 Peter 5:7)*
- *Remember to relax into God's perfect peace (Philippians 4:6-7)*

Through every twist and turn of 2024, let's carry these five R's with us, even reminding one another of them as opportunity or need arises. And then, let's watch for God to work—through the good and the bad of this year—for his glory in the Cornerstone community.

Soli Deo Gloria!

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.

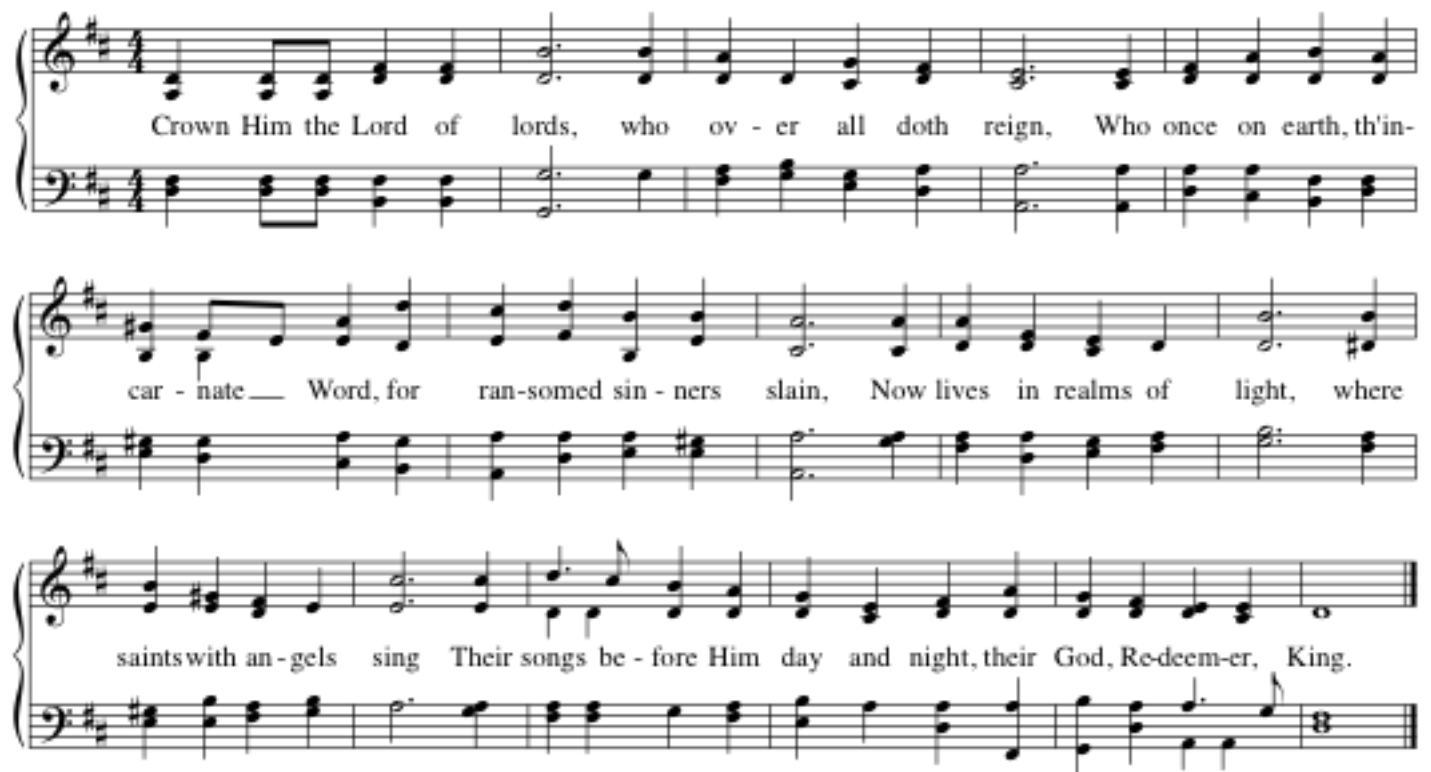
This is the pattern of his love in redeeming and saving his people.

