

God is love and love lives here!



600 North Houston Lake Blvd., Centerville 31028

(478) 953-3090

[www.thewellatcenterville.com](http://www.thewellatcenterville.com)

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-12:30p

Rev. Tommy Odum

[pastortommy@thewellatcenterville.com](mailto:pastortommy@thewellatcenterville.com); 478/397-9491

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Hey Church! Last week we discussed the second section of the Apostle's Creed where we discussed our belief in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the foundation for our faith and the whole of Christianity. There is no deviation from the premise of this belief without sacrificing the core principles of the Gospels. Below, as promised, is another article to give a little more insight into this portion of the Creed. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions as we continue into the final chapter of our Creed Series: The Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed, Part 2: I Believe in Jesus

The first paragraph of the Apostles' Creed distinguished Christianity from Eastern religions like Hinduism and Buddhism by asserting the existence of one personal God. Now, in the second paragraph, Christianity is further separated from other religions by a belief in the person and work of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Many people will concede that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher. The Creed affirms much more, insisting that Jesus is fully God and fully human. J. I. Packer has pointed out that as Jesus invaded space and time in Palestine nearly two thousand years ago, so he invades our personal space and time today, with the same purpose of love that first brought him to earth. "Come, follow me" was his word then, and so it is still.[1]

Packer also points out that it is critical that all of us examine our hearts to see if we can sincerely say that Jesus is our Lord. If we can't, we shouldn't be saying that he is our Lord when we recite the Creed.

The Creed goes on to explain how Jesus entered the world. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. One doctrine of Christianity that has come under considerable attack is the virgin birth. But without the miracle of the Incarnation, we do not have the gospel.

Having established Jesus' identity, the Creed goes on to talk about why he came into the world. It simply states that he came to suffer. At first glance, it may seem odd that the Creed makes no mention of Jesus' teachings or miracles. The Heidelberg Catechism helps us understand what the Creed is saying here:

Q. 37. What do you understand by the word "suffered"?

A. That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might set us free, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

It has become fashionable to say that when we suffer, we are somehow participating in Christ's sufferings. This is dangerous and unbiblical. Christ's suffering was unique. The Creed is making the point that "our Lord Jesus Christ suffered as our substitute the wrath and displeasure of God because of our sin." [2]

In a statement of faith that is as brief as the Creed, it may seem strange that there would be a reference to Pontius Pilate. But this reference is important. It reminds us that the crucifixion of Jesus occurred at a particular time in history. We can establish from history that Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea when the Crucifixion took place. Significantly, Pilate declared that he found no fault in Jesus (John 19:4). Jesus did not suffer for his own sin; rather, he suffered and died because of our sin.

Next the Creed tells us that Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. Jesus had to experience death on the cross to satisfy the just anger of God against sin. When the Bible talks about Christ being "the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2:2; 4:10), it is teaching us that the cross was "the ... means of quenching God's personal penal wrath against

Scripture and Sermon:

1 Corinthians 2:6-16  
"Creed: Holy Spirit"



New Concerns

Family of Warren Mcdow

Continue Prayers for:

Family of Jon Love  
Don & Sharron Schall  
Carol Graham  
Kitty Barfield  
Family of Lance Rowland

Christa Avret  
Michael & Jennie Walston  
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

Finance Report for

January 28

Operating Budget..... \$8,542.00  
Family Promise..... 25.00  
Pastor Con't Education.. 1500.00  
Food Pantry..... 200.00  
Total..... \$10,267.00

Worship Attendance

144

Sunday School

44

us by blotting out our sins from his sight." [3] Sinners need to be reconciled to God, and this requires Christ's death on the cross.

Cornelis Venema summarizes the importance of the Creed's affirmation that Jesus died and was buried:

These words are added with good reason. They actually provide a summary and conclusion of the words preceding.... The curse of sin is death. For Christ to suffer this curse required that he suffer it fully and completely.... His body was laid lifeless in the grave.... He did it! His burial confirms that He finished it! And for us! [4]

The next affirmation, "He descended into hell," was added to the Creed at the end of the fourth century and has been the subject of much discussion. Arguably, those who added it intended it to mean that Christ, after his death, actually went to hades, the place of the dead. Some have argued that Jesus, between his death and resurrection, preached to the souls held captive there, giving them a second chance to repent. However, there is no biblical support for this view. What we should understand by this creedal statement is that Christ was utterly abandoned and forsaken by his Father on the cross.

From the horror of the cross, the Creed moves on to affirm the great hope provided by the Resurrection. We must acknowledge the Resurrection as an event that took place in history. The record is clear: the tomb was empty, and Jesus appeared many times to his disciples.

The Creed goes on to say that Jesus "ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty." This encapsulates Hebrews 4:14–16, which asserts that Jesus has returned to the presence of his Father to intercede for his people. His ascension also gave him all authority in heaven and on earth, as we are told in Ephesians 1:20–23.

The final assertion of this part of the Creed is that Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. He will punish those who are disobedient and reward the righteous, those who are living lives of faith. This is both an encouragement and a warning. We should be encouraged because the cause of Christ will be victorious, and those who oppose Christ, and his people will ultimately be judged. We are also warned to be ready for Christ's return. All of us need to examine our hearts to see if we are living lives of faith, trusting in the finished work of Christ on the cross and looking forward to his return. As we do so, we need to recognize that we cannot please God by our own efforts, but we can please him through the power of the Holy Spirit, whose person and work are the subject of the next part of the Creed.

