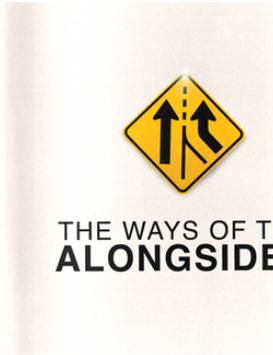


# PARKSIDE NEWS

Love God. Love People. Help Others Do The Same.

## UPCOMING TEACHING SERIES



THE WAYS OF THE ALONGSIDER

Disciple is a word that we use to refer to Jesus' followers. It doesn't just refer to His closest group of followers, though. In His last conversation with His followers, He told them to go and make all people disciples. We are supposed to become disciples of Jesus who help others follow Jesus too.

That word, Disciple, also means to be a student. So, the picture Jesus draws for us is each of us being His student and at the same time, teaching others to be students of Jesus, too. Many of us have the desire to be a student of Jesus. We know He has a lot to teach us. There aren't many of us, though, that feel like we have what it takes to teach others about Him. Jesus would disagree. He wants us to come alongside people in life in simple ways to share simple truths about him. If we do that, we can become followers of Jesus who lead others to follow Him, too. Join us throughout the month of January to discover The Ways of the Alongsider.

### A LOOK AT THIS ISSUE

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<i>Parkside Kids &amp; Students</i>	6
<i>Local &amp; Global Missions</i>	7

## QUICK CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 1 **New Year's Day - Service at 11a**  
*In-person & online*
- 4 **First Wednesday Worship**
- 6 **Pickleball Night**
- 15 **The Ways of the Alongsider Class**

## REMINDER

There will only be one service on New Year's Day at 11a. Experience the service in-person or online via the [Parkside Christian Church Facebook Page](#).

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

In-Person: 9:30a & 11a  
Online: 9:30a (via the Parkside Facebook page)



## PARKSIDE OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
9a-4p

Need in the building outside of those hours? Call ahead to make arrangements: 513.231.9482

# PARKSIDE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS | UPDATES | GROUP LIFE

## LETTER FROM MATT ROBINSON, LEAD MINISTER

Hey Parkside,

Recently, I asked my Morning Men's Group as we studied through the Gospel of Luke together, "When Jesus talks about salt, what do you think he means?" Before getting to the heart of the matter, somebody cracked a joke about their doctor telling them to reduce salt in their diet which quickly illicited groans from the rest of the group.

The passage we were discussing was Luke 14:34-35. It reads, "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." Salt was a highly valuable commodity in Jesus' time because of its ability to preserve foods among other reasons. But if it lost its ability or essence, it was no different than dust or dirt.

I followed up by asking my group if they were salty. Where do you bring flavor to life? What abilities has God given you? As a community, all of us at Parkside brings a different flavor or ability that helps others experience God. It's our purpose to use that gift for others.

I am so thankful that the guys in my group are all salty guys. They encourage me, they serve their community in simple but deeply meaningful ways. And they are always ready for a good laugh. In every season they are ready to bring the love of God into every room they enter.

Here's my question for you though, "How are you salty?" What abilities has God given you? And how are you using them to serve others. Let's not lose our saltiness, because God wants us to bring the flavor of heaven into every moment we can.

In Christ,  
Matt Robinson



# PARKSIDE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS | UPDATES | GROUP LIFE

## The Ways of the Alongsider Class

Jan 15 - Mar 12 • 11a

Do you ever have this feeling like God wants you to help someone but you just don't know how? The Way of The Alongsider discussion group might be what you need. Starting Sunday, January 15th at 11:00 a.m. in room 202/204 (The Genesis Room) we'll be starting a 10 week discussion on how God can use us to come along side of another and help them in their journey toward God. For more information or to join the discussion contact Randy Adams at [randy.adams@parksidechristian.com](mailto:randy.adams@parksidechristian.com)

## FIRST WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

January 4 • 10:30a

Start the new year off with us at First Wednesday Worship! Join us as we sing familiar worship songs from the past and present. Tom Gaiser will present an inspiring message from God's Word. If you are available on Wednesday mornings, you are welcome at First Wednesday Worship. You can also watch the service via the Parkside Facebook Page.

## GREEN GIVING DOTS

To give to Parkside via cash or check, or to submit a prayer request card, visit any of the Green Giving Dots located at the back of the Worship Center.

