

Church Creek Presbyterian

CHARLESTON, SC

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter



It has become increasingly common for business professionals, life coaches, and pastors to talk about embracing *Sabbath* or taking a *sabbatical*. The idea is that people need prolonged seasons of rest and recreation. The focus on taking sabbaths is, of course, that people would become more productive in their employments while caring for their physical and emotional wellbeing. While some may address a common, therapeutic need for rest, God has given us the Sabbath Day to serve as a sign of the greater spiritual need we have for the rest that He provides in Christ alone (i.e., rest from the guilt and eternal punishment of sin). From the beginning of time, the Sabbath Day was set as one of God’s creation ordinances (Gen. 2:2-3). In redemptive history, it was the fourth of the ten commandments (Exodus 2:8-11 and Deut. 5:12-15). Whether at creation or in the fourth commandment, the Sabbath served as a covenantal sign holding out the promise of entering a higher state of Sabbath rest.

After creating a habitable world in which His image bearers could dwell, the Lord set apart the seventh day as the Sabbath Day. The Sabbath Day served numerous purposes at creation. It was to be a day of worship and rest. It was also a reminder that mankind is finite and dependent. Since we’re dependent creatures, God saw fit to give Adam this creation ordinance to remind him of his need for rest from his physical labor. Adam was to set apart the Sabbath Day to worship the God “who gives to all life and breath and all things” (Acts 17:25).

However, it was not simply a day in which man was to *cease* from his labors and embrace physical and spiritual rest; it was a sign pointing to something higher—even the hope of entering eternal rest. The eschatological–sign nature of the Sabbath Day was tied to God’s covenantal dealing with man in the garden. In Eden, God condescended to enter into a covenant relationship with Adam. Had Adam obeyed the test related to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he would have passed the probation and secured an eternal dwelling place for righteous image bearers to reflect the holy character of God. Had he obeyed, he would have gained a right to eat of the Tree of Life. The two trees in the garden served as signs and seals of the Covenant of Works, together with the Sabbath Day. As Meredith Kline has explained, “Sabbath ordinance was itself a sign and seal of the original covenant in Eden.”¹ The Sabbath was a sign inasmuch as it pointed beyond the day to the promise of a higher state of eternal rest into which man would have entered had Adam obeyed the demands of the Covenant of Works.

¹ Meredith G. Kline, *God, Heaven and Har Magedon: A Covenantal Tale of Cosmos and Telos* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2006), 62.

In redemptive history, the Sabbath resurfaced again as a covenantal sign in the Mosaic Covenant. Since the demands of the covenant of works (i.e., perfect, personal, and continual obedience) resurfaced in the giving of the Law at Sinai, it was right that there was some prefiguration of the promised reward. Within the context of the Mosaic Covenant, the Sabbath Day continued to point to the promise of the higher state of eternal rest. These two elements of the Sabbath Day—creation and in redemption—are found in the distinct reasons annexed to the fourth commandment in Exodus 20:11 and Deuteronomy 5:15. Creation and redemption form the background for the significance of the Sabbath Day as a covenantal sign. The Sabbath Day reminds image bearers of their obligation to worship and serve the Lord, and to trust God for the redemption that He freely provides in Christ alone. Where Adam failed in the Covenant of Works, Christ succeeded.

As the last Adam (Rom. 5:12–21), Jesus came to secure the eschatological Sabbath rest for his people. Jesus performed numerous healing miracles on the Old Covenant Sabbath Day revealing himself as the one who alone can provide rest for the souls of His people. The restorative Sabbath Day healings foreshadowed the ultimate healing that Christ secured for believers in the resurrection on the last day. The Sabbath healing of the man with the withered hand (Matt. 12:9–14) was tied to Jesus' gospel invitation, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:28–29). Jesus purchased eschatological Sabbath rest for his people by taking upon himself the judgment they deserve when he hung under the wrath of God on the cross. Picking up on Psalm 95:7b–11, the writer of Hebrews alluded to the abiding hope of entering into eternal rest in glory with Christ, since Jesus entered into his everlasting *rest* (Heb. 3:7–4:12).

