

# The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



## FIVE PILLARS OF THE REFORMATION

This article continues the discussion of “pillars” or *solas* (only or alone) that framed the entire sixteenth-century debate and still instruct and edify us today:

- 1 “Only Scripture,”
- 2 “Only Christ,”
- 3 “Only Grace,”
- 4 “Only Faith,” and
- 5 “To God Alone Be Glory.”

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Vol. CXXXIV, Edition 42

**October 25, 2026**

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# SOLA FIDE . . . OUR ONLY MEANS

The reformers said that it is not enough to say that we are saved by grace alone, for even many medieval scholars held that view, including Luther's own mentor. Rome viewed grace more as a substance than as an attitude of favor on God's part. In other words, grace was like water poured into the soul. It assisted the believer in his growth toward salvation. The purpose of grace was to transform a sinner into a saint, a bad person into a good person, a rebel into an obedient son or daughter.

The reformers searched the Scriptures and found a missing ingredient in the medieval notion of grace. To be sure, there were many passages that spoke of grace transforming us and conforming us to the image of Christ. But there were other passages, too, that used a Greek word that meant "to declare righteous," not "to make righteous." The problem was, the Latin Bible everyone was using mistranslated the former and combined the two Greek words into one. Erasmus and other Renaissance humanists "laid the egg that Luther hatched" by cleaning up the translation mistakes.

According to Scripture, God declares a person righteous before that person actually begins to become righteous. Therefore, the declaration is not in response to any spiritual or moral advances within the individual, but is an imputation of the perfect righteousness that God immediately requires of everyone who is united to Christ by faith alone. When a person trusts Christ, that very moment he or she is clothed in his perfect holiness, so that even though the believer is still sinful, he or she is judged by God as blameless.

This apostolic doctrine, proclaimed to Abraham and his offspring, has fallen on hard times again in church history. Not only do most Christians today not hear about the doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith alone, many cannot even define it. Although justification is the doctrine by which, according to the evangelical reformers "the church stands or falls," it has been challenged. Finney openly declared, "The doctrine of an imputed righteousness is another gospel. For sinners to be forensically pronounced just is impossible and absurd. The doctrine of an imputed righteousness is founded on a most false and nonsensical assumption, representing the

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# BOOKSTORE

Ministry of the Week

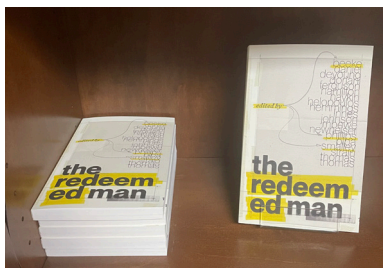
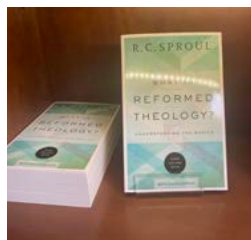
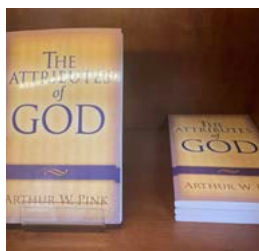
*Brendon Branigin*

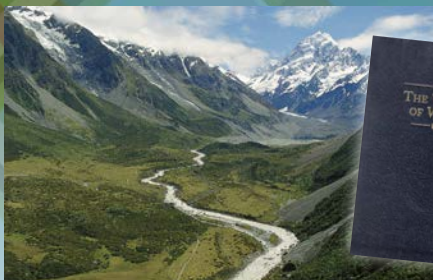


Second Presbyterian Church offers a rotating selection of books by Christian and Reformed authors. The bookstore is located on the 2nd floor, across from the library.

## How do I purchase a book?

1. Pay with cash: place cash in an envelope and drop it into the box by the window.
2. Pay with check: place check (made out to "Second Presbyterian Church ATTN Bookstore") in an envelope and drop it into the box by the window.
3. Pay with card: scan the QR code and click "Pay Online."
4. Visit [spcgreenville.org/bookstore](http://spcgreenville.org/bookstore).





