

THIS WEEK@PCPC  
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PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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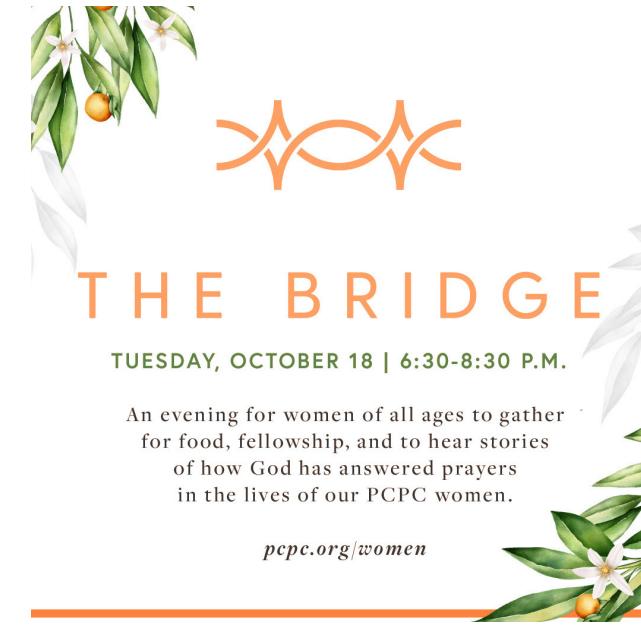
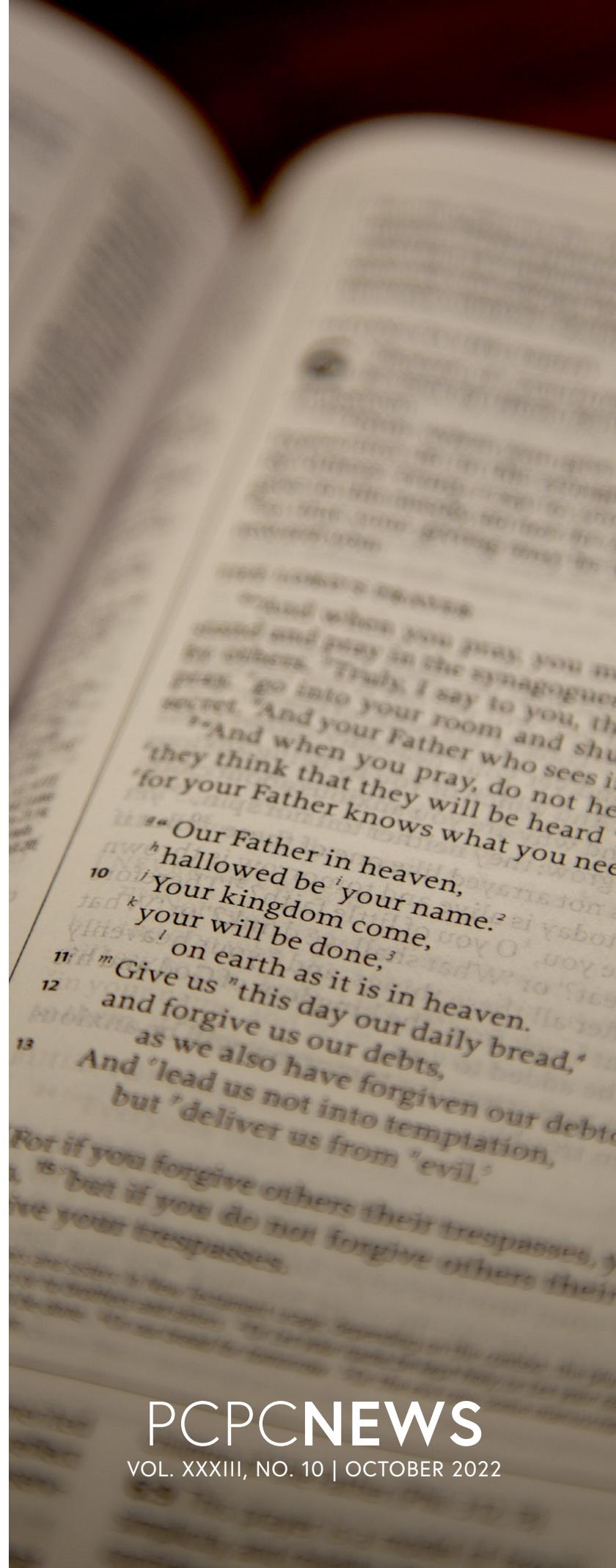
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SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.  
24/7 PRAYER HOTLINE: 214-224-2680 or  
24/7prayer@pcpc.org

PCPC NEWS  
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## CONNECT, ABIDE, & EXTEND

### SECOND GRADE BIBLES

OCTOBER 2 | 8:30 – 10:30 A.M. | THE LOFT (LEVEL TWO)

The Elementary Ministry invites all second graders and their families to this special occasion at PCPC where they will receive their name-engraved Bible during a special ceremony. A continental-style breakfast will be available for participating families starting at 8:30 a.m. After the Bible ceremony, all second graders and their families are encouraged to attend the 9:30 a.m. worship service where the students will be recognized for this significant milestone. The cost is \$25.00, which includes an engraved Bible and breakfast for the family.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### MISSIONARY MAILINGS

OCTOBER 2 | 12:30 P.M. | COURTYARD

Please join us to support our missionaries with notes of encouragement and love in the courtyard, weather permitting. Lunch will be provided.

