



YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FROM
First Presbyterian Church
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January 2021

4 Micro-Habits That Build Your Faith

1. Memorize One Verse Each Week

While memorizing Scripture may bring back not-your-best memories of Sunday school or youth group, there is a reason why so many churches teach this to children. Having Scripture memorized is an effective tool in both spiritual growth and spiritual warfare.

By slowly adding to your mental library of Scripture, you will give yourself the tools you need to grow in knowledge of God and His Word. How better to know God more intimately than to commit timeless truths about His nature to memory? Whenever you experience doubts, struggles, or temptations, you are armed with God's truth to encourage and remind yourself of who God is and who you are.

Furthermore, memorizing Scripture will equip you for the spiritual battles that you will inevitably face. Take Jesus' example in Matthew 4, as the enemy tempted Him in the wilderness. How did Jesus respond to the lies and temptations of the enemy? He recited Scripture that He had memorized! If Jesus did it, we should probably do it too.

Memorizing one verse per week is a micro-habit because it requires very little time. Select a verse each Sunday or Monday (whichever you prefer) and spend five minutes committing it to memory. Consider writing it down on a sticky note or on your phone. Then, each day, spend two or three minutes reciting the verse and committing it to memory. After about a week, you should know this verse like the back of your hand and be ready to memorize a new one!

2. Pray During Your Commute to Work

All Christians know that prayer is essential to one's spiritual growth and relationship with God.

The issue that many, myself included, face is making time for prayer. The key here is not finding new time to pray, but rather committing time that you already have every day as time to pray. I have found that setting aside a few minutes during one's commute to work can serve as an effective prayer time. You're already in the car driving — meaning you can't spend that time doing anything else besides listening to music/podcasts/audiobooks (which are all great!).

Praying during your commute is also an effective habit because it allows you to bookend your day.

In the morning, spend a few minutes praying over what the day holds. On your way home, look back on your day and pray over what happened. This can be a great way to commit each day to the Lord, as well as serve as a transition between your work-brain and home-brain.

3. Ask for Wisdom

My hope is that everyone has a relationship with a mentor, whether it be a parent, coach, pastor, friend, grandparent, etc. Whomever you see regularly can be a great resource for your spiritual development that can often be neglected.

A simple micro-habit you can implement in your life is to seek out a person whom you respect and admire, and talk with them about what challenges you are facing. Ask them for wisdom regarding your situation. You'll never know what helpful insights or advice you could receive if you don't ask.

Again, this does not have to take much time. If you live with older relatives, ask them for wisdom over dinner. If not, a brief 10-minute phone call can provide you with the wisdom and encouragement that you crave to endure through whatever challenges you face.

A common reason for finding oneself in a spiritual rut is the pride that comes with never asking others for help. For whatever reason, God often chooses to speak through His people rather than speaking to people directly.

Give God as many opportunities as possible to speak wisdom into your life by seeking it out from the wise people in your life. As Solomon wrote, "The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom" (Proverbs 4:7a)

4. **Slowly Read a Great Book**

Reading can be a chore for a lot of people. However, there are precious few ways to grow in your faith and knowledge of God that are more effective than reading the wisdom and insight of thousands of years of faithful Christians.

While reading can be an activity that can occupy a ton of time and effort, this does not have to be the case. There are countless books that lend themselves well to sporadic, brief sessions of reading, yet still provide immense value in a short number of pages.

If you're looking to grow in your faith, pick up a book and spend just a few minutes a day reading. Even a few minutes a week will provide you with knowledge and insight about God and the Bible that you may have never had access to any other way. Some great books to look into to get started include *Mere Christianity*, *The Imitation of Christ*, *The Reason for God* and books by authors like Max Lucado.

Developing consistent, godly habits is a great way to grow in faith over time. Rather than zealously trying to incorporate 20 new habits into your morning and evening routines, start by implementing one micro-habit at a time. Over the long run, these will not even feel like habits anymore. Rather, they will become a part of who you are — and you may find yourself in a closer relationship with Christ than you ever thought possible.



GOD'S WARRIORS

Monday, January 11th

6:00 pm

Beef O'Brady's

Fellowship and Bible Study

We want to thank **Matt and Gerian Milton and Justin and Lauren Lyons** for doing the Christmas shopping for 16 Foster Children associated with the Anchorage Home. This is a project that the Men's Group sponsors every year and your donations towards this can be made out to the church.