The circumstances surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ help more the basis for our understanding of Jesus as the Rest Provider. Just as he looked back over his newly created world and pronounced it good (Gen. 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31) the Son of God looked back over the completed work of redemption and cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:27). Having finished his labor to provide redemption, Jesus rested as his body lay in the ground on the Old Covenant Sabbath Day. When he rose on the first day of the week, Jesus ushered in the Christian Sabbath (i.e., the Lord's Day of Rev. 4:3).

Jonathan Edwards tied the theological significance of Jesus being buried on the Old Covenant Sabbath, when he writes, "Jesus rested from the work of redemption when he laid in the tomb on the old covenant Sabbath and rose on the new creation Sabbath to receive his bride, just as God put Adam to sleep and then woke him in order to present him with his bride."

In the New Testament, the saving work of Christ forms the basis of the change of the Sabbath Day from the seventh to the first day of the week. Just as Jesus rose on the first day of the week, so he appeared to the disciples on the first day of each subsequent week (Luke 24:1; John 20:26). As the Westminster Confession of Faith explains, "As it is of the law of nature, that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in His Word. . .he hath particularly appointed one day in seven for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto Him: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, was the last day of the week; and, from the resurrection of Christ, was changed into the first day of the week, which in Scripture is called the Lord's Day, and is to be continued to the end of the world as the Christian Sabbath."

The Covenant Lord continues to call us to set apart one-day-in-seven to worship on the new covenant Sabbath. Just as the creational Sabbath served the purpose of holding out the hope of a higher state of blessing, the Sabbath continues to be held out as it helps us reflect more purposefully on the heavenly nature of the worship we bring to God and the Lamb. While we worship Jesus Christ the Lord of the Sabbath on the first day of the week in commemoration of his resurrection glory, we eagerly await the full revelation of the one who secured Sabbath rest for us by his death and resurrection.

**This article is a forthcoming publication of Ligonier Ministries.*

Ministry Needs/Opportunities

- ❖ Nursery workers – There is always a need for more nursery workers to help free our young mothers up to be a part of the worship service of the church. If you are not already doing so and would like to be a part of a rotating schedule on Sundays, please email our Church Administrator, Claire Gottshalk, at office@church-creek.org. Background checks are required.
- ❖ Skilled musicians – As we continue to develop our music ministry, we will be looking for men and women who wish to use their musical gifts. If you would like to explore the possibility of serving in the music ministry, please reach out to please email our Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.
- ❖ Children’s Ministry Teachers – K-6th Grade. One of the biggest service needs at CCP presently is for more individuals to help serve on a Sunday School teaching and assisting rotation. If you are interested, please reach out to Anna Batzig at agbatzig@gmail.com.
- ❖ Social Media Development – If you are proficient in the use of social media platforms, graphic design, or photography and have the desire to volunteer in this ministry, please email Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.
- ❖ Audio/Visual Team – Josh Stone is overseeing the A/V team for the various audio and video needs during the Sunday morning and evening worship services. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please email Claire Gottshalk at office@church-creek.org.
- ❖ Lord’s Supper Volunteers: Lord’s Supper set-up, scheduling, etc. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Cris Dickason at cdickason1126@comcast.net.
- ❖ Missions Committee – As we have begun supporting new missionaries, we are always looking for more volunteers who are excited about partnering with our foreign missionaries for the spread of the gospel. If you are interested in serving in any number of capacities with the missions committee, please contact Richard Cooper at richardgarycooper@yahoo.com or Ron Vanderwey at ron.vanderwey@gmail.com.

