



Hope In Christ Church
710 East Sunset
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-733-6177

Heartbeat

“progressive Christianity” is not Christian

Pastor Scott Roberts

There is a form of religion that goes by the name “progressive Christianity” but don’t let the name fool you. This religion is Christian in name only and has jettisoned the historic foundations of true faith in Jesus for a form of moralism. Progressive Christianity, hereafter referred to as P.C., at its core, desires to progress beyond the uniqueness of Jesus in order to embrace a form of religion and life that is more palatable and congruent with modern secularism.

The progressive Christian seeks to centralize humanity while unseating Jesus from the throne where He rightly rules. The focus is often on love, at the expense of truth. But the kind of love that progressive Christians champion leaves no place for sin or repentance in the individual’s life. Furthermore, it leaves no place for the other characteristics of God like his wrath, righteousness or even his all-consuming glory and holiness. Hell is a fictitious place created by fear mongering ancients and some moderns who don’t know love – or so the P.C. says, even though Jesus spoke about hell often (Lk 16, Mk9:43-48, Mt 13:42, 25:30). The definition of sin as an individual, personal affront to God – the refusal to submit to Him and worship Him with all one’s life – is transformed into a crusade against the structures in society that are sinful. But aren’t structures created and upheld by individual people? The structure isn’t the problem, it is the heart of people that must change, before any structure will ever be renewed. P.C.’s believe that people are inherently good, not fallen and prone to all evil. The Heidelberg Catechism, anticipating that some people would challenge this understanding of human nature, included a question directly addressing the idea that people fallen, broken and inclined to all evil. The 8th question says, “Yes, unless we are born again, by the Spirit of God” we are “so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil.” Progressive Christians seek to obliterate Jesus’ teachings on sexuality instead of calling people to keep the marriage bed pure (Heb 13:40). Hence the P.C. movement al-

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“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God”

John 6:68-69

ways aligns itself with the promotion of LGBTQ+ lifestyles and agendas. They believe that if something is consensual that carries more weight than the Bible's own words about marriage being a relationship between one man and one woman with all those not in this carefully defined union being called to practice self-control and celibacy. Finally, P.C. seeks to stress the wonder of the search for God, instead of the wonder of finding the truth in Christ. And in this search, God can become whatever you need him/her/it to be.

What is fascinating is that the religion of Progressive Christianity isn't new. People have been creating religions like this for millennia. The allure that people can define the way life is lived, that one can shift personal responsibility onto others or better yet, onto inanimate forces and structures is the core of paganism. Pagans seek to make a god that is controllable and who allows them to pursue sin with impunity, albeit under 'controlled' circumstances of their specific liturgy. All of this stands in stark contrast to Historic Biblical Christianity. From its foundation in the OT and into the NT, Christianity has declared that God reveals himself and that he can be known in Christ. As the popular hymn states "Christ is the perfect picture of the unseen God" echoing the words of Col. 1:15. True Christianity declares that all people are sinful, that God is loving but also holy and that He will punish the guilty who transgress his law (Ex 34:6-7). Biblical Christianity witnesses to the reality of hell and eternal condemnation, but also the wondrous grace of God who made a way to escape death and separation from God through the free gift of life found in Christ (Rom 6:23). The Church of Christ has always condemned sexual expressions outside the bonds of marriage, as God defines it, whether in the OT (Lev 18, Dt 21) or in the New (Rom 1, 1Cor 6:18, 7:2, Heb 13:4, Matt 5:28, Eph 5:3, Acts 15:29). And finally, the Church has always stressed the supremacy of Christ, the deity of Christ, the humanity of Christ and the perfect way that God has revealed himself in Christ. He is the focal point of all of the church's worship and life.

So, people of God, don't be confused. Don't let names distract you from the content of the message. For what matters isn't the title, but the word that is preached and proclaimed. Progressive Christianity is not Christian. It may be progressive, but progression away from Christ and his word is never life, but always death. We would be well to remember the words of the Apostle Paul, when the crowds were leaving Jesus because his words were hard. Jesus asked, "Are you going to leave also?" And Peter responded, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69).

Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship Resumes!



After a long hiatus due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, I am pleased to announce the resumption of our Men's Thursday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship!
The first meeting will be on Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm at church.