[emily.leonard@pcpc.org](mailto:emily.leonard@pcpc.org)

### THE BRIDGE: WHAT'S HER STORY?

OCTOBER 18 | 6:30 P.M. | MEZZANINE A (LEVEL TWO)

Join us at The Bridge for an evening with women of all ages. We will gather for food and fellowship and then hear from a panel of three women who will tell their experiences with the Lord through prayer and how God answered specific requests in their lives.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### THE HOPE OF ISRAEL

OCTOBER 21, 28 & NOVEMBER 4 | 10:00 A.M. | CLASSROOM 8 (LOWER LEVEL)

Discovering Jesus, the Messiah, in the Hebrew Scripture will be our quest in the fall Bible study by Ron Williams and the Senior Adult Ministry.

[jane.beasley@pcpc.org](mailto:jane.beasley@pcpc.org)

### FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 23 | 4:00 P.M. | COURTYARD

Bring your chair or blanket and join us! Identical twins and bluegrass group, The Purple Hulls, will perform gospel and bluegrass favorites followed by the annual presentation of the Pumpkin Gospel and dinner immediately afterward. The concert is free. Dinner is \$10.00.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### EQUIPPING GRANDPARENTS LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 30 | 12:30 P.M. | OAK LAWN WEST

Helping your grandchildren navigate our culture's hot issues while getting biblically equipped to discuss their world. Hosted by Dr. Pete Deison.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 6 - Young Adult State Fair Night
- Oct. 9 - Church in the City Luncheon
- Oct. 13 - Senior Adult State Fair Day
- Oct. 16 - Young Adult Fall Dinner
- Oct. 26 - High School Gathering
- Nov. 5 - Helping Hands Serve Day
- Nov. 6 - All-Church Prayer

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

# ALWAYS PRAY & NEVER GIVE UP

*And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"*

Luke 18:1-8

What can we learn from a strange story about a wicked judge and a hopeless widow? Jesus presents a judge without a moral compass and a widow without a righteous advocate. This judge can be bought, but this woman has neither the power nor the possessions to play the game. In the end, the wicked judge grants the widow her request for justice because she keeps bothering him, and he's tired of it. The parable leaves most of us shaking our heads: "Wait, Jesus, what did you just say?" On the surface, it seems like the key to prayer is our persistence. If we just keep knocking, eventually God will be so annoyed that he'll open the door and give us what we want. "Wait Jesus, I thought you said you were willing to teach us to pray. Is this really how it works?"

Before we punt the parable, let's be honest. Do we ever think that God isn't doing the right thing in our lives and in the world? If so, we may be viewing the Father as an unrighteous judge. Do we ever feel like we are hopeless and alone, without an advocate to plead our case? If so, we may be viewing ourselves as widows instead of the bride of Christ. Do we ever live like the answers to our prayers depend on us? If so, we may be underwhelmed by the Spirit who intercedes for us. In the parable Jesus actually exposes our inadequate views of God and our misdirected approaches to prayer. The widow persists, and the judge yields, but the power of the parable lies in the contrast between the characters in the story and the God who tells it.

First, God is not an unrighteous judge. His justice is not capricious. He has a moral compass. He is the compass. The Lord is True North. His justice does not wait for His people to bother Him until He gives in. No, His justice rolls down like waters in His perfect timing. His justice is not impersonal or unloving. What could be more personal and loving than the cross? "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). When we pray, we're approaching a God who is holy, righteous, and loving. We shouldn't feel like we're wrestling Him for something that we care about but He doesn't. He is our Creator and our Redeemer, and He has promised to make all things new. How would our prayer life change if we truly saw God as a loving Father and not a wicked judge?

Second, we are not widows! If we are in Christ, we are His beloved bride. We are not orphans either! If we are in Christ, we are beloved children of our Father in heaven. Though we may not feel it, we are never alone. He is always with us. And though we may doubt it, we never lack an advocate. Jesus Christ lives to intercede for us. When we see the contrast between the characters in the parable and the relationship believers have with the Lord, we should be greatly encouraged. So what is Jesus saying? If this widow can get justice by bothering a wicked judge who doesn't love God or people, how much more should God's beloved people expect to get justice from Him? He loves us. He wants to hear from us. He wants to answer us. He intends for His kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. Prayer is not about us and our persistence. It's about the Lord and His presence, promises, and power. As we embrace who He is and who we are in Him, we will persist in prayer, and we will do so with the right motive. Because of who He is and what He has done for us, we should always pray and not lose heart.

by Robby Higginbottom



## EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE

Every Friday morning we send out a reflection on the most recent Sunday sermon as a way to bring our worship and meditation through to the end of the week. Sign up today to receive the Every Thought Captive email.

[etcdevo.org](http://etcdevo.org)



## ABIDE - A PRAYER BOOK

This prayer book is an invitation to abide in Christ. The thirty days of morning and evening prayers aim to create a practice that deepens and enriches life in the presence of God. Scan the QR code to download a free PDF.

[pcpc.org/resources](http://pcpc.org/resources)

