The Shift: From Religion to Relationship Beyond the Metrics

Christianity isn't a philosophy to study—it's a Person to follow. It isn't a religion; it's a relationship. If we want to grow in our faith, we have to move past "church metrics". The goal is for us to be known by two things: how we love others and how we submit to Jesus. This is "radical discipleship."

1. The Core: What Surrender Actually Looks Like

Surrender is a word we usually associate with losing, but in faith, it's how we win. It's not about being passive or weak; it's a courageous act of trust. It's saying, "I trust God's blueprint more than my own." Read Philippians 4:4-9 for the blueprint.

Drop the Rope: Stop the tug-of-war for control. Surrender is "Jesus, take the wheel" in real life. It's trading your fear for His faith.

The Vine and the Branch (John 15): Jesus described our relationship like a vine and its branches. If the branch stays connected, it grows fruit automatically. If it breaks away to do its own thing, it withers. Real faith isn't just knowing facts about Jesus; it's living side-by-side..

2. The "Death" of the Ego (Dying to Self)

Jesus dropped a paradox on us: To find your life, you have to lose it (Matthew 16:24-25). "Dying to self" sounds intense, but it's actually about restoration. It's not erasing your personality; it's fixing it. It means your old habits, your pride, and your need to be right are "crucified" so that Christ's character can live through you.

It's Daily: Luke 9:23 says we do this daily. It's a morning-by-morning decision to put His agenda over yours.

The Seed Metaphor: A seed is just a tiny, hard speck until it "dies" in the ground. Only then does it explode into a harvest (John 12:24). Your potential is locked inside your surrender.

3. Practical Steps: How Do We Do This?·

Be Brutally Honest in Prayer: Stop praying "religiously." Talk to God like you talk to a friend. If you're struggling, tell Him. If you're angry, vent. The best prayers happen when you are actually you.

Master the Wait (The David Strategy): Young David was anointed to be King, but spent years running. He trusted God's timing. If you're in a waiting season, it isn't wasted time—it's training time.

4. The Result: What's In It For You?

When you finally stop trying to fix everything yourself, things change:

Unshakable Peace: Anxiety is replaced by a calm that doesn't make sense to the rest of the world (Philippians 4:7).

Real Freedom: We think freedom is doing whatever we want. It's not. Real freedom is being liberated from the pressure to perform, the need for recognition, and the weight of carrying your own burdens.

Conclusion: The Bottom Line - Daily Surrender

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ROCHELLE

October 18, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 CALVIN ROAD // ROCHELLE, IL 61068
PHONE: 815-562-7053 WEB: PLACEFORGRACE.COM

Welcome

October 18, 2026 - 9:00am

Welcome and Announcements - Bob Cartwright

Time of Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship (from Psalm 34:3; 95:1) - Bob Cartwright
Leader: Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
All: let us exalt the name of the Lord together.
Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord;
All: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Leader: Let us together now worship the God of the Trinity.

Song: How Great Thou Art

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
Almighty and merciful Father, we have erred from your ways. Like lost sheep, we have our own desires. We have done things we ought not to have done, and have left undone those things which we ought to have done. Have mercy, Lord. Spare us from your Holy and Righteous wrath, that we deserve. Though Your punishment is the consequence of our sinfulness, our confessing our faults restores your promises, declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. We will find it to be unproductive and meaningless if our will is set against your holy laws. Grant our prayer to hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Song: I Surrender All

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9, 13; John 13:35; Hebrews 13:5-6

Sermon: "Why Lord and Savior? Living in the Lordship of the God of Peace"

Song: We Bow Down/I Exalt Thee

Prayers of the People - Deb Schiller

Offering and Doxology - Deb Schiller

Song: Revelation Song

Blessing

LIBRARY NEWS

NEWLY PURCHASED BOOKS

Several Fiction:

• Conspiracy (#3 of A Sanctuary Novel) – Colleen Coble
• The Lumber Baron's Wife – Lynn Austin
• The Dog Thal Talked to God – Jim Kraus
• The Cat That God Sent – Jim Kraus
• Where We Belong: An Orphan Train Novel
• Welcome to the Honey B & B – Melody Carlson
• Shattered (#2 A Vanished Novel) – David Jeremiah
• Harbor Point(#12 A Hope Harbor Novel) – Irene Hannon

Christian Living Sections:

• If The Tree Could Speak – Tim Tebow
• Stop in the Name of God: Why Honoring the Sabbath Will Transform Your Life - Charlie Kirk
• More Than a Carpenter – Josh McDowell/Sean McDowell
• St. Patrick – William Federer (Biography)
• What Every American Needs to Know About the Quran – William Federer
• Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade – Chapman & other authors (Book on Alzheimer's)
• The Caregiving Season – Jane Daly (Book on Dementia)
• The Aging Brain – Timothy Jennings (Book on Dementia)

That's not all. We have more books coming in, including an order for Christmas Books. Enjoy!

The Library Committee

Please join us in prayer. Every Sunday at 8:30 in the prayer room a group meets to lift our church in prayer as we go through this time of transition. We are asking God for His will, His way and His almighty favor. Stop in to hold our church in prayer.

Jeremiah 29:12 You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

Operation Christmas Child Prayer Walk

Join us for a prayer walk on October 24th from 10:30-Noon

Jarrett Prairie Preserve
7993 N River Road, Byron

10:30-11:30 Prayer Walk Stations
11:30-12:00 Light lunch and activities related to our assigned prayer countries

Please call Pam Phelps, Prayer Coordinator to verify attendance

815-238-6649

What a wonderful birthday weekend filled with family, friends, fun and delicious food! Thank you, each and every one for the birthday cards, wishes and kind words. I am truly feeling blessed!
Sue Sevedge

CHURCH *calendar*

SUNDAY, October 18
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Adult Ed, Sunday School
4:00 p.m. Tres Dias Closing
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Chunko Small Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, October 19
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Grp

TUESDAY, October 20
7:00 p.m. Deacons & Committees

WEDNESDAY, October 21
11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 a.m. Choir
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

THURSDAY, October 22
7:00 a.m. Kiwanis
4:00 p.m. 2-5th Grade Youth Group

SATURDAY, October 24
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SUNDAY, October 25
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Adult Ed, Sunday School
4:00 p.m. Tres Dias Closing
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Chunko Small Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 Calvin Road
Rochelle, Illinois 61068
815-562-7053

Interim Pastor - Mark Hughey
Pastoral Care - Xav Valdivieso
Office Coordinator/DCE - Sara Slattengren
Secretary/Receptionist - Midge Berg
Financial Secretary - Karen Hauck

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Office Hours: M-Th 9a-4p
Fri 9a-12Noon

For our Joint Mission Trip in March with New Hope Church to Honduras, the team is hosting a chili cookoff. Please come and enjoy! We have 6 Presby. team members : Chris Hickey, Jeana & Xav Valdivieso, Rachel Thorson, Brad Chapman and Callie Ackland

This summer, one of the things our youth group students asked to do was a service project to honor the first responders in our community. This past week both our 2-5th grade and middle school youth groups worked on putting together treat baggies for several local departments. They made 150 baggies and colored/wrote note cards to go with them!

These kids are thankful for the first responders and their service! The treat bags will be going to : Rochelle Police Department, Rochelle Fire Department, RCH ER, Winnebago Detectives and DeKalb Detectives.
(Jared Burke is a DeKalb detective and Ben Valdivieso is a Winnebago detective so we would love to honor their service in this small way)