I welcome any suggestions on study materials- feel free to please let me know by September 2nd. Otherwise I will choose something for us. I look forward to seeing everyone return and maybe some new faces who are always welcome to join our usual good spirited discussions!

Lanny

Family Promise

Our next opportunity to bless families is the week of July 12. If you are willing to help, please call or text or email Lorraine B.



Critical Race Theory: What It Is

Submitted by Pastor Scott

Critical race theory is an academic discipline, formulated in the 1990s, built on the intellectual framework of identity-based Marxism. Relegated for many years to universities and obscure academic journals, over the past decade it has increasingly become the default ideology in our public institutions. It has been injected into government agencies, public school systems, teacher training programs, and corporate human resources departments in the form of diversity training programs, human resources modules, public policy frameworks, and school curricula.

There are a series of euphemisms deployed by its supporters to describe critical race theory, including “equity,” “social justice,” “diversity and inclusion,” and “culturally responsive teaching.” Critical race theorists, masters of language construction, realize that “neo-Marxism” would be a hard sell. *Equity*, on the other hand, sounds non-threatening and is easily confused with the American principle of *equality*. But the distinction is vast and important. Indeed, equality—the principle proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, defended in the Civil War, and codified into law with the 14th and 15th Amendments, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965—is explicitly rejected by critical race theorists. To them, equality represents “mere nondiscrimination” and provides “camouflage” for white supremacy, patriarchy, and oppression.

In contrast to equality, equity as defined and promoted by critical race theorists is little more than reformulated Marxism. In the name of equity, UCLA Law Professor and critical race theorist Cheryl Harris has proposed suspending private property rights, seizing land and wealth and redistributing them along racial lines. Critical race guru Ibram X. Kendi, who directs the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University, has proposed the creation of a federal Department of Antiracism. This department would be independent of (i.e., unaccountable to) the elected branches of government, and would have the power to nullify, veto, or abolish any law at any level of government and curtail the speech of political leaders and others who are deemed insufficiently “antiracist.”

One practical result of the creation of such a department would be the overthrow of capitalism, since according to Kendi, “In order to truly be antiracist, you also have to truly be anti-capitalist.” In other words, identity is the means and Marxism is the end.

An equity-based form of government would mean the end not only of private property, but also of individual rights, equality under the law, federalism, and freedom of speech. These would be replaced by race-based redistribution of wealth, group-based rights, active discrimination, and omnipotent bureaucratic authority. Historically, the accusation of “anti-Americanism” has been overused. But in this case, it’s not a matter of interpretation—critical race theory prescribes a revolutionary program that would overturn the principles of the Declaration and destroy the remaining structure of the Constitution.

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WELCOME!

Welcoming Pastor Sean to Classis North Sound...

By Don R

Classis (regional body of CRC congregations) met Thursday the 24th, at Sonlight Lynden's facility to examine Sonlight's newly called "Commissioned Pastor," (one called to specialized Christian service) Sean Taylor, to do house-church planting and development work in the north Whatcom area. Classis examines all pastoral candidates for Christ-like character, pastoral, biblical, and theological knowledge as well as preaching, teaching, & evangelistic skills. Sean's exam won Classis' approval of his being ordained and supervised by Sonlight church as a Commissioned Pastor.

Sean has about 30 years of ministry experience in a variety of areas including Logos, 16 years in team ministry with Christ The King (CTK), and some theological training. He has been a conference speaker/panelist up to 40 times a year. His wife and children have been residents of Whatcom County for many years, which affords him many Christian networking contacts in our area. The Taylors have four school-aged children. (Sean's wife manages the former Randy Bachman estate, now a Christian retreat facility west of Lynden.)

Sean has hosted a "house church" in his home for about a year where a small group gathers regularly for a meal, directed Bible study/discussion, and ministry leadership training. The house church(s) meet once-a-month for worship in a rented Lynden area school facility. Sean's goal is to establish several house church groups hosted by trained leaders in the Lynden area. This approach is particularly attractive to non-churched and post-churched (those with a past negative experience in a traditional church setting and have withdrawn from the traditional church ministries).

We'll keep you posted on this ministry as it gets underway and grows so that you can lend prayerful encouragement.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34

Thank God for...