*A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*

The prayers in this book are drawn from the largely forgotten deposit of Puritan spiritual exercises, meditations, and aspirations. They testify to the richness and colour of evangelical thought and language that animated vital piety in an important stream of English religious life. ~Arthur Bennett

## Thou Great I AM,

Fill my mind with elevation and grandeur

at the thought of a Being

with whom one day is as a thousand years,

and a thousand years as one day,

A mighty God, who, amidst the lapse of worlds,

and the revolutions of empires,

feels no variableness,

but is glorious in immortality.

May I rejoice that, while men die, the Lord lives;

that, while all creatures are broken reeds,

empty cisterns,

fading flowers,

withering grass,

He is the Rock of Ages,

the Fountain of living waters.

Turn my heart from vanity,

from dissatisfactions,

from uncertainties of the present state,

to an eternal interest in Christ.



at the corner of

*River & Rhett*

MAKE YOUR PLANS FOR  
THIS SATURDAY!

# Fall PICNIC

Saturday, October 24  
11:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

**Jacob & Carrie Gamble Home**  
55 Meddabrook Drive, Greenville

Park on the left side of the driveway once you enter the field.

**Candy Apple Bar**

**Tractor Ride;**

**Games & Activities;**

**Live Music**

**BBQ  
MEAT  
PROVIDED!**

**TO BRING:** Side Dish or Dessert, Lawn Chairs, Blankets, Balls/Frisbees



Happy Birthday!

O  
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- 25 Ethan Cancino, Hannah Cunningham, Christy Giusti,  
Jonah Nguyen
- 26 Rabbie Hoopes, Attee Leight, Katherine Lyon,  
Halle Perkins, Patrick Szrama
- 27 Shane Benner, Jason Korol, Joe Martin
- 28 Shelly Perkins
- 29 Rose Branigin
- 31 Margaret Atwood

# This Week

## MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips  
THE REFORMED CHURCH  
Matthew 16:13–23

## EVENING SERMON

Rev. Brendon J. Branigin  
GLORY TO GOD ALONE  
Psalm 115:1–18

### Sunday, October 25

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
- 7:30 P.M. Evangelism Committee (*Fellowship Hall*)

### Monday, October 26

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
- 9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

### Tuesday, October 27

- 7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 4 (*L. Martin Home*)

### Wednesday, October 28

- 6:30 P.M. Children's Reformation Party (*Gym*)  
*No Meal or Service this night*

### Thursday, October 29

- 9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study (*Conference Room*)
- 4:00 P.M. Media Committee (*Zoom*)

### Friday, October 30

- 9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon/Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main (*Conference Room*)

### Saturday, October 31

Daylight Saving Time Ends



Fall Back  
Change Your Clocks  
Back One Hour

# Upcoming Events

[spcgreenville.org/calendar](http://spcgreenville.org/calendar)

|                    |                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>October 24</b>  | Fall Church Picnic (Jacob Gamble Home)    |
| <b>October 28</b>  | Reformation Party (Gym)                   |
| <b>October 31</b>  | Turn Clocks Back One Hour Saturday Night! |
| <b>November 2</b>  | Diaconate Meeting                         |
| <b>November 9</b>  | Session Meeting                           |
| <b>November 15</b> | New Member Introduction & Luncheon        |
| <b>November 22</b> | Communion in the Morning Services         |

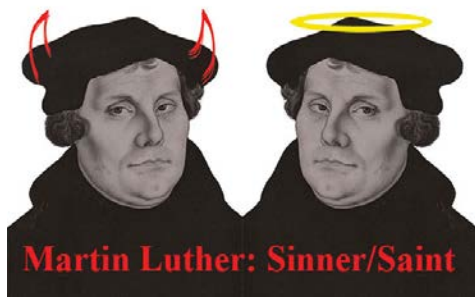
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atonement, rather than the sinner's own obedience, as the ground of his justification, which has been a sad occasion of stumbling to many."