## Pickleball Night

January 6 • 6:30-8:30p

Join us for Parkside Pickleball! No experience required. Bring your friends and family (high school and up) for a fun evening out! For more info, visit [parksidechristian.com/events](http://parksidechristian.com/events)

## BIBLES AVAILABLE IN SERVICES

Need a Bible during Sunday service? Visit one of the black tables at the back and side of the Worship Center to pick up a Bible - feel free to borrow or keep!

## Parkside Resources

We have recently updated our Care page on the Parkside website to include counseling resources, support groups, prayer requests, and other crisis resources. Please check it out at [parksidechristian.com/care](http://parksidechristian.com/care)

## Campus Hosts Needed

Are you looking for an opportunity to make money and work at the church? We are looking for Campus Hosts as we enter January. We offer competitive pay and an opportunity to serve the Lord by simply being present at the church for evening activities. If interested, please reach out to Denver Young ([denver@parksidechristian.com](mailto:denver@parksidechristian.com)).

## Interested in a trip to the Holy Land Trip?

Interested in a trip to the Holy Land Trip? Tom & Charlene Gaiser led our last trip to the Holy Land in January of 2020. It was a rewarding time for those who went. There were several who could not go at that time expressed interest if another trip was planned. Tom would like to test the waters to see if the possibility of another trip is feasible. If you are interested in going to the Holy Land in February or early March of 2024, please contact Tom ([thomasgaiser67@gmail.com](mailto:thomasgaiser67@gmail.com)) or Charlene by the end of January of 2023.

## Condolences

Please lift up in prayer the following who have recently lost loved ones. Our deepest sympathies go out to:

- Dale Howell and family on the loss of his mother, Barbara, on November 28th.
- Josh Benner's grandmother, Janet Benner, passed away on November 15th.

# PARKSIDE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS | UPDATES | GROUP LIFE

## Sunday Morning Groups Sundays

Interested in going deeper with God? Then consider attending one of our Sunday morning adult Bible Study Groups. You can attend a worship service and be a part of a group all in one morning.

9:30 a.m. Groups

- Genesis Class – Room 202/204
- The Open Door Class – Cambridge Room
- Studies in Scripture – Heritage Rooms A & B
- The Legacy Class – Heritage Room C

11:00 a.m. Groups

- Experiencing God Class – Room 202/204
- The Thomas Class – Cambridge Room
- The Utopian Class – Heritage Rooms A & B

## Ladies Bible Study Mondays & Thursdays

Ladies of Parkside, join us for our upcoming Ladies Bible Study! Two classes will be offered:

1. Joyce Flora will lead one on Thursday mornings, starting January 5th at 10:00 AM until 11:30 PM.
2. Stacey Meyer will lead another on Monday evenings, starting January 9th - 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM.

We will be studying Jen Wilkin's "God Of Freedom", a study of Exodus 19-40. Books will be available for purchase of \$25 at the first class.

If you have any questions, please call Joyce Flora at 513-967-1794 or Stacey Meyer at 513-218-2012.

## GriefShare

**Mondays • 6:30-8p**

Parkside's GriefShare group meets each Monday evenings in the Fireside Room. The GriefShare program is set up so a person can join at anytime.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, please consider participating in this helpful support group. If you have any questions, contact Mary Meredith, Peggy Elliott, or Randy Shivers. For more information, visit [parksidechristian.com/events](http://parksidechristian.com/events)

## Men's Healthy Sexuality

**Wednesdays • 7p**

Struggling with sexual purity and looking for help? Come find community and healing in the Men's Healthy Sexuality Open Group. This group is always accepting new members and is available for men 18 and older that are struggling with sexual issues like pornography, infidelity, etc. and provides a support community and tools for working through those issues. No registration needed. Questions: Email Brandon Thomas ([bthomas.personal@gmail.com](mailto:bthomas.personal@gmail.com))

## Grace Group

**Thursdays • 6:30p**

Are you or someone you know struggling with mental health issues? If so, please join us for our first support group/study that will help with the tools needed to help you live the life God intended for you. For more info or to sign up, visit [parksidechristian.com/ministries/group-life](http://parksidechristian.com/ministries/group-life)

**For more information about these groups or to view all current Parkside group offerings, visit [parksidechristian.com/groups](http://parksidechristian.com/groups)**

# PARKSIDE SPOTLIGHT

## "A LOVING VOICE" BY RANDY ADAMS

"Many times over the years I've read and heard church experts describe the American Church as a "frog in a kettle." The illustration tells us that if you drop a frog in a kettle of boiling water it will jump out immediately in reaction to the pain. On the other hand, if you put the frog in water that is room temperature, slowly heating it, the frog will remain in the kettle and eventually cook to death. This is a good time to revisit the idea in light of the recent events that signal the decline of Christianity in our nation.

