

The Connection



Monthly Newsletter of
South Point Community Church
July/August 2023 – Volume 70

A Word from Pastor Dave

- 1-3. ... turn(ed) our lives and our wills over to the care of God.
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. We humbly asked Him to remove all our shortcomings.
8. We made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

[Celebrate Recovery Steps 1 to 9]

Steps 6 & 7 is a chance to humble ourselves before the Lord and allow him to lift us up ("Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." James 4:10). We get to bring all of our, "Yeah buts..." and surrender them one at a time ("If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9). Although these steps can be gut wrenching at times the relief and the energy that comes from being straight with yourself and straight with God is often refreshing and surprising. The pretending is over. You can start to

July Dates

- 1ST Summer Saturday Service & Ice Cream 6:30 pm
- 5th Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 8th Family Fun Day 11 am – 2 pm
- 12th Point Pelee Baptism Service 10:30 am
- 15th Summer Saturday Service & Camp Fire 6:30 pm
- 19th Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 22nd Tedy Bear Picnic 2 pm
- 22nd Summer Saturday Service 6:30 pm
- 26th Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 29th Drive in Church & BBQ 5:30

August Dates

- 2nd Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 6th Community Church Service at Sea Cliff Park 10:30
- 9th Prayer at church 10:30 am
- 12th Summer Saturday Service & Camp Fire
- 16th Prayer at Ruby's 10:30 am
- 19th Summer Saturday Service 6:30 pm
- 23rd Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 26th Summer Saturday Service & Games Night 6:30 pm
- 30th Prayer at Church 10:30 am

be one authentic person and that feels good; that feels very human. Of course, that's a blessing you will need even to start considering Steps 8 & 9.

When step 8 says, "We made a list of ALL persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them ALL." It is typically the "all" part of that statement that is most intimidating. That means for example that old resentments have to come into the light, no rationalizations, no hedging, this is comprehensive and complete. In steps 8 & 9 pride is banished and honesty is embraced. Let me suggest to you two reasons why this is worth it. The first reason is because you are worth it. And how do you know you are worth this effort and honesty? Because of the second reason. The second reason is because ALL the people on your list are worth your amends and restitution. This is very reciprocal. When you take the time to intentionally show ALL the other people from your life the respect they deserve; by at least apologizing for your previous disrespect; you start feeling like you are really one of those people who is worthy of respect.

Our verse at the top of this article says, "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24) There is a similar verse in First Corinthians where Paul is warning the Christians to be thoughtful about their approach to taking Communion together. In fact, he says, "So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 11:27) That certainly sounds like a big deal! And it is but in the context the person eating and drinking "unworthily" is just someone who is not being considerate of those with whom God has put him/her in relationship with (church, family, work, community). This is a huge priority throughout the Bible and something God Himself wants to help us with, with such people whenever possible.

Prayer Corner

A place, a wonderful place.

Though accused and condemned, we can find mercy and grace. In the shadow of the cross, Jesus, your every thought, emotion, and action, were fleshed out in obedience to your Father, where our need to be redeemed could happen.

Putting us first on that cross, your love poured out, washed over the stain of the wrongs we have done, and the wrongs done to us. We are cleansed, set free. Our relationship with you restored.

The cross before me, the world behind me, sin has lost its grip on me. But, the shadow of the wrongs I have caused others, remains. Looming over relationships marked by the pain I may have caused.

Holy Spirit I need wisdom to make amends where possible. In the healing light of the cross, use my obedience to bring restoration to relationships I may have crippled in the past. Free me to lay down gifts of thanksgiving and praise to you once again.

All these things are possible because of you Jesus.

Thank you.

Barnabas Notes



Doing to Others

You most likely have read or heard the verse in the bible that tells us to do things for other people in a way that you would want those same things done for you. Luke 6:31 “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” It’s a verse that guides us to be kind, generous, outgoing, and focused on the wants and needs of others.

In our house while our children were young, we adopted the saying, “Do unto others, FIRST.” And as they have grown up, they have become attentive to the needs of others.

“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion. So wouldn’t it be grand if everyone would practice compassion, our world would be perfect. The world we live in would certainly be a better place. God created a perfect world and then added people. And it’s been a bumpy ride ever since.

We are all created in the image of our God, yet we are all different. Our wants and needs are not the same. Some of us are happy to be in our place in life while others want more. Then there are also those of us who are not happy with their place in life and want more of what the people that have more, have.

Do you get it? That’s what we call keeping up with the Joneses.

As we grow older our intentions change. Sometimes we look to make those changes ourselves, like applying for college or university, or starting a new job. And as long as our lives are moving forward, we are happy and content,

living life, while coloring inside the lines, so to speak. But then there are those of us who have been dealt a bad hand. It seems that everything is going wrong. Our lives are out of control. We start making bad choices, and although it may seem like we have it all together on the outside, we are really struggling on the inside.