## 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 8



Crown Him the Lord of lords, who ov - er all doth reign, Who once on earth, th'in-  
car - nate — Word, for ran-somed sin - ners slain, Now lives in realms of light, where  
saints with an - gels sing Their songs be - fore Him day and night, their God, Re-deem-er, King.

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

## Call to Worship—from Psalm 90:1-4, 12,

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

- <sup>1</sup>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;  
<sup>2</sup>but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
<sup>6</sup>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

Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God who takes a - way the sins of the world,

Grant us Your peace. Grant us Your peace. Grant us Your peace.

Text: John 1:29; Music: FRANKLIN AGNUS DEI, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

## **Congregational Confession of Sin—based on Psalm 103:8-14, 17-19**

Leader: O Lord, we come to You confessing. You are merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
You will not always chide, nor will You keep Your anger forever.  
You will not repay us according to our sins,  
nor repay according to our iniquities.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is Your steadfast love to those who fear You.  
As far as the east is from the west, so far do You remove our transgressions from us  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
O Lord, show Your compassion to those who fear You.  
For You know our frame, You remember that we are dust.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Your steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear You,  
and Your righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep Your covenant and remember to do Your commandments.  
You have established Your throne in the heavens,  
and Your kingdom rules over all.

**All: Lord, forgive our sins.**

## **Silent Prayers of Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon—based on Psalm 103:2-5**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,  
Who forgives all our iniquity, who heals all our diseases,  
who redeems our life from the pit,  
who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies us with good  
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

## Hymn of Praise—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright, Vs I-6

From heav - en came the an - gels bright To shep - herds  
 To Beth - le - hem, King Da - vid's town, As Mi - cah  
 Re - joice there - fore that through his Son Your God with  
 God came to share him - self with you, Your sin and  
 He nev - er will a - band - on you, Trust King Im -  
 Then in the end you will pre - vail; God's friends and

watch - ing in the night. A new - born roy - al  
 saw; — comes great re - nown. Your Lord Christ is in -  
 you — is now at one. He took on hu - man  
 death — he o - ver - threw, The foe may send his  
 man - u - el the True. Yield not to an - y  
 broth - ers can - not fail. In praise to God then

child, they said, Lies yon - der in a man - ger bed.  
 car - nate there To save you all from sin and care.  
 flesh and bone, And you, his broth - ers, are God's own.  
 fire - y dart, Your friend, God's Son, will shield your heart.  
 ev - il might. Walk in the Christ child's sav - ing light.  
 raise your voice, Pre - pare for - ev - er to re - joice.

Text: Martin Luther; Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Arr Michael Pratorius, 1609.

## The Reading of the Word—Matthew 2:1-18

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.<sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”<sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.<sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”<sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.<sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Leader: The grass withers, the flower fades;

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

## Sermon—The Name Above All Names Part 5

*Jesus Christ, A Threat to Kings*

—Nate Shurden, *Pastor*



## Sung Response—The First Noel, Vs 6

Then let— us all in one ac - cord Sing prai - ses to our heav'n - ly Lord;  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And with His bloodman - kind hath bought.  
No - el, — no - el, No - el, no, el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written for piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line. The third system ends with a double bar line.

Text and Music: Old English Carol

## Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,  
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

## 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.

## 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.

# 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. Proceed to the first table to partake of the bread, and then to the second tables to drink the cup of wine/juice.*

## Psalm of Communion—Psalm 90: O God Our Help in Ages Past, Vs I-4, 7

O God, our help in a - ges 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 a - ges 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.

## Hymn of Communion—The King Shall Come, Vs 1-3, 6-7

The King shall come when morn - ing dawns, And  
 Not as of old a lit - tle child To  
 O bright - er than that glor - ious morn Shall  
 And let the end - less bliss be - gin, By  
 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns, And

light tri - um - phant breaks; When beau - ty gilds the  
 bear, and fight, and die, But crowned with glo - ry  
 this fair morn - ing be, When Christ, our King, in  
 wea - ry saints fore - told, When right shall tri - umph  
 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

east - ern hills, And life to joy a - wakes.  
 like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.  
 beau - ty comes, And we His face shall see.  
 ov - er wrong, And truth shall be ex - tolled.  
 peo - ple pray, Come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: Greek Hymn, Tr John Brownlie, 1859-1925; Music: MORNING SONG, Kentucky Harmony, 1816.