GOD'S WARRIORS

Men's Group of

First Presbyterian Church

Marianna, FL

Mission Statement:

"We are committed to being role models to one another and to grow in faith and service to our

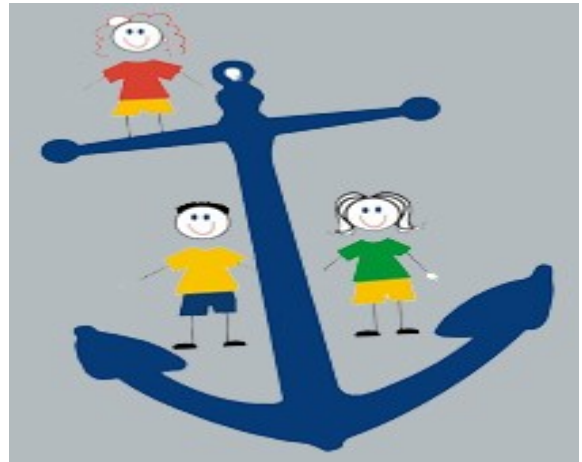
Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ"

*"As Iron Sharpens Iron,
One Man Sharpens Another"*

Proverbs 27:17



[Invite other men to join in our fellowship, study and service. Let us be strong in the Lord together](#)



Anchorage Children's Home is a non-profit organization, founded on Christian principles and beliefs, which serves, protects and strengthens children, families and community.

Our mission is to be an anchor for today's children, strengthening tomorrow's families.

www.anchoragechildrenshome.org



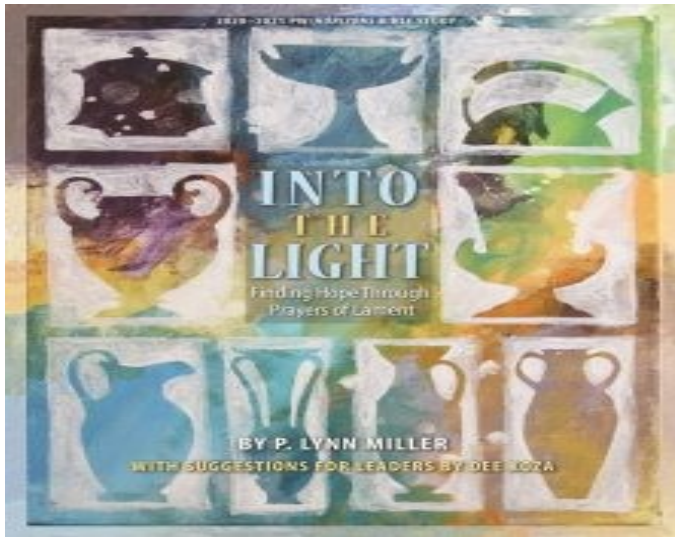
TIME AND TALENT

VOLUNTEERS FOR 2021

Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of the Time and Talent Volunteer form for 2021.

Please fill this out and return it to the church office so that the Elders for 2021 will know who their helpers are in all of the various categories.

We certainly do appreciate those who offer their time and energy to the many activities/ministries of our church.



CIRCLES

FOR THE LADIES

(September thru May)

Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton
Lesson Planner is Frankie Stewart
Meets 1st Monday at 10:30 a.m.

NO MEETING JAN 2021

Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter
Lesson Planner — Rotates
Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.

NO MEETING JAN 2021

Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch
Chair is Peggy Peacock
Lesson Planner — Rotates
3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m.

NO MEETING JAN 2021

Circle 4: Good News Women
Will be Joining Circle 2 for Bible Study
Will continue to gather together for Fellowship (dates to be determined)

The Wildflowers

Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets Year Round on the

1st Wednesday at 6:30 in homes.

Still Undecided Regarding Jan 2021

INTO THE LIGHT

(Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament)

The Heart of Lament

Main Idea: The perceived absence of God is at the heart of lament.

Scripture: Psalm 22:1-19; Matthew 27:45-56

“When we lament, we may feel as if there is a God-shaped hole in us, that we are alone in a hostile world. In times like these.....we are reminded that God has claimed us and is always with us.”

*Each women’s group has its own
flavor and mission.*

Find the group that fits you.


It is never too late to join in.

**DURING THE COVID-19 OUR CIRCLE
ATTENDANCE IS ON A
MONTH-BY-MONTH BASIS**

TOGETHER



PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES






Please pray for...