Not long ago, a Newsweek Magazine cover story featured research about the decline of Christianity in America. In the article titled, "The End of Christian America," Jon Meacham commented extensively on the implications of the recent results of the American Religious Identification Survey. Two core facts that have arrested everyone's attention are the findings that the percentage of self-identified Christians has fallen 10 percentage points since 1990 and the number of people willing to describe themselves as atheist or agnostic has increased about fourfold from 1990 to 2009.

Also in the news we found a riveting article in the Christian Science Monitor by Michael Spencer titled "The Coming Evangelical Collapse." This thoughtful article predicts that within 10 years there will be an accelerated collapse of Evangelical influence coupled with an open hostility toward Christians by our securely and religiously antagonistic culture.

During a speech in Turkey, our president boldly described the United States as a secular nation and not a Christian nation. Clearly this signals a firm definition of our nation as a people no longer identified by strong Christian roots or values.

While people of faith are certainly not disappearing from the landscape of America, the trends certainly tell us that the water is getting hotter around the frog.

It is important that we understand that the water in which the frog is cooking is not the culture. The danger to the frog is not secularism, liberalism, or atheism. To believe this is to conclude that these worldviews are more powerful than the message of the cross.

I believe the water in which we are boiling is our own spiritual apathy, missional indifference, and prayerless irrelevance. In essence, the frog stands in danger of boiling in its own water. Just as Jesus warned some of the churches in Revelation chapters 2 & 3 about their precarious spiritual condition, we too must recognize our own need to take responsibility for the situation.

I believe the American Church must seriously "hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches" (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). Just as Christ's words to the seven churches of Revelation brought a stern wake-up call and, in some cases, words of comfort - so we need to try to understand His heart for our present condition in our nation.

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE READING](#)

# PARKSIDE SPOTLIGHT

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As we reflect on the objective findings of these recent studies we should carefully consider our response. What is more, we should see the data as merely symptomatic of even deeper concerns about our spiritual substance in the American church. Many of us have observed over many years the growing conformity to the world's practices and a business-oriented approach to ministry. We've had concerns that we are depending more on methods, technology, and human skill than on the power of the Spirit and the Word of God. We've observed our prayer-deprived congregations, knowing that at some point it would catch up to us. The water of our apathy has slowly come to a boil and it is imperative that we recognize it and act in obedience to the Spirit.

# PARKSIDE SPOTLIGHT

## "A LOVING VOICE" BY RANDY ADAMS

I often say that the problem in our nation is not the pervasiveness of the darkness but the failure of the light. If darkness is advancing it is because the light is failing. Speaking to the churches in Revelation, Jesus repeatedly gave the command, "Repent or else" (Revelation 2:5, 16, 21, 21; 3:3, 19). My prayer is that the current state of affairs will motivate us all to turn from our self-reliance and self-satisfaction. My prayer is that God will allow us to turn from everything that might encourage our faith to rest on the wisdom of man rather than the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Jesus called the church at Ephesus that had left their first love to return to their first works (Revelation 2:5). He urged the church at Sardis to wake up from their dead state and to strengthen what remained (Revelation 3:3). He appealed to the lukewarm church at Laodicea to open the door of their lives to the presence of Christ and exchange their self-sufficiency for His best gifts (Revelation 3:17-20). At all costs, we too must sense His call to spiritual resurgence and genuine renewal during these crucial days.

Jesus challenged the churches in the book of Revelation to overcome, and offered them abundant promises if they did. I am mindful of John the Apostle's words in 1 John 5:4-5: "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" Of course, at this Easter season we are especially mindful of the fact that Jesus the Son of God reigns in resurrection power and is desirous to manifest that power through a dependent people.

I am hopeful that these present times will motivate the truly regenerate Christ followers to overcome in faith. I am also persuaded that many who have attached themselves to the church in America in a spirit of convenience or entertainment will fall by the wayside.

Finally, I am reminded of Christ's story of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8 who serves as an example of His command that we should always pray, and not lose heart (v. 1). At the end of that passage He asks a penetrating and truly relevant question: "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" In context, this faith is marked by a persevering prayerfulness.

These are the times that challenge us to consider the seriousness of that question and, by grace, to respond with a resounding "yes." May the Lord find us always praying, persevering, and trusting that the overcoming power of faith in His Gospel and His presence within us will make the difference in these defining moments for our lives, families, and nation."

