



God is love and love lives here!

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Sunday, January 21, 2024

Hey Church! We are off to a great start in our current series "CREED". Below is an article I used for some of the historical insights in last weeks message. I thought it would be best to include other sources throughout the next few weeks to give you more context and information along the way. Please read it and let me know what you think. Thanks for all you do!

<https://www.logos.com/grow/the-apostles-creed-its-history-and-origins/>

CHURCH HISTORY

The Apostles' Creed: Its History and Origins

Apostles' Creed (*Symbolum Apostolorum*): A statement of Christian belief that is used by Western churches, both Catholic and Protestant. While it is explicitly affirmed only in Western churches, it reflects traditions that were affirmed officially by the entire Church in the Nicene Creed. Although its roots are much earlier, in its present form it dates to about the eighth century.

The Old Roman Creed

An early version of what later became the Apostles' Creed, called the "Old Roman Creed," was in use as early as the second century (Kelly, *Creeds*, 101). The earliest written form of this creed is found in a letter that Marcellus of Ancyra wrote in Greek to Julius, the bishop of Rome, about AD 341. About 50 years later, Tyrannius Rufinus wrote a commentary on this creed in Latin (*Commentarius in symbolum apostolorum*). In it, he recounted the viewpoint that the apostles wrote the creed together after Pentecost, before leaving Jerusalem to preach (*Symb.* 2). The title "Apostles' Creed" is also mentioned about 390 by Ambrose, where he refers to "the creed of the Apostles which the Church of Rome keeps and guards in its entirety" (Ep. 42, trans. in *Saint Ambrose: Letters*).

The text of the Old Roman Creed is as follows, with the last phrase (included by Marcellus but omitted by Rufinus) in brackets (Kelly, *Creeds*, 102):

I believe in God the Father almighty;
and in Christ Jesus His only Son, our Lord,
Who was born from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
Who under Pontius Pilate was crucified and buried,
on the third day rose again from the dead,
ascended into heaven,
sits at the right hand of the Father,
whence he will come to judge the living and the dead;
and in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Church,
the remission of sins,
the resurrection of the flesh,
[life everlasting].

The Later Creed

What we now know as the Apostles' Creed is an enlargement of the Old Roman Creed. The first known occurrence of the Apostles' Creed, in a form that is nearly equivalent to its final form, is in the Latin tract *De singulis libris canonicis scarapsus* by the monk Priminius (sometimes spelled "Pirminius") from the early eighth century. The process by which the Old Roman Creed became the Apostles' Creed cannot be exhaustively known, though Kelly notes that creeds that are "practically identical" to the Apostles' Creed began to appear in South Gaul in the fifth century (Kelly, *Creeds*, 413). Over the next few centuries, the Apostles' Creed in its final form gained acceptance throughout France and Germany. It was officially recognized by Charlemagne throughout the Frankish Empire in the early ninth century, and was eventually incorporated into the liturgy of the Church of Rome.

The creed as it exists today consists of three main articles, like the Old Roman Creed divided according to a Trinitarian arrangement. The text is as follows (Kelly, *Creeds*, 369):

Scripture and Sermon:

Isaiah 64:8-9

"Creed: God the Father"



New Concerns

Family of Lance Rowland

Continue Prayers for:

Karen Carter
David Shad
Kathy Blanchard
Family of Sonny Watson
Paul Black
Pam Jordan
Robert Harney
Lance Rowland
Jon, Elizabeth, Blair Love
Carla Johnsen
Janet Hester

Warren McDow
Christa Avret
Michael & Jennie Walston
Warren McDow
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born from the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, descended into hell,
 on the third day rose again from the dead,
 ascended to heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty,
 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead;
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the remission of sins,
 the resurrection of the flesh,
 and eternal life.
 Amen.