What are you thankful for? What has God blessed you with over the past year?

The bible encourages us to give thanks to God. So lets do that. Let's fill the prayer wall with thanks to our God.

On the table near the prayer wall you will find sheets of paper to fill out and color.

I can't wait to see how God is working within our church body.

give
thanks

Day 2 Pray Prayer Guide

Worship - John 14

Jesus gave us the source of His motivation in John 14:31, "I do as the Father has commanded me so that the world may know that I love the Father." Open your time of worship and prayer today expressing your love for God the Father.

Use a phrase like: Father You are _____ and I love You.

Father You are beautiful (Psalm 27:4) and I love You

Father I dwell in Your shelter and abide in the shadow of Your Presence (Psalm 91:1) and I love You

(choose your own...)

Read John 14 and see how frequently Jesus speaks of His desire to honor the Father in a pure and selfless way. Let Jesus guide your heart as you seek to be fully aware of the Father's Presence and His unending love for you and your neighbor.

Prayer Focus

Loving God on our own, in our own way is valuable and essential. At the same time loving God in community with other believers is also God's desire for us. Pray for ways to love God in front of others and with others - so that the world will know that we love the Father. Romans 5:8 tells us that God's love is demonstrated in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How do I, how do you, how do **we** love with this level of 'demonstration?' Thanks be to God John 14:25 says the Holy Spirit will be our teacher. Come and teach us to love as you love today.

Strategic prayers for Whatcom County

Arts & Media:

Pray for the relationships of the 'family' of faith to be re-connected and strengthened throughout our county as we seek to serve God as one body.

Pray for those who are in times of great stress or anxiety to become connected through radio (like 106.5) and on-line platforms to the encouraging message of Jesus Christ.

Business:

Pray for business owners to seek and have the faith to follow spiritual wisdom as they navigate very uncertain times both economically and socially. Father help us make business decisions that demonstrate a love for You.

Pray that Christian business owners and employees can be the light of Christ in their jobs in a way that demonstrates the Father's love to the world and their love for the Father.

Church:

Pray for those people in our churches who have become comfortable not being at church during this last year. Ask the Father to stir all of our hearts to desire both personal and corporate intimacy with Him.

Pray for all leaders (pastors to small group leaders) to have time for rest and renewal personally in both passion and vision for their calling.

Development:

There is much fatigue in the helping professions. Pray for those who are overwhelmed and fatigued to realize the battle is the Lord's. Pray they will be able to pray, "Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever."

Pray wisdom for Directors and team leaders as they seek to navigate governmental regulations and foundation (funding) requirements in their desire to serve this commu-

*The prayer
of a
righteous
person
is powerful
and
effective.*

James 5:16b

Day2Pray Prayer Guide

Development:

There is much fatigue in the helping professions. Pray for those who are overwhelmed and fatigued to realize the battle is the Lord's. Pray they will be able to pray, "Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever."

Pray wisdom for Directors and team leaders as they seek to navigate governmental regulations and foundation (funding) requirements in their desire to serve this community.

Education:

Pray for educators to experience renewal after a difficult year, and the wisdom to prepare for next year. Pray that each Christian in education will 'see' clearly to understand how God is calling them to stand for the truth in the middle of very challenging social pressures.

Pray for summer learning - at home, in camps, VBS, schools, as both parents and students need to know and be fulfilled by their identity in Christ. Pray John 14:26-27, that the Holy Spirit will be our teacher.

Family:

Pray for the summer camps (the Firs, Royal kids, VBS and many more) for kids. This year the challenges from the school year have surfaced many emotional needs that only Jesus can fill. Pray for bold Christ proclamation and healing for our children (and their families).

Pray for an adoption agency in Bellingham, that each and every pregnancy would end up with a loving faith-filled home for that child.

Government:

Pray for godly wisdom for government officials dealing with very significant issues such as the housing shortage, election integrity and many more.

The battle is the Lord's - believe it - the enemy is not flesh and blood. Pray for God's love to so fill each believer for our neighbors, so that no matter what they believe they will know that we love the Father.

Health:

Pray for spiritual leadership among the believers in healthcare. Leadership that will focus on Biblical truth and lead in unity submitted to the Savior despite all the divisive issues.