Copied from an article by Daniel Henderson, [www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com), Oct, 2022

Personal note: I believe we are living in historic times. Times where Christ, living in and through us, wants us to be His salt and light in this world. Jesus calls us to be His ministers of reconciliation and His ambassadors. He calls us to step up and step out in sacrificial love toward all people, to share His message of love, hope, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation. We are living in a time where good is called evil and evil is called good. So we must take a stand for the truth and stand against the evil that is all around us. We can no longer be frogs in the kettle. We need to strap on God's armor and boldly yet lovingly stand for His truth. We need to clearly stand against such things as abortion, sexual immorality in all its various forms, pride, selfishness, greed, violence, and all the many other things that God says is sinful, evil, thus harmful to us. Will you join me in jumping out of the kettle and repenting of our silence, apathy, and complacency? Special thanks to Bill Meredith who has lovingly shown me my own apathy and complacency and as iron sharpening iron has spurred me on to take a stand for Christ and His word.  
Randy Adams



## PARKSIDE KIDS NEWS

### Curriculum



Parkside Kids will be digging into Epic Teachings of the Bible from Group curriculum, starting with the Fruits of the Spirit in January. For more information about this new curriculum, click [HERE](#).

### Memory Verse

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" Galatians 5:22-23

### Parkside Playdates

January 5 & 19 • 9:30 - 11:30a

Parkside Playdates continues to meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month from 9:30-11:30a in the playroom. Playdates provides parents the opportunity to get to know each other a little more while kids play.



### CIY Superstart

Superstart is a fun ministry event for 5th & 6th graders where they will grow in their relationships with each other, leaders and with God. It will be March 17-18 at Lakeside Christian Church with a sleepover at Parkside. Cost is \$40 & spots are limited so email Lindsey if interested!

### Volunteer!

If you're looking for a way to impact others for Christ, kids ministry has constant needs! We are always looking for helpers, teachers, and those interested in being a buddy to a kid with extra needs, email Lindsey submit an application [HERE](#).



## STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

### House Groups

January 8 • 6-7:30p

Sunday, January 8th we will meet at leaders' houses for a fun night of fellowship and service. We will still meet from 6:00-7:30. There will be snacks at each house.

High School Girls:  
Phillips' House  
1269 Immaculate Ln  
Cincinnati OH 45255

High School Guys:  
Stagnaros' House  
456 Green Rd.  
Cincinnati OH 45255

### Sunday School Bible Study

January 8 • 9:30a

Parkside Students Sunday School Bible Studies will be starting back up with the book of 2 Timothy on Jan. 8. Meet in the west gym at 9:30a.

### Passion Conference

Please be praying for a group of young adults heading to the Passion Conference on January 3rd-5th in Atlanta. Pray for safe travels, energy for the busy few days, and for the young adults to be ready to learn at the conference.

## LOCAL & GLOBAL OUTREACH

### LOCAL MISSIONS



#### Back2Back Ministries

Back2Back Cincinnati exists to love and care for orphans and impoverished children, by meeting their physical, spiritual, educational, social, and emotional needs so that they might overcome their life circumstances and break free from the cycle of generational poverty. Back2Back partners with other organizations in the city to provide tutoring, mentoring, coaching, and other programming for children and teens. Back2Back also partners with organizations to provide trauma informed care training for staff and volunteers.

#### Mission Prayer Partners

It's that time again where we need to assign prayer partners for each of Parkside's 22 Mission Partners. If you are willing to pray for one of Parkside's partners for the next 4 months (January-April), and contact them a few times during those 4 months (you will be given guidelines and contact information), please let Bridget Phillips know (bridget\_phillips@hotmail.com). Perhaps this is YOUR time to make that commitment! Prayer assignments by the end of December for anyone willing to commit to pray.

### INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

#### Mekong Multiply

Click [here](#) to view Mekong Multiply Updates.

#### Mission Updates

To receive regular updates from various Parkside Mission partners, click [here](#).

#### TCI Update (Ukraine)

Click [HERE](#) to view an update on the city of Kherson where TCI's school campus was located before the war. This video is especially powerful because it was made with the video equipment that the Parkside team brought to Ukraine. Please continue praying and supporting TCI in this season.

#### Mission Trip Interest

Have you ever been on an international mission trip? Does the idea of serving alongside one of our mission partners excite you? We would love to hear from you if you are interested in a short-term mission trip. Please complete the this form and let us know both your interests and skill set. We want to support our partners in every way possible, and a short term trip can be of huge encouragement!

[CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT A MISSION TRIP INTEREST FORM](#)