In our own time, Clark Pinnock wonders why we cannot even embrace the notion of purgatory:

I cannot deny that most believers end their earthly lives imperfectly sanctified and far from complete. [Most? How about all!] I cannot deny the wisdom in possibly giving them an opportunity to close the gap and grow to maturity after death. Obviously, evangelicals have not thought this question out. [We have: It was called The Reformation.] It seems to me that we already have the possibility of a doctrine of purgatory. Our Wesleyan and Arminian thinking may need to be extended in this direction. Is a doctrine of purgatory not required by our doctrine of holiness?

Russell Spittler, a Pentecostal theologian at Fuller Seminary, reflects on Luther's phrase concerning justification: *simul iustus et peccator*, (simultaneously just and sinner): "But can it really be true—saint and sinner simultaneously? I wish it were so. Is this correct: 'I don't need to work at becoming. I'm already declared to be holy.' No sweat needed? It looks wrong to me. I hear moral demands in Scripture. *Simul iustus et peccator*? I hope it's true! I simply fear it's not."



*continued on page 10*

# Announcements

## Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are available on the counter outside the Church Library. Fill a box for a needy child! Gift suggestions are listed on page 10 of this newsletter. Shoeboxes should be turned in at the same location by November 18.

## Reformation Party

Our annual Reformation Party is an alternative to secular Halloween. The church offers a safe and fun-filled evening of games, activities, and treats centered on God's wonderful work in reforming the Church. This year, the Party will be held on Wednesday, October 28, beginning at 6:30 P.M. Middle and High School students volunteer to create and setup activities for the younger children.

**To prepare for this special time, please bring bags of wrapped candy or prizes and place in the decorated box at the Gym bleachers.**

## New Member Sunday

The Fall 2026 New Members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service on Sunday, November 15.



The church family and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon in our New Members' honor.

**DATE:** Sunday, November 15

**TIME:** Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service

**PLACE:** Gymnasium

**FOOD:** Meat/drinks will be provided. Please bring generous portions of sides and desserts.

The Wesleyan emphasis has always been a challenge to the evangelical faith on this point, although in his best moments Wesley insisted on this heart of the Gospel. To the extent that the consensus-builders and institutional abbots of the evangelical monasteries have attempted to incorporate Arminianism under the label “evangelical,” to that extent, it seems to me, it ceases to be evangelical indeed.

Dr. Michael Horton is professor of apologetics and theology at Westminster Seminary California (Escondido, California).



**This article will conclude in the next *The West End Herald*.**



**Please do NOT include:**

soap, food/candy/gum, toothpaste, used items, scary or war-related items, seeds or organic matter, liquids, medication, money, breakable items, matches/lighters, knives/saws/razor blades

## Shoebox Gift Suggestions

**“Wow” Item:** small backpack or purse, doll, soccer ball and pump, stuffed animal, large toy, hobby kit

**Personal Care Items:** toothbrush, washcloth, comb/brush, nail clipper/file, water bottle, flashlight

**School Supplies:** pencils/sharpener/erasers, pens, crayons, colored pencils, markers, notebooks, index cards, calculator, scissors, ruler, glue stick, drawstring bag

**Clothing & Accessories:** flip-flops, sunglasses, hat, wristwatch, T-shirt, winter cap/scarf/mittens

**Games & Activities:** puzzles, coloring books, dry watercolor set, binoculars/compass, musical instruments, chalkboard/chalk, jump rope, stickers, games

**Toys:** small ball, LEGO sets, Slinky, yo-yo, plastic animals, magnets, finger puppets, toy cars



**SPEAKER:** Sharon Phillips

**TOPIC:** Encouragement!

**BRING:** Share a dish representing your family heritage, or just a favorite recipe. (Please include allergen information.)

*In addition to your favorite dish, please consider bringing one or more of these new, unopened items for our minstry partners:*

| PIEDMONT WOMEN'S CENTER  | MIRACLE HILL SHEPHERD'S GATE |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Baby towels & washcloths | Shampoo                      |
| Newborn onesies          | Conditioner                  |
| Bibs & burp cloths       | Deoderent                    |
| Crib sheets              | Body lotion                  |

Full-sized,  
please