*Keep The Faith,*  
Pastor Tommy

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## Gifts Given to the Glory of God

- ✿ *In memory of Sonny Watson* by Ben & Kathy Blanchard, Mary Frances Logue, Johnny & Barbara Gurr, Lawrence Walker
- ✿ *In memory of Betty Estep* by Ben & Kathy Blanchard, Johnny & Barbara Gurr, Mary Frances Logue
- ✿ *In memory of Ann Stafford* by Mary Frances Logue, Debbie Gray in memory of Miss Ann's birthday
- ✿ *In memory of Warren McDow* by J.O. & Lynn Miller, Debbie Gray
- ✿ *In honor of Leon Hudson and Tom Gamble* by Debbie Gray
- ✿ *In honor of birthday girls Carolyn Nettles and Mary Prater* by Debbie Gray

## Volunteers Needed, Please!

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!



## Thank You

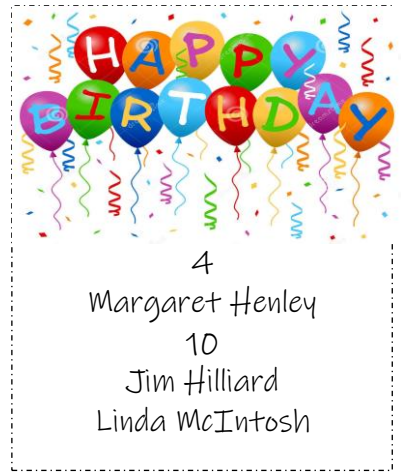
"I would like to thank everyone, the congregation and community for their support during Christmas. Everyone appreciated all the stockings and wrapped gifts that were received." ~ Mary Lee Carter ~

## Church-Wide Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for the church wide clean up days **March 1 and 2** at 8a- until each day. Come if you can, stay however long you can, any help is appreciated.



- ✓ 02-14-24- Ash Wednesday Service 6p
- ✓ 02-18-24- First Sunday of Lent
- ✓ 02-19-24- Office Closed
- ✓ 03-01-24- Church-wide Clean-up Day 8a-until
- ✓ 03-02-24- 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
- ✓ 03-28-24 Prayer Vigil 6:30p til noon Friday
- ✓ 03-29-24 Good Friday Service 12 noon
- ✓ 03-31-24- Easter Sunday



### Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry is February 14, 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 02-06-24 are Joy Fleming, Cynthia Boutwell, Marie Davis
- 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 here** 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	
<b>Week of February 4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	
Sunday.....	Matthew 6
Monday.....	Matthew 7
Tuesday.....	Matthew 8
Wednesday.....	Matthew 9
Thursday.....	Matthew 10
Friday.....	Matthew 11
Saturday.....	Matthew 12

### 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/>

### Wesley Glen Abundant Life Celebration

It's time again for the Abundant Life Celebration benefitting Wesley Glen. Last year the cost was \$50 per person... this year there is no charge, however, a love offering will be appreciated. Everyone had a good time last year and we were able to fill one table. Let's try to fill two tables this year! If we get enough people, we could take the van. Anyone interested in going, please contact Stevie Bowen at 478-954-5938 or [steve.bowen1958@gmail.com](mailto:steve.bowen1958@gmail.com).

**Abundant Life!**  
A CELEBRATION BENEFITTING WESLEY GLEN

Join us for a fun night of dinner and dancing featuring the Grapevine Band and 13WMAZ Chief Meteorologist, Ben Jones!

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024  
5 PM  
EDGAR H. WILSON CONVENTION CENTER  
220 COLISEUM DR  
MACON, GA 31217

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE TABLE AND BID ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS.  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.WESLEYGLENMINISTRIES.COM](http://WWW.WESLEYGLENMINISTRIES.COM)  
OR CALL 478-471-3711 EXT 103

Thank you to our sponsors!

the grapevine band Emcee, Ben Jones

**Apostles' Creed**

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 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there 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 forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

<sup>10</sup> but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

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

## This Week's Schedule:

### Sunday- February 4

#### Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy  
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell  
9:15a Sunday School  
10:30a Worship



#### Greeters

10:30a Joy Fleming, Susan Glidewell

#### Communion Servers

Gary & Kathy Rutke  
Eric & Gloria Nelson



#### Finance Stewards

Nancy Hudson, Amber Gamble, Joy Fleming

### Women at the Well

#### Assisting with Children

##### Sunday- February 4

Nursery- Dawn and Laura  
Children- Katie Odum

##### Sunday- February 11

Nursery- Marie Davis, Dawn, Laura  
Children- Amber Gamble



### Monday- February 5

10:00a Quilters  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Tuesday- February 6

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet  
9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:00a Partners in Prayer  
10:00a Yoga  
6:30p Miss Terry's Circle  
6:30p Bass Club



### Wednesday- February 7

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
1:00p Life Group I "Under Construction"  
6:30p Choir Practice  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Thursday- February 8

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:30a Lynn-Pritchett Circle  
10:00a Yoga  
5:30p Dulcimers  
6:30p Handbells  
6:30p Men at the Well  
7-9p Amateur Radio Club  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Friday- February 9

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Saturday- February 10

7:30p . .Narcotics Anonymous

## 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  
Fruitful Growth in Faith  
**On Hiatus**

#### Teacher

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