Our community has more needs than the hospital has capacity. Pray for the supernatural provision of joy, discernment, and wisdom for each healthcare worker. That each person will be able to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called. Ephesians 4:1

International Missions:

Pray for indigenous missionaries in areas with high covid challenges right now. Pray for their physical health, for supplies to be able to offer aid to others and the boldness to live and speak the gospel as they offer help.

(from a local missions leader) We have family (brothers and sisters in Christ) in both India and Nepal that need medicine and oxygen, not to mention the finances to pay for those things. Families who have lost their bread-winner, and now are wondering how they will survive. I know we are all tired of Covid. But now is the time to pray earnestly and not give up (Luke 18:1)

Pray for a worship discipleship camp this August in Israel, bringing together Jewish, Arab & Palestinian teens and young adults to worship Jesus together. Pray for wisdom and pro-

tection for the leadership, unity, and a move of the Spirit among those attending the camp.

Pray for Your Family & Friends

During this spring the local farmers prepared the ground for seed or prepared their crops for the coming season and eventual harvest. When we pray, we prepare both ourselves and those we will meet for the gospel message. In every situation, backyard BBQ's to vacations to neighborhood prayer walks, pray that you will carry the burden of Jesus, that He will open doors to share His life message of salvation, and for the boldness to testify to His saving grace in our own lives. (List here those you plan to pray for this week or this month)

Pray for your Church

For Your Pastor(s) and their families:

Leadership is always challenging in any sphere. Spiritual leadership takes the wisdom of human leadership and seeks to submit that to Jesus and His leadership. In the middle of 'leadership' is human emotion and human pain and suffering. Pray for pastors who carry the load of both leadership and people's personal stories of pain and challenge. Our Pastors and those in other levels of spiritual leadership need the encouragement and protection that each of us can access when we are at the throne of Grace pleading for them and on their behalf. Ask you Pastor (or other spiritual leader) how you can pray for them - then pray for them!

Outreach

John 14:10b, "the Father who dwells in me does His works."

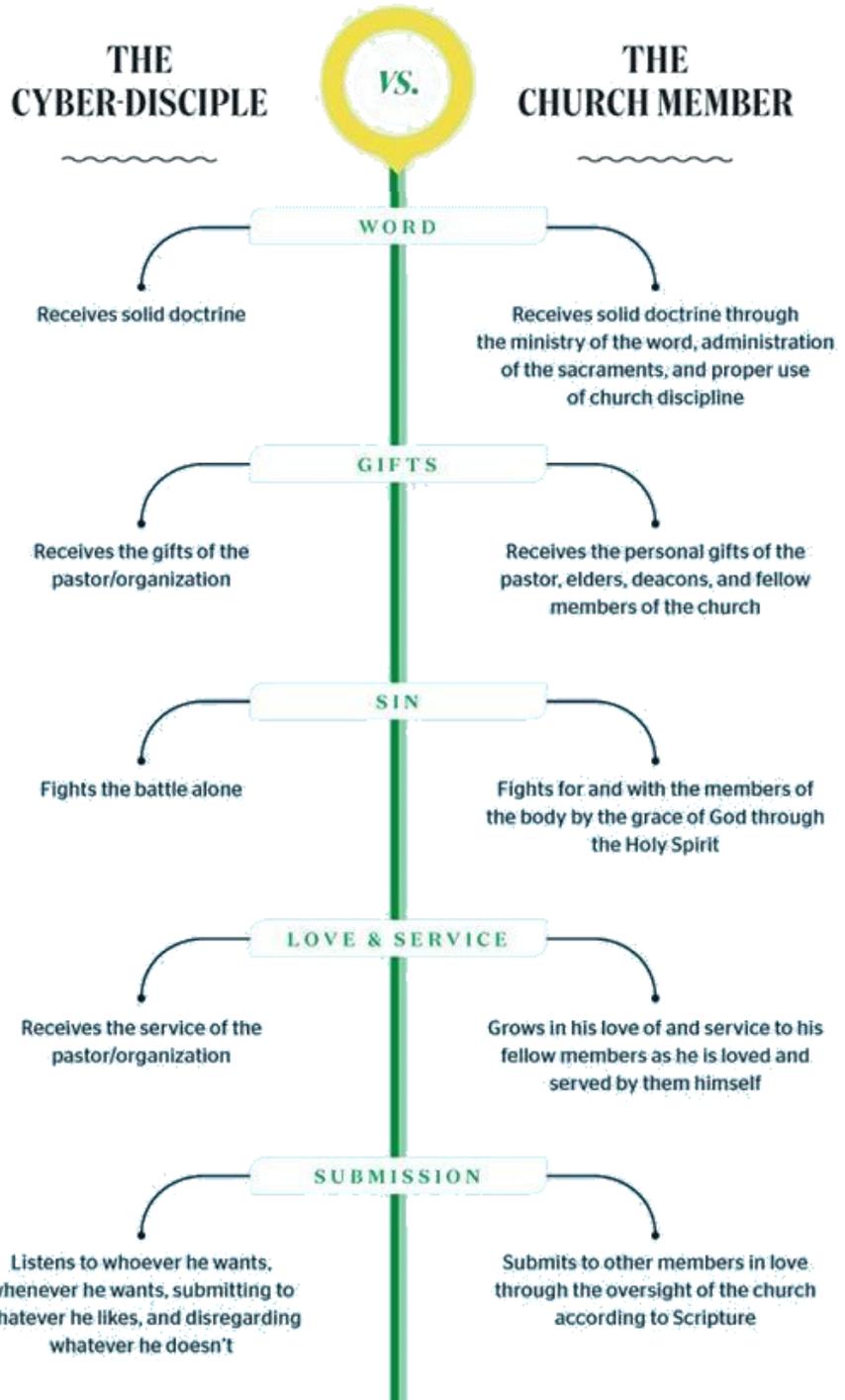
Ask the Holy Spirit to make this the prayer of your heart, that the world would know we love the Father. Abba Father may Your Kingdom Come and Your Will be done in me and through me, in my church and through my church, in the Church of Whatcom County and through the church of Whatcom County, in and through the Church around the world.