Disputed phrases

Grudem argues that the phrase "He descended into hell" is a late addition to the creed. This phrase is commonly understood as a reference to the "harrowing of hell," which is based on one interpretation of 1 Pet 3:19 . The phrase is first mentioned by Rufinus in the late fourth century, and does not appear in any other versions of the creed until AD 650. Rufinus himself notes that the clause "is not added in the Creed of the Roman Church" (*Symb.* 18), though he includes it in the version of the creed that was accepted by his own church of Aquileia (see *Symb.* 3). Moreover, Rufinus makes clear that he did not believe Christ literally descended into hell, but rather that the phrase merely meant He was buried. The Greek form of the creed has ᾗδης (hades), which can mean merely "the grave" rather than a place of punishment. Thus a more accurate version would be, "He descended into the grave" or "He descended to the dead" (Grudem, "He Did Not Descend," 102). This understanding of the phrase is reflected, for example, in Question 50 of the Westminster Larger Catechism. Instead of "holy catholic church," some Protestant churches, particularly in the Lutheran tradition, recite "holy Christian church" to avoid misinterpreting the phrase as a reference to the Catholic Church. The creed seems to use "catholic" in the sense of "universal" or "global" (the Latin uses the adjective *catholicam*); this interpretation fits with the historic nature of the creed, which predates in its tradition the split of the Orthodox and Catholic churches.

Tradition, the "Rule of Faith," and core Christian beliefs

The Apostles' Creed seems to represent some form of what the early church called the "rule of faith." The early Christians were guided by the "rule of faith," the Holy Spirit working in community and individuals, and the authoritative Scriptures. Before the "rule of faith" was called such, there were general references to the teachings and traditions of the apostles. It is these core teachings that seem to make up the Apostles' Creed.

Signs of these "core teachings" are seen as early as the New Testament book of Hebrews, which speaks of a need for Christians to grasp and embrace the basic concepts of faith so that they can move into deeper parts of their Christian faith, while at the same time realizing how essential it is that they never depart from a core belief in the real and living Christ (Hebrews 5:11–6:12). The Apostles' Creed represents a set of uncompromisable core beliefs for Christians. As such, the core tradition of it is also found in the Nicene Creed. The Apostles' Creed, like all creeds, functions like a filter for orthodoxy; it indicates what is and what is not "Christian." It is a public profession of belief in historic Christianity.

Keep The Faith,
 Pastor Tommy

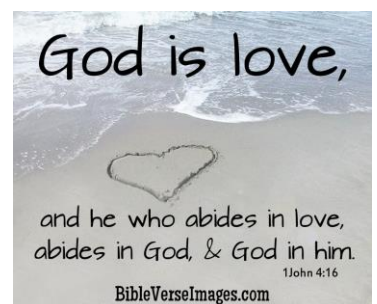
Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- ☼ In memory of Sonny Watson by Draper Watson, Margaret Henley, Carol Graham & Mac McCullough
- ☼ In memory of Betty Estep by Virginia Hurn, Margaret Henley, Butch & Joann Pilgrim, Jim & Barbara Hilliard, Donna Mannino, Shirley & Richard Bozinski, Emma Flowler

Volunteers Needed!

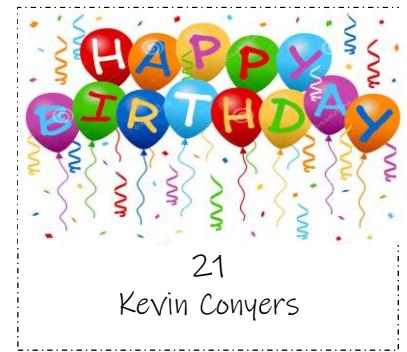
If you love to hold babies, teach toddlers and children, please let Katie know so she can hug your neck and sign you up. You will be blessed!