### 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

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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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—I Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—From Heaven Came the Angels Bright, Vs 7

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, Arr Michael Pratorius, 1609.

*Welcome to Cornerstone! If you are visiting with us today, we are glad you're here!  
We invite you to fill out a visitor form by scanning this QR code so that we may welcome you personally.  
Alternatively, visitor cards are available at either entrance to the chapel  
and can be placed in one of the offering boxes as you leave.*



## *Focus on Church Ministry*

### **Elder Election**

Preston Brooks and Terry Cheney have been examined, sustained, and unanimously recommended to you, the congregation, for election as elders today. All communing members are eligible and encouraged to participate in this election.

### **Loving Franklin's Elderly**

On the first Sunday of each month, a group from Cornerstone leads a brief worship service at Morning Pointe of Franklin. We'd love to have you offer friendship to the residents and lend your voice to the singing of hymns. Please join us after the service next week, January 7, from 1:30-2:15 p.m. Contact: [ethan@cstonepres.org](mailto:ethan@cstonepres.org)

### **Cornerstone Youth**

Regular youth Sunday School and midweek activities will return on January 3. On Wednesday nights, we will begin a series on work and calling, seeking to understand God's purpose and design for our daily labors. On Sunday mornings, we will continue our series studying the Gospel of John.

### **Men's Ministry New Year Kickoff**

Calling all Cornerstone men! At 6:00 p.m. on January 18, make plans to join your Cornerstone brothers for an evening of warm food and fellowship as together we explore opportunities to grow this year in the Lord. Register online or the Cornerstone app.

### **Exploring Cornerstone—Save the Date!**

Want to learn about the history, beliefs, vision, and ministries of Cornerstone, as well as meet key ministry leaders? The Exploring Cornerstone class is coming up in the new year. We will meet on Friday evening, February 2, and Saturday morning, February 3. Registration is now open online.

### **Upcoming Sunday School Offerings**

#### *Christ, Culture, and the Kingdom of God*

What does faithfulness look like in a world where Christianity has fallen out of favor? Leaning on the books of Esther and Daniel, this six-week class led by Mr. Nathan Johnson will explore Christian faithfulness in a strange world. Class begins next Sunday, January 7, and will meet in the Chapel.

#### *Reset and Refresh: Living a Grace-Paced Life in the Year Ahead*

You probably recognize overwhelmed, exhausted, stressed, anxious, and joyless. Whatever happened to peaceful, joyful, content, rested, and refreshed? Based on the books *Reset* by David Murray and *Refresh* by Shona & David Murray, this six-week class led by Tony Giles will help you chart a grace-paced course for the year ahead. Class begins next Sunday, January 7, and will meet on the Third Floor.

### **Let's Study Acts!**

Brothers, starting on January 23 (Tuesday) or January 25 (Thursday) at 6:45 a.m. at the Corner House, the Cornerstone men will study *Acts: On Mission with Jesus Christ in the World*. You can register for either Tuesday or Thursday morning's study by going to the Cornerstone website or app.

### **Sew for Hope**

Cornerstone Women have been invited to go to Servant Group International to help the Sew for Hope ministry prepare sewing kits for their spring classes. We are scheduled to go on Wednesday morning, January 17, from 9:30-12:00. SGI will provide a Kurdish breakfast for us, and then we will spend the remainder of our time cutting fabric and fellowshiping. Please register on the website.

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# CORNERSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Presbyterian Church in America

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

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**Administrative Assistant for Discipleship:** Kelley Shell (662-231-9814) or [kelly@cstonepres.org](mailto:kelly@cstonepres.org)

**Home Fellowship Information:** [HFG@cstonepres.org](mailto:HFG@cstonepres.org)

**Prayer Requests:** [prayer@cstonepres.org](mailto:prayer@cstonepres.org)

### Ruling Elders

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

Joe Haworth (615-289-7543)

Will Kesler (423-313-7493)

John Millard (423-443-8852)

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Dan Fiedler (615-812-4032)

Mark Mitchell (630-835-7754)

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*All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version*