Mission Co-workers
James & Jodi McGill
and the people of Niger and South Sudan

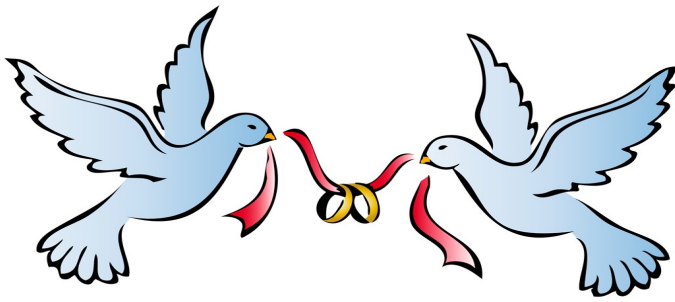
pcusa.org/james-and-jodi-mcgill
mcgillji8@gmail.com

Address EERN
BP 129489
Niamey, NIGER



<p>Jim and Jodi McGill <i>Service Christ together in Niger and South Sudan</i></p> <p>Jim works with both the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN) and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) in their clean water and sanitation programs. He works to ensure sustainability at the community and family levels and to make sure that the church is a strong presence in rural development. Jodi will be working in an EERN clinic in Niamey, Niger, assisting in the primary health care programs of the EERN, and will be teaching nursing students when the church's nursing school in Niamey opens.</p>	 <p>Personal Information</p> <p>Birthdays Jodi – Dec 19/Jim – Oct 26 Jason & Michael – July 15 Salome – Sept 28 Selina – Oct 21 Joseph & John – Aug 14</p> <p>Anniversary May 23</p> <p>Accounts E200385-individuals 0506718-congregations</p>
<p><i>“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.” Psalm 62:8</i></p>	
<p>Give: pcusa.org/give/E200385 Give by check: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700</p>	<p>Learn more about supporting Presbyterian mission workers, Call 800-728-7228, x5611. Learn more about Presbyterian World Mission at pcusa.org/worldmission</p>

You can still donate to the Christmas Eve offering that was taken for our Missionaries. The check to them will be mailed mid-January. Please remember to pray for Jim and Jodi and their children.



CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Sam and Nicole Andreu who were married in our sanctuary on December 19th. We pray God's blessings on your marriage.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS

6:30 p.m.

We have been very successful doing our Bible Study on Zoom and will continue to do so in the coming weeks.

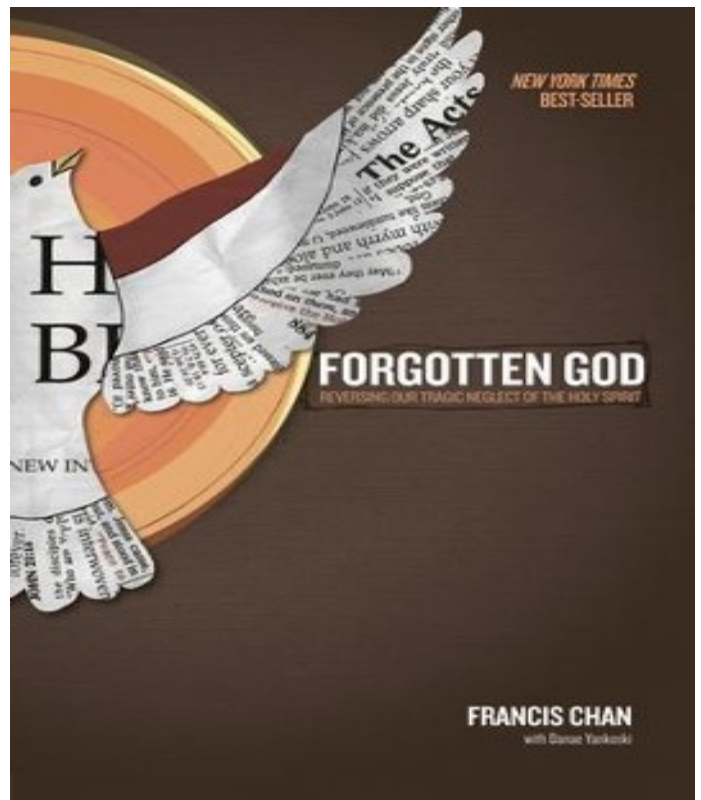
In January we will continue with the book, "Forgotten God" by Francis Chan. We will not have class on January 6th, but January 13th will be Lesson 4; January 20th will be Lesson 5 and January 27th will be Lesson 6.

"Are you spiritually empty and searching for something more? Perhaps you are missing out on God's presence and power through the Holy Spirit." In this book "Francis Chan imparts a life-changing message on the power of the Holy Spirit and His desire to unleash Himself into our daily lives."



CONGRATULATIONS...

...To Sheriff Lou Roberts who is retiring! Thank you for a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. Lou was honored at a retirement recognition on December 11th. In "Lou fashion", he served others and made sure everyone else was taken care of and recognized. We pray God's blessings on your retirement as you step into the next chapter of your life.