Addictions are real in all of our worlds. Have you ever considered coffee as an addiction? Seems mild enough, until you try not having your wake me up – pick me up cup of Joe. Alcohol, now there’s a good one. Alcohol is legal to buy and consume, but it can be a home breaker, relationship destroyer. And there are those who just can’t stop at alcohol, so they add in some drugs because they are so available. Remember what I said before? We start making bad choices, and we may look good on the outside, but we really know that we are not doing very well on the inside. We have lost our focus.

God hasn’t left us; He’s still right there waiting for us. His power sets us free from our addictions. Then when we’ve got to the point where we need to make amends to people, we have harmed along the way through our lives. He brings us back to His Word. It’s then that we understand how we may have hurt others and do to others as we want them to do to us. We can take a step in the right direction. Do unto others FIRST and be reconciled to you brother or sister and come offer yourself as a gift to God.

Barnabas

Lemon Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Whipped Cream

CUPCAKE INGREDIENTS:

- One box of lemon cake mix (don't add what the box says)
- 1 cup buttermilk or 1 cup milk with a splash of vinegar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 4 eggs

CUPCAKE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix until all combined.
2. Put cupcake liners in your tins and divide the batter (makes around 24)
3. Bake at 350° for 12-15 minutes.

FROSTING INGREDIENTS:

- One block of full fat cream cheese
- 2 cups Whipping cream
- 2 cups icing sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 packets of Whip it stabilizer (optional)

FROSTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To a stand mixer or using a handheld mixer, add cream cheese and beat until smooth.
2. Add the icing sugar and mix until well combined.
3. Add Whipping cream, vanilla and stabilizer and mix on high until frosting is nice and thick.

Frost your cupcakes and enjoy!



July

2nd Nathan

2nd Abe

6th Maggie

10th McKenna

15th Hilkka

20th Mack

21st Margaret

22nd Theo

24th Bob R

27th Al

27th Ezra

28th John W.

29th Rory

31st John D.

August

4th Zelia

6th Sophie

8th Donna

9th Emry

10th Wes

18th Aiden

19th Archer

23rd Charlotte

23rd Samantha

25th Spencer

26th Barb

27th Autumn

31st Caleb

Ministry Highlight



Men's ministry currently exists to help guys connect with each other within our church. Men's breakfast is a good spot to connect with ordinary guys facing similar struggles in life. We meet once a month at 8:30 am to eat some good food together and then spend some time visiting and sometimes sharing a devotional. Last month we enjoyed a Jamaican inspired breakfast created by our Jamaican friends -check out the photos below. Hope you can join us next time.

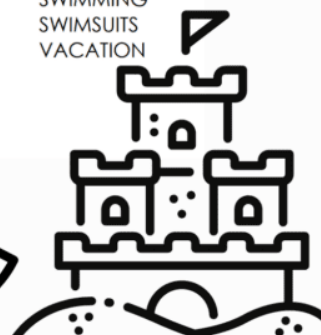


HELLO SUMMER!

BARBECUE
BEACH
BIKES
CAMPING
FIREWORKS
FLIPFLOPS
FLOWERS
FRIENDS

FRUIT
FUN
HOT
LEMONADE
MEMORIES
POOL
POPSICLES
RELAX

SANDCASTLES
SUNSHINE
SWIMMING
SWIMSUITS
VACATION



C	S	J	R	G	S	W	I	M	S	U	I	T	S	X	Z	X	B
L	B	M	I	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	A	Z	P	I	F	U
F	E	E	S	A	N	D	C	A	S	T	L	E	S	R	B	L	Y
R	A	M	P	R	E	L	A	X	F	R	U	I	T	A	P	O	L
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I	K	P	O	P	S	I	C	L	E	S	E	W	P	Y	F	C	D
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U	A	M	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	B	I	K	E	S	H	R

Reflections

by

J'Aime



What are three of the hardest things to say in the English language? 1, I'm sorry. 2, I need help. 3, Worcestershire sauce.

Let's talk about the first thing. Our summer newsletter is talking about steps 8 and 9 in Celebrate Recovery – 'making a list of people we've harmed' and 'making amends if possible.'

Canada is famously known for everyone running around apologizing to one another for the tiniest of things. I am sure we have all caught ourselves apologizing for something ridiculous or silly at least five times in the last week. We say the words, we move on. This is all well and good, but the type of apology I am talking about requires a lot more soul searching. Canadian apologies are lovely, but they're not often tough to grapple with because they don't require a lot of effort.

We talked about humbling ourselves last month, taking the time to acknowledge our flaws and allow God to work in us and with us to be our very best selves. It can be terrifying to come face to face with the worst parts of yourself. Perhaps even scarier is what happens when you realize that something you've done has caused harm to others.