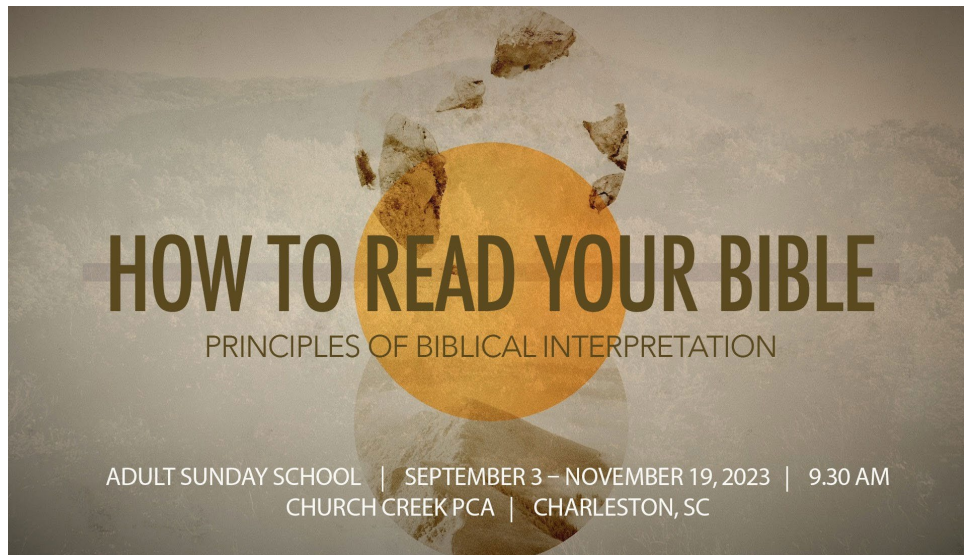
Committee Chairpersons/Ministry Coordinators

- Audio/Video Coordinator | Josh Stone – stone282@gmail.com
- Building Committee | Matt Guffey – mattguffey15@gmail.com
- Christian Education | Nick Batzig – nbatzig@gmail.com
- Children’s Ministry | Anna Batzig – agbatzig@gmail.com
- Food/Fellowship | Jessica Clark – jessicaclark78@yahoo.com
- Greeter’s Committee | Tripp Wiles – trippwiles@gmail.com
- Meal Ministry | Kendall McKoy – kmckoy7@gmail.com
- Missions Committee | Richard Cooper – richardgarycooper@yahoo.com
- Nursery Coordinator | Brook Rhodes – micheleseabrook@gmail.com
- Women’s Ministry Committee | Katie Guffey – kgguffey23@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **October 20 | Joint Youth Fellowship with Redeemer PCA** – The middle school and high school students will be in the Church Creek Fellowship Hall for a time of singing, teaching, games, and food. We plan on meeting from 6–8pm. Please reach out to Caleb Willingham at caleb@church-creek.org, if you have any questions.
- ❖ **October 28 | Planning Center Training** – This will be a one hour training session for all committee chairs, bible study leaders, and ministry coordinators who are helping to oversee the various ministries at CCP. Time TBD.
- ❖ **November 2 | Lowcountry Presbyterian Meeting** – The members of Presbytery will meet at East Bridge PCA in Mt. Pleasant for their quarterly meeting. Please keep this meeting in prayer, asking the Lord to bless the labors of His servants for the good of all the PCA churches in the Lowcountry.
- ❖ **November 26 | Thanksgiving Worship Service** – Our morning worship will also serve as a Thanksgiving service. That evening, we will spend time in prayerful thanksgiving to God during our Prayer & Praise Service.
- ❖ **November 30 | Ligonier & Reformation Bible College Dessert Fundraiser** – Dr. Steven Nichols will be speaking at a dinner hosted at Church Creek Presbyterian on Thursday evening, Nov. 30. If you are interested in attending, please let our Office Administrator Claire know by emailing her at office@church-creek.org.
- ❖ **December 24 | Christmas Eve Service** – We will meet for a candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm. This is a special time for families to worship together as we celebrate the birth of the Savior. This is also a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to come and hear the good news of the incarnate Son of God.
- ❖ **January 21, 2024 | Annual Vision Banquet** – Members and visitors are invited to a church-wide fellowship meal, at which the officers of the church will recap the accomplished goals of the past year and will communicate the plans and goals for the upcoming year. We will be sharing more details as we get closer to the new year.