Finance Report for	
January 14	
Operating Budget.....	\$3,031.55
Food Pantry.....	275.00
Total.....	\$3,306.55
Worship Attendance	
	107
Sunday School	
	43





- ✓ 01-21-24- **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5p**
- ✓ 02-14-24- Ash Wednesday Service 6p
- ✓ 02-18-24- First Sunday of Lent
- ✓ 02-19-24- Office Closed
- ✓ 02-23-24- Church-wide Clean-up Day 8a-until
- ✓ 02-24-24- Church-wide clean-up Day 8a until
- ✓ 03-10-24- Daylight savings Time Begins
- ✓ 03-11-24- Finance Committee Meeting 6p
- ✓ 03-11-24- Administrative Council Meeting 630p
- ✓ 03-24-24 Palm Sunday
- ✓ 03-28-24 Maundy Thursday Service 6p
- ✓ 03-29-24 Good Friday Service 12 noon
- ✓ 03-31-24- Easter Sunday



Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry is January 24, 2024... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday 9a-12 noon... Closet volunteers for 01-23-24 are Sabrina Williams, Barbara Brusckke, Lynn Mayfield
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is Coming** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!
Winter clothes/coats/jackets/sweaters/hoodies/pants/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves; linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths; personal needs items; toys.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

Bible Reading Plan	
Week of January 21 st :	
Sunday.....	Psalm 121
Monday.....	Isaiah 2
Tuesday.....	Isaiah 7
Wednesday.....	Isaiah 9
Thursday.....	Isaiah 11
Friday.....	Isaiah 35
Saturday.....	Isaiah 40

Thank You

A super HUGE thank you to all who participated in Souper Saturday. We served 131 people who shopped and enjoyed a variety of soups and chili. Thank you to those who set up, cleaned up, greeted, cooked and prayed with those needing prayers. It was a wonderful testimony to who we are and why we do what we do. Love lives at the Well at Centerville. ~~ Brenda ~~

Children's Church Training

There will be training on the new curriculum for Children's Church on Sunday, January 28 after the Worship Service. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by January 21 so we know how much food we will need. ~~ Katie ~~

Church-Wide Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for the church wide clean up days February 23 and 24 at 8a- until each day. Come if you can, stay however long you can, any help is appreciated.

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet in the Fellowship Hall Friday, January 26 with lunch from 12 noon-1p and Bingo from 1p-3p. Everyone is welcome, so come on and join us!

Family Promise

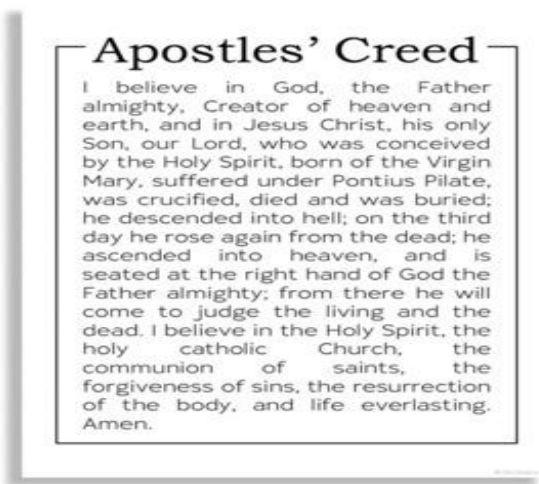
If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

Basic ERT Training & Chainsaw Safety Class

Saturday, January 27, 2024 | 8:00 a.m., Cordele First UMC, 302 East 12th Avenue | Cordele GA 31015

Register now at <https://sgaumc-reg.brtapp.com/ERTChainsawCordele2024>

The basic ERT training will begin at 8:00 am with the chainsaw safety class to follow. Lunch is included. This training is a collaborative effort of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.



Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- January 21

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship

5:00p Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Greeters

10:30a Cheri Cox, Marie Davis

Communion Servers

Brenda Craw, Paul Smith
Sabrina Williams, Vicky Moore

Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

Assisting with Children

Sunday- January 21

Nursery- Linda Blanton, Dawn, Laura
Children- Katie Odum

Sunday- January 28

Nursery- Joy Fleming, Laura
Children- Brenda Craw

Monday- January 22

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- January 23

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga

6:00p Life Group III "LG3"

Wednesday- January 24

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

11a Food Pantry

6:30p Choir Practice

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- January 25

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Yoga

5:30p Dulcimers

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- January 26

12p-3p Young at Heart

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- January 27

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Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class
Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth
Pilgrims

Studies
Rob Bell
Matthew
Revelation
2 Corinthians
TBA
On Hiatus

Teacher
LaWanna Porter
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson
Kathy Blanchard