The Cyber-Disciple vs. The Church Member

Koinonia

-Christian fellowship or communion with fellow Christians



Davis, Andrew M. "The Gardeners." *Modern Reformation*. July-August 2021, 30.

Serving Schedule

July 2021

Greeter Schedule

4 Jerry & Faye
11 Lanny & Christine
18 Dave & Ida
25 Len & Terry

Prayer Room

4 Dave R
11 Ev
18 Lanny
25 Len

Communion Prep

4 Hildred Abee; Rachel Carlson & Kids



August 2021

Greeter Schedule

1 Len & Terry
8 Clair & Hildred
15 Gina & Joe
22 Jerry & Faye
29 Lanny & Christine

Prayer Room

1 Ida
8 Chuck
15 Tanya
22 Alice
29 Lou

Communion Prep

1 Diane Katie & Sarah

*Not able to
serve when
scheduled?*

*Please call
someone to
take your
place.*

*Thank you for
your help!*



**God's Work
Our Hands**

*“to serve the Lord our God is the heartbeat of our mission,
the spring from which our service overflows”*

- Steve Green

Deacons Digest

By Mike Button

Did you miss the Church Picnic on Fathers Day at Birch Bay State Park? Those of us who didn't sure missed you! We started the picnic with Ice Cream, then some visiting, someone got a fire going, then some actual dinner, then some dessert, then more visiting. I counted heads and came up with 58 Picnickers. We all brought are own food for dinner, and it was interesting to see what others brought to eat. So many different things you can cook on a stick! In one of my visiting circles there was some taste testing of cheese-burger potato chips. Does it taste like a cheeseburger? What did you taste first? Very deep conversation. I'm sure there was deeper conversations in some of the other circles. Hope to see you at the next one.

Do you have a bucket list? I do! I don't mind sharing mine. Here is one item on my list. I want to see, in person, spontaneous synchronized fire fly flashing. Are you willing to share yours? In the interest of getting to know more about each other, I would like to share your list with the readers of the Heartbeat. If you don't mind sharing, e-mail me your bucket list, and I'll share it.

On a more serious note, Elaine has completed her 3 years of service as a Deacon. For the last two years, Elaine has been our churches communication Deacon, which is now my role. I'm not sure of all my duties but one is an article in the Heartbeat. The other roles are Chair, Dan, Treasurer, Barb, Secretary, Jennifer, and Special Events, Ruth.

