



THE Lamplighter



From Wood to Stone – Transformed in Christ

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

In Yellowstone Park, my family visited the site of this petrified tree. This ancient tree has undergone an extraordinary transformation. Over centuries, exposed to the right conditions, wood becomes petrified—stone-like and solid, no longer fragile or decaying. Though its appearance may still resemble the original tree, its very nature has changed. What once was living wood, vulnerable to rot and wear, is now a durable fossil, preserved and transformed.



This transformation can serve as a powerful illustration of what happens in the life of someone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Petrified wood begins as ordinary timber, subject to decay and the elements. But when buried under layers of sediment and exposed to mineral-rich water, it slowly changes. Cell by cell, the organic material is replaced by minerals like quartz. Though it looks like wood, it has become stone—preserved, strengthened, and made new.

Likewise, before Christ, our lives were subject to the decay of sin, vulnerability, and spiritual death. Ephesians 2:1 reminds us, ***“You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.”*** Without Christ, we are spiritually lifeless, wearing a mask of vitality but headed toward eternal separation from God.

But when we encounter the living water—Jesus Christ (John 4:14)—the transformation begins. Like mineral-rich water flowing through buried wood, the Holy Spirit begins to fill the believer, replacing old patterns, cleansing sin, and slowly reshaping the heart. Unlike petrification, which takes centuries, the spiritual rebirth begins in an instant of surrender and continues throughout a believer’s life.

Romans 12:2 tells us, ***“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”*** Transformation in Christ is not a surface-level change. It’s not a behavior adjustment or a temporary fix—it is a deep, foundational change. The “wood” of our old self—our selfishness, fears, pride—is replaced by the solid “stone” of a new identity in Christ: forgiven, redeemed, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.



Continued

Petrified wood can no longer be destroyed by rot or eaten by insects. Similarly, the person who belongs to Jesus is no longer subject to the power of sin and death. Romans 6:6 says, ***“Our old self was crucified with Him... so that “We would no longer be enslaved to sin.”***

The beauty of petrified wood lies in its preservation, strength, and new identity. The beauty of a life in Christ is even greater, a living testimony to the grace of God, a soul no longer dead in sin but alive forever.

Let us walk in this newness, allowing the Spirit to transform us continually. As 2 Corinthians 3:18 states, ***“We are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory.”*** From wood to stone, from death to life—this is the miracle of grace.

Grover Duling – CBC Executive Board Chairman**

Starting Sunday, September 7, we will be returning to regular hours for our Sunday morning worship service starting at 11 AM.



**national
GRANDPARENTS
DAY
September 7**



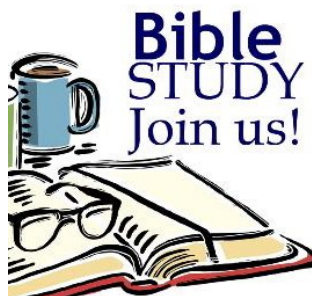
COME AND GET IT!!

There will be a Chicken- N- Biscuit Dinner on Saturday, October 11 at the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving 4-7 PM.

Wednesday afternoon Bible study will begin on September 3 at 1 PM.

We will be studying the book of Ephesians.

Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend.



Samaritan's Purse Shoe-boxes:

We are collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. For the month of September we will be collecting school supplies for our shoeboxes. If you wish to donate items, you may put them in the box in the main vestibule. Monetary donations are accepted at any time throughout the year also. Envelopes are available in the vestibule.



YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, September 14 from 10 AM -7 PM. Don't forget to take your flyer so that our youth can receive 20% of your total check. Additional flyers in the vestibule.



Hello Brothers and Sisters of Region Three,

Wow! It is hard to believe that it is the middle of August, soon our kids will be back in school, and our hearts will turn toward Fall.

I want to write to all the churches, with the hope that you are looking forward to October 4 and our region's Annual Meeting. I am looking forward to being this year's Moderator with our central theme for this year coming from, **Psalm 27:8 (NKJV)** *"When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."*

And **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)** *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

This is certainly something that we all need to do each day in our lives. And the Regions should be doing as well. With these two scriptures it is my hope that we do this with sincerity in our hearts. And as we do this God would reveal to us His heart.

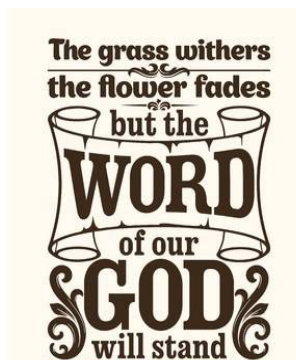
So, over these next few weeks what I would love for all of us to do is to pray with open and sincere hearts for the guidance through the Holy Spirit as a Denomination as well as a Region.

Please make sure that you have registered for the meeting. So, that we can make plans and preparations.

Have great rest of the summer, be blessed, and remain in Jesus seeking that what he wants for your life.

Donald Peters

Moderator Region Three



We will resume our monthly board meetings starting Monday, September 8.

Commissions will meet at 6:30 PM and the full board will meet at 7 PM. Please don't forget to turn in your reports to the church office by Wednesday, September 3.



1st National CBC Women's Conference:

Theme : A Praise and Worship Life

October 10 & 11, 2025 at Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA with guest speakers Karen Grossnickle and Pastora Libia Gutierrez. \$40 per person Register at the Covenant Brethren Church website: covenantbrethren.org



Come and make a joyful noise by being part of the Choir! Practice will begin on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 PM. Anyone is welcome to join the choir.



The following ministries will resume on Sunday, September 7: Sunday school for Adults and Children begins at 9:45 AM

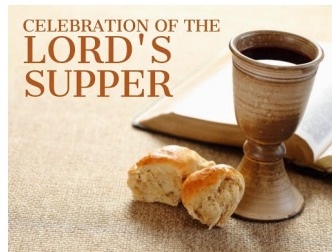
Pioneer Club & Youth Group 6 PM

Final Fridays Book Club for September:

The book for September is **The Gathering Table by The Gingham Apron**. You are welcome to attend the Final Fridays Book Club for this book on Friday, September 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the home of Laura Wingard-Plank at 415 East Main Street, Worthington.



On Saturday, October 18, we will hold our annual church picnic at Ingram Park at 452 Troy Hill Road in Kittanning. Please bring a covered dish to share, a lawn chair, bats, balls, gloves to participate in a baseball game, or any other sports equipment to have a good time. Come and join in the fun with the games and activities. Everyone is invited. More details are



CELEBRATION OF THE
LORD'S SUPPER

**LOVE FEAST WILL BE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
STARTING AT 7 PM.**

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!**



*Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
as God in Christ
forgave you.*

[Ephesians 4:32]

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