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The Map

Jesus calls us to follow Him, grow in union with Him, and make disciples with Him, near and far. ([Click here](#))

Join us for Sunday worship, in-person or online, at 10 AM

Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him

Matthew 4:18–22 and Luke 9:23

We often talk about "**finding Jesus**" as if He were the one who was lost, or as if faith is a spiritual mountain we have to climb all on our own. But the beauty of the Gospel is that Jesus doesn't wait for us to reach a certain peak of perfection before He speaks.

He doesn't wait for us to "**clean up our act**" or finish a theological degree. Instead, He walks right into the middle of our messy, everyday lives—into our offices, our kitchens, and our struggles—and offers a simple, life-changing command: "Follow me."

In our latest blog post, we explore what it looks like when Jesus becomes the new "**center of gravity**" in our lives. It's not about adding a religious wing to your house; it's about giving Him the keys to the front door and letting Him rearrange the furniture.

[[Click Here](#) to read the blog post.] To dive deeper into this teaching, we invite you to watch the full sermon, "Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him," preached by Pastor Paul Becker at the First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown.

[[Click Here](#) to watch the Sermon on YouTube]

This Sunday

Jesus Calls Us to Grow Together in Union with Him

John 15:1-11 and Galatians 2:20

Have you ever felt like your spiritual life was a treadmill? You're running as hard as you can—trying to be more patient, trying to pray more, trying to be a "better person"—but you're exhausted and feel like you haven't actually moved an inch.

If you're feeling spiritually winded, we have some good news for you this Sunday. We are in the third week of our series, "**Jesus Calls. We Follow!**" The Series teaches us about our church's "Call Statement." Last week, we looked at how Jesus initiates the call. This week, we're diving into the second part of our Call Statement: "**Jesus calls us to grow together in union with Him.**"

Most of us were taught that we have to grow *toward* Christ—that if we work hard enough, we might eventually reach Him. But the Gospel tells a different story. Jesus doesn't stand at the finish line shouting for you to run faster; He stands at the starting line and invites you to plug into His power.

As we'll see in John 15, we don't grow *toward* Christ; we grow *from* Christ.

Join us this Sunday at 10 AM as we move from "trying harder" to "abiding deeper." Come learn why Corrie ten Boom once said that trying to live the Christian life in your own strength is like trying to push a train—and why life changes when you realize Jesus is the engine.

See you on Sunday!

Shari Whitico Retiring!

Shari Whitico has announced her retirement from music ministry, coinciding with her husband Mike's retirement as the Finance Director for Plum Boro. Her final Sunday with us will be **March 1st**.

We thank the Lord for leading Shari to our worship ministry. Originally hired to accompany our choir and provide organ and piano music for the 11:00 AM service, Shari's role evolved beautifully as the needs of our church changed.



A Heart for Member Care

When COVID-19 suspended our public gatherings, Shari's ministry shifted from the piano and organ benches to the telephone. She volunteered to help staff make weekly "check-in" calls to members over age 70—part of an effort that resulted in reports of 838 phone calls.

Even after we returned to the sanctuary, Shari continued this mission of care. She was often the first to sign up for "Meal Trains" for members recovering from surgery or loss. Notably, she worked alongside our Member Care Deacons to provide deep, loving support for our late Member Care Minister, Elaine Stuebgen, and her husband Adam during Elaine's battle with cancer. **Shari has shown us that a true Worship Leader doesn't just lead music; they love the people they lead.**

Adapting to Change

After the pandemic, our worship transitioned to a single 10:00 AM service, with Shari stepping up to lead an ever-evolving ensemble of musicians and vocalists. Working closely with the Pastors and Communications Director, she demonstrated remarkable musical resilience. Shari went above and beyond to integrate student instrumentalists—even composing custom parts for cello and trombone—and frequently adapted her keyboard style to provide percussion when a drummer was unavailable. Her flexibility was further evident in her ability to transpose keys to support Pastor Paul during his struggles with Muscle Tension Dysphonia in his voice box, or to pivot a song's energy to match the morning's theme. Shari exercised her musical gifts with humility, consistently deferring to the guidance of the pastoral leadership.

During this season, we also saw the birth of the **New Day Choir**. While Shari's compensated hours remained the same as her original letter of hire, she consistently poured in extra time, thought, and creativity. While plans were underway for Bev Weston to take a larger role with the choir in 2026, those specific advancements are currently on hold as we navigate this transition.

Our Gratitude

Shari has graciously adapted to a "dynamically changing ministry field" despite the personal challenges of an auto-immune disorder. We have seen God's strength made perfect in her weakness, and we are better for it.

As we bid Shari a fond farewell, let us show our gratitude to God for the leaders He provides. We invite you to respond through:

- **Prayer:** For Shari and Mike in their new chapter.
- **Service:** Contributing your own time and talents to our music and care ministries.

- **Generosity:** Providing the financial means to sustain an effective ministry staff model that helps us grow together in Christ

Shari's ministry was never defined by a job description, but by the love she poured into every phone call, meal, conversation and worship service. As she and Mike transition into this new season of rest and time with family, we wish them God's richest blessings. Please take a moment over the coming weeks to share a note of thanks or a favorite memory with Shari as we celebrate the legacy she leaves behind at FPCB.

Promotion to Lieutenant Colonel



We are grateful for the men and women of our church family who serve—and have served—in our nation's Armed Forces. Today, we join Bob and Deb Schleiden in celebrating their son Derek's recent promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force.

Derek is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and has served faithfully since 2011. Over the years, he has taken on significant leadership roles, including serving as Commander of the 378th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron at Prince Sultan Air Base in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia while holding the rank of Major. His exemplary service has been recognized with the Meritorious Service Medal, a testament to his dedication and impact on mission success.

Pastor Paul had the joy of officiating Derek and Amanda's wedding, and today they are blessed with two children. We celebrate this milestone with the Schleiden family and thank God for Derek's continued service to our country.

The Week Ahead

SUN., Feb 15

Sunday Gathering (Worship)
10:00 AM
Sanctuary

MON., Feb 16

Church Office is Closed on Mondays

All Dads Bible Study*
6:00 AM

*For location contact Pastor Jeremy at collins@fpcb.org

Monday Community Bible Study @ St. Barnabas Village
Bldg. A., 5th Floor
1:45-2:45 PM

TUE., Feb 17

Tues Women's Bible Study
10:00-11:30 am
(Hebrews)
Admin bldg

Tues Adult Bible Study

TOPS
(Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)
3:30- 4:30 PM
Church Café

9:30-10:30 am
(Hebrews)
Westminster Rm

WED., Feb 18

All Moms Bible Study
9:30-11:00 AM
Westminster Rm

FRI., Feb 20

Fri Men's Bible Study
7:00 AM
Eat 'n Park, Gibsonia

SAT., Feb 21

Sat Men's Bible Study
(Hebrews)
8:30 AM
Church Café

SUN., Feb 22

Sunday Gathering
(Worship)
10:00 AM
Sanctuary

If you want information about any Bible Study, please call Linda Smith at 724-443-1555 and choose option "zero."

Please look for a Worship Email on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.
Our service begins at 10 a.m.

You may access worship directly at 9:55 a.m. by visiting:

[Sunday Livestream](#)

Please forward this email to friends.

Be sure to follow us on Youtube, Facebook, and Instagram to be up to date with everything happening at FPCB! When you come across our content please share and repost it, so that our congregation can continue to grow and increase in evangelism. To bring all glory to our Lord Jesus Christ!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

To subscribe to our emails, sign up on our website ([Click Here](#)) or call 724-443-1555.



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