Fall/Winter Adult Sunday School



On Sunday mornings, CCP has been working through a Sunday School series on Principles of Biblical Interpretation. The class begins at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Below are the remaining classes for the Fall/Winter Semester:

- ❖ Oct 1 – Understanding Biblical Prophecy
- ❖ Oct 8 – Understanding Parables
- ❖ Oct 15 – Understanding Epistles (Indicatives and Imperatives)
- ❖ Oct 22 – Understanding Apocalyptic Literature
- ❖ Oct 29 – Understanding Types and Shadows
- ❖ Nov 5 – Understanding the Law/Gospel Distinction
- ❖ Nov 12 – Understanding the Regulative Principle of Worship
- ❖ Nov 19 – Understanding the Already/Not-Yet Structure of the Bible

The Charleston Christian School | Ashley Chandler, Head of School



THE CHARLESTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

www.charlestonchristian.org

The Charleston Christian School celebrates 42 years of God's faithfulness this year. Specifically, we praise God for the following:

- ❖ CCS serves 147 students in West Ashley in grades K-8.
- ❖ CCS is committed to partnering with families and churches in West Ashley. CCS serves families in over 30 different churches in West Ashley.
- ❖ Our Faculty and staff members are devoted Christians who are dedicated to helping students grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Of our 20 faculty and staff members, 6 are members of Church Creek Presbyterian or our sister church Redeemer Presbyterian.
- ❖ CCS is accredited through the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA)
- ❖ CCS offers two high school credit classes, Algebra 1 and Spanish 1.
- ❖ Our weekly chapel services provide opportunities for our students to worship together and grow in discipleship. Our chapel speakers include current and former CCS teachers, as well as local pastors and youth pastors. Students recite memory verses and catechism questions during chapel. Our middle school students have monthly small group chapels with their teachers to foster spiritual growth.
- ❖ Sports offerings include: Jr. Girls Volleyball, Sr. Girls Volleyball, Boys Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Jr. Boys Basketball, Sr. Boys Basketball, and Co-Ed Soccer.
- ❖ Due to the generous support of Church Creek, Grace on the Ashley, and individual donors, we are able to make Christian education affordable to families across different economic backgrounds. Approximately half of our students receive some form of financial assistance.
- ❖ Church Creek members receive a 20% discount on tuition.

Congregational Prayer Needs

Leadership

❖ Officers

- Please continue to pray for our diaconate as they start working together to assist in meeting our service and mercy needs.
- Pray about the elder nomination, training, examination, and election process. This will continue through Spring 2024. Pray that the Lord will raise up qualified and gifted men to serve to care for the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- Pray for spiritual holiness and for physical strength for our pastors and elders.
- Pray that the Lord would give our pastors boldness to preach the gospel in all seasons and settings.
- Pray that the Lord would guide the session members as they develop discipleship ministry at CCP in a variety and settings.
- Pray for the elders and deacons to have unity, wisdom, and servant-mindedness.

❖ Ministry Teams

- Pray that the Lord will give wisdom to the building committee as the members give consideration to a variety of future development needs.
- Pray for each of our committees and their labors among us (the greeter ministry, food/fellowship ministry, care/meals ministry, missions committee, Christian education committee, building committee, children/youth ministry, Lord's Supper ministry, mens/womens ministries, coffee committee, etc.)

Staffing

- Pray that the Lord would provide the right people to fill part-time staffing needs we have at present.

Property

- Pray that the building committee can finish their work with architects and with the city regarding bulldozing the old CCS building.
- Pray for the members of the building committee as they explore different options for additional seating in worship service.
- Pray for the members of the building committee as they pursue options for new signage.

Local and Foreign Mission

❖ Charleston Christian School

- Pray that the Lord will continue to bless the labors of the staff as they minister to the many children who attend.
- Pray that God will bring the right individuals to fill the positions that are currently opened.
- Pray that the Lord will encourage Ashley Chandler as she leads the staff and seeks to meet the many ministry needs at CCS.
- Pray that God will give wisdom to the board as they work with a consulting group on future development, expansion, and fundraising.

❖ Gary and Lois Watanabe, Mission to the World (Japan)

- Pray that the Lord would continue to use Gary in training pastors to serve in local churches throughout Japan.
- Pray that the Lord will provide financially for the ministry needs.
- Pray that God will protect Gary as he travels to train pastors.
- Pray that the Lord will encourage the Watanabe's with evident fruit from their labors.



I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life

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