Back in January I talked briefly about my daughter's school journey. She struggles with language and focus. In her elementary school days, I tried my hardest to help her succeed and, in some ways, I made her education experience worse than it needed to be. Looking her square in the eye and apologizing for my failures was absolutely agonizing. Hearing her words of forgiveness, knowing that the Holy Spirit was working in both of us, was wonderfully freeing.

Admitting faults, taking responsibility, and fixing mistakes are all very important things to do no matter who you are. The Bible is full of stories and verses about repenting and forgiveness. We are encouraged to make amends and to reconcile with one another. The Lord's Prayer, found in both Matthew and Luke, is a prime example of this concept. 'And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sinned against us.' We are actively apologizing to God for what we've done while openly displaying our willingness to forgive.

True repentance takes work. There has to be careful consideration behind your words, thoughts and actions. Pray. Let the Holy Spirit work in you and through you. Take your sins to God and ask for help in transforming because you cannot do it alone.

Now, just because you're ready to apologize doesn't mean that the person or people you're about to open up to are ready to hear what you've got to say. You can't control or dictate the feelings of others, but you can pray for them. Be tolerant – the Holy Spirit is working for good within all of us but not everyone is at the same point in their personal journey.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Admitting mistakes isn't a sign of weakness. Owning up to your faults is a giant indicator of strength.

By the time you read this article I will have already witnessed Autumn get her Grade 12 diploma, knowing that she starts college in September. God is good all the time!

What is your favourite verse in the Bible about forgiveness or reconciliation?

Paul:

I like John 19:30. Jesus said "It is finished." Those 3 words are more impactful than we truly realize. Jesus not only died on that cross, he died for all the sins past, present and future for us all. Earlier in the text Jesus gave one of the disciples to his mother, thus leaving him to take care of her. The knowledge that God loved me enough to sacrifice his own son (who willingly agreed to die to reconcile me to Him) is truly amazing. It is a gift that I never want to take for granted...Amen

J'Aime:

Colossians 3:13 is a short and simple reminder to forgive as God forgave you. It is a verse I have found myself leaning on recently.

Lois:

This devotion was on a day when I really needed it. Forgiveness is a process that you can't do without God.

BEAR WITH EACH OTHER AND
FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER IF ANY OF
YOU HAS A GRIEVANCE AGAINST SOMEONE.
FORGIVE
AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU.

COLOSSIANS 3:13

Tracy:

And
Be Kind
to one another,
tender hearted,
forgiving each other,
just as
GOD
also in
Christ
forgave you

EPIHESIANS 4:32

JUNE 5
MONDAY

A PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

"Forgiving one another, just as God...has forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32 NLT

The Bible says, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you" (vv. 31-32 NLT). Are you struggling to forgive someone? Here is a prayer: "Lord, I praise You for forgiving me and washing my sins away. Reveal anything I need to confess to You today so that I can bring it before You and be cleansed and set free, especially any place in my heart where I have not forgiven someone. I know how subtly resentment and bitterness can build up and hinder my prayers. I recognize that my lack of forgiveness toward others can keep me from experiencing Your forgiveness (see Mark 11:25). To say

that I need Your help to forgive others the way You have always been forgiving toward me is a huge understatement. You forgave the unforgivable on the cross. I acknowledge that I am incapable of forgiving on my own. Remind me that I cannot make my forgiveness conditional upon whether people deserve it or not, and that the focus of my heart must remain on becoming more like You. Give me grace to forgive and not hold forgiveness back until the other person says or does what I think they should. Take away anything of anger, bitterness, or resentment in my heart. Pour out Your Spirit upon me and cleanse me of all that's not of You. Enable me to walk in the forgiveness You have given me and to extend it to others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

BIBLE IN A YEAR | PROVERBS 7-9

Luella:

One of my favourite stories in the Bible about forgiveness is the Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor found in Matthew 18:21-35. Jesus is answering his disciples question about how often one should forgive another and...

**JESUS ANSWERED, "I TELL
YOU, NOT JUST SEVEN
TIMES, BUT SEVENTY-
SEVEN TIMES!
- MATTHEW 18:22**

John:

AS FAR AS THE EAST
IS FROM THE
WEST, SO FAR HATH
HE REMOVED
OUR TRANSGRESSIONS
FROM US.

PSALM 103:12 KJV

Top-BibleVerses.com



SOUTHPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

FAMILY FUN DAY

Lunch and Treats
Provided



475 BEVEL LINE ROAD
LEAMINGTON

FREE ENTRY

Saturday
July 8th, 2023
11am to 2pm

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF
FUN!

- bouncy castle •
- face painting •
- obstacle course •
- live entertainment •
- and much more!



For more information Contact Tracy at 226-347-0033
or go to southpointcc.ca