Jane Powell

Joy Lewis

Cindy Yant

Glenna Barber (requested by Cindy Yant)

Family and friends of Jeff Norville (Amy's husband)

Sherry Barber (Amanda Hinson's mother)

Roy Turner

Bradley Krons (Joe Busby's brother)

Jim Gibson (Mary Ann Gibbs' brother)

Hedy Williams (Hanni Daffin's sister)

Ruth Hammett (Scott Yant's mother)

Debbie Johnson (Cindy Yant's aunt)

Fran McNeill and Ernie McNeill

Charlotte Hunter

Dr. Megan Johnson (Wamsley's niece)

Charlton Keen Jr. and niece, Kathryn Keen

Doug Woolery (requested by Cindy Morgan)

Zooey Chancey (requested by Ginger Green)

Jeff Yon and Grade Taylor (requested by Scott Yant)

Billy Herrington (requested by Jared Roberts)

Joy Gilbert

Sumi Hanstine (requested by Ashley Rackley)

Ronnie Heath (requested by Larry & Jackie Spivey)

Michael Schouest and Family ((requested by Kathy Roberts)

Dennis Maxson

Mary Bevis Schmidt (requested by Mel McLure Clark)

Howard Alig (Cindy Morgan's brother)

Steven Quigley

Our Missionaries — Jim and Jodi McGill and children



SUNDAY
JANUARY 10th

January 3rd

Laurie Ward

January 5th

Charlotte Hunter

January 6th

Jim Gibbs

January 7th

Ginger Green
Kathy Milton

January 9th

Suzanne Owens

January 11th

Lee Shook

January 12th

Adrian Alvarez

January 17th

Jared Rackley

January 19th

Amanda Yant

January 21st

Helen Marie (Taylor)
Jablonski

January 22nd

Ouida Morris

January 25th

Anna Beth Milton

January 27th

Lou Roberts

January 29th

Dale Eade

January 30th

Carolena Payne

At our 11:00 am worship service our newly elected elders will be ordained and installed:

Mel McClure Clark
Donna Moore
Aggie Schack
Bill Stevens

We thank those elders who are "rotating off" the session:

Leslie Kelley
John W. Milton
Beth Westmoreland
Scott Yant (2 consecutive terms—6 years)

Well done by all of you! We are grateful for your example and service and faithfulness to your church and Lord.



SUNDAY
JANUARY 3rd
11:00 a.m.

Pastor John will guide you through communion on the Radio Broadcast and FB Live; both of which are at 11 am. The radio broadcast is no longer pre-recorded. It is the "live" Sanctuary Worship.

Please have your bread and fruit of the vine close by if you are listening via the Radio Broadcast or watching FB Live.

FOOD PANTRY

Melissa, along with her son, Zachary Taylor; Bill Stevens, Amy Norville, Muriel Turner and Linda Wamsley have been keeping our Food Pantry going during the COVID-19 “shutdown” with a drive by system so that people would feel “safe” to come and pick up the food they so desperately need. What a great way to continue ministering to the needs of others. WE ALSO THANK THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTING WITH UNLOADING THE TRUCK FROM SECOND HARVEST.



“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....”

Matthew 25:35

**Neither
Rain, or Wind, or COVID-19
can keep
our great workers
from handing out food
at our weekly Food Pantry!**



YOUR ELDERS

Class of 2021

Janet Howell
Travis Lawson
Larry Spivey
Barry Stafford

Class of 2022

Amanda Hinson
LuAnne Law
Bryan Milton
Matt Milton

Class of 2023

Mel McClure Clark
Donna Moore
Aggie Schack
Bill Stevens

1835 Endowment Committee

Chair: Chuck Morgan
Members: John Milton V, Jack Peacock,
LuAnne Law, Guy Green and
Amy Milton

Your Endowment Committee Members would like to remind you that donations made to the 1835 Endowment Fund in Honor of or in Memory of someone are very much appreciated. Just make your check out to the church and designate who it is you are remembering.

YOUR COMMITTEES

Administration

Chair:
Members:

Christian Education

Chair:
Members:

Congregational Care

Chair:
Members:

Evangelism and Fellowship

Chair:
Members:

Property and Operations

Chair:
Members:

Worship and Music

Chair:
Members:

Mission and Service

Chair:
Members:

The Elders will be meeting in January to determine Committee members and Chair.

Time and Talent Sheets are slow coming in. We appreciate your filling them out and getting them to the church office so that the elders will know who will be able to serve in 2021.
