



We are living in a world that questions if the Church is relevant to our lives today. But I want to tell you that the Church is essential for the Christian life and we should be doing everything we can to make our Church healthy and vibrant. We have been preaching a lot about what it means to be a Christian in today's world. It is so important that we all grasp the reason God has put us here in First Presbyterian and it is to grow His kingdom. There has to be unity and support at all levels for the ministry and the outreach of the church. Just as the early church in Acts came together, supported each other and met the needs of everyone around them, so must we as well. Our focus at FPC is that we will always be a Bible-based church and that is Christ centered. You will have heard Christy and I say often that we are 'BIG JESUS FAN!' And we are. That may seem like a silly statement but we don't say that lightly. Being a big Jesus fan is saying that everything we do and say comes from us trying to model the Jesus way to live. The Jesus way to live is all about loving each other, caring for everyone, speaking words of encouragement over people's lives and being in tune with the will of God. Church over the years has sadly been a place of harsh words, judgement and center on ourselves, not Jesus. So, here at FPC it is our

vision to build a church that welcomes the prodigals, the doubters and left behind people of our community. When Jesus called us to follow, He called us to be "Fishers of Men," which we preached about on Sunday. HE did not call us to sit by the shore and enjoy the view. No, He called us to serve, He called us to go and He called us to fish for lost souls. This is what He expects of us today, He is looking for action and He is looking for us to make a difference. Making a difference starts with his Word being the foundation for everything we do. That means us having biblical discipleship, evangelism, teaching and preaching, and fellowship at our core.

Jesus has to be the number one role model for all Christians. Each of us have a part to play but none of what we do is about us. It's

about Jesus. The Jesus that I read and know from the Bible and through my personal relationship with Him is all about love and acceptance of all people. He is the God of equality. Whatever someone's social standing, race, ethnicity, nationality, age, or gender are, they are valued by Jesus and so they must be valued by us in church. It is easy to say that we are Jesus centered but it is harder to put it into practice. It is easy to get caught up in the injustice that we see in our world and it is easier to follow the crowd than follow Jesus. When we truly follow Jesus we are swimming against the flow.

Our prayer is to see all of us to become even more in tune with Jesus throughout 2024. Jesus is calling us to "Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." We have to make it our mission to follow that call and invite others to come and see the Jesus we follow. Last Sunday we gave out our new QR Cards for you to give to people and ask them to come and check us out on our website and in person. How exciting is it to know that God has chosen us to bring His hope and His love to everyone who will listen.