Deacons



reach out to
those in need

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

Giving in May 2021

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 7,172	\$ 20,116
General Fund Offerings	\$ 22,982	\$140,117
Rent / Utilities Income	3,564	15,079
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	26,700
Interest Income - Undesignated	<u>15</u>	<u>105</u>
Total Undesignated Income	26,562	182,002
General Fund Expenses	<u>(23,431)</u>	<u>(114,543)</u>
Income Over (Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 3,131</u>	<u>\$ 67,459</u>
Total 2021 budget, including ministry quotas	\$281,796	
Year-to-Date Budget for 6 months	\$140,898	
Total Undesignated Income	<u>182,002</u>	
Income Over (Under) Budget	<u>\$ 41,104</u>	

Loan Balances: Classis: \$ 10,000

Food for thought

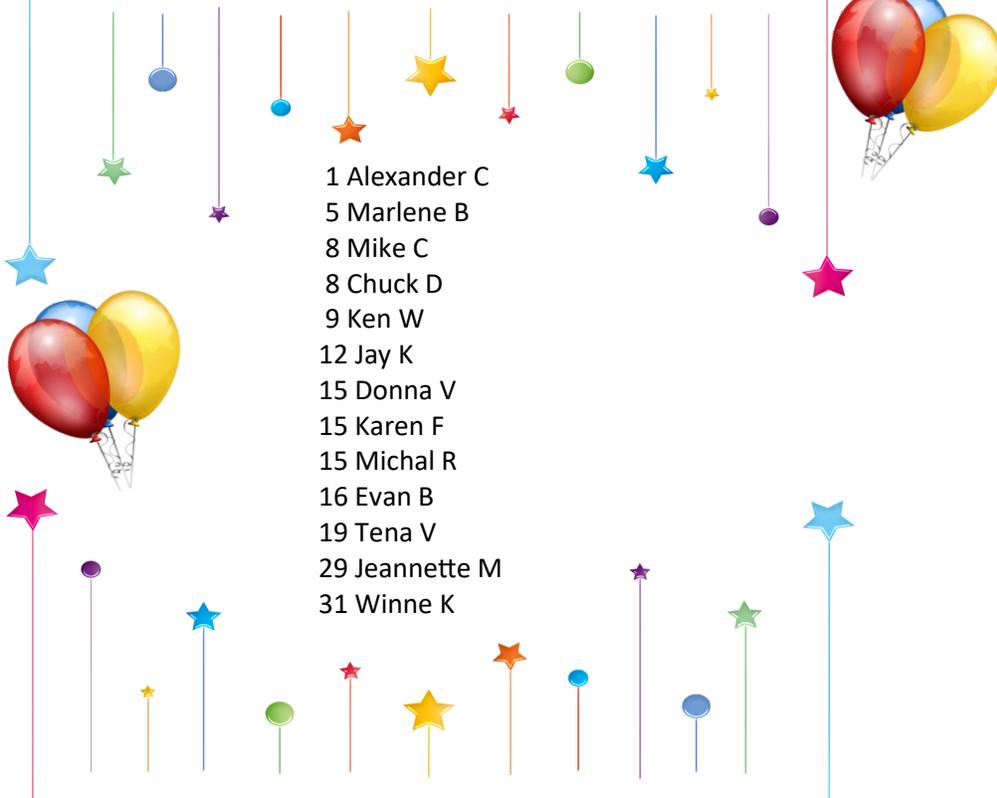
**"Is prayer your
steering wheel
or your
spare tire?"**

Corrie Ten Boom



*You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance. Psalm 65:11*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



May the Lord Jesus
shine His light on
you as He showers
you with blessings
and grace to take
you throughout the
year.





July 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 6:30 am Men's Small Group	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship Service / Commu- ion 	5	6	7 11:30 am Elders Mtg 7pm Deacons Mtg	8 6:30 am Men's Small Group	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service	12	13	14 7pm Council Mtg	15 6:30 am Men's Small Group	16	17
18 9:30 am Worship Service	19 	20 	21 	22 6:30 am Men's Small Group	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship Service	26	27	28	29 6:30 am Men's Small Group	30 	31