

PRITCHARD CHURCH MESSENGER

MARCH 2026 | VOLUME 61 | ISSUE 3

In 1951 H. Richard Niebuhr wrote a book entitled "Christ and Culture" and in that book Niebuhr discussed some of the primary ways that Christians have understood the relationship between the Jesus of the Bible and the culture his followers find themselves surrounded by.

Niebuhr believed there were five "types" of interaction and understanding from Christians regarding Christ and culture: Christ against culture, Christ above culture, Christ of culture, Christ and culture in paradox, and Christ transforming culture. Each mindset and interaction has some validity and some scriptural and historical basis.

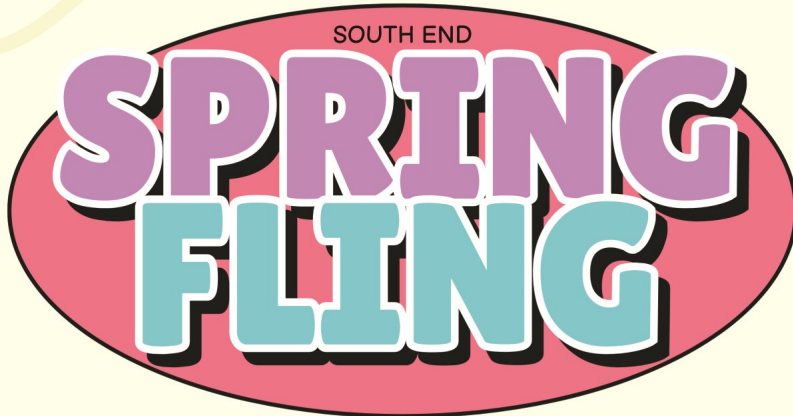
Christ against culture is a reminder that the dominant culture never really reflects the full value system of Jesus Christ. There will always be ways any culture will be incongruent with Jesus Christ. Jesus taught to love our enemies and bless those that curse us, but our culture never will embrace that. So in some ways Christ is against culture.

Christ above culture is a reminder that the ways of Jesus are higher, more important, and more valuable for setting and building our lives around than the culture of the day.

Christ of culture is the recognition that Jesus, in his day, also interacted with his dominant culture that included the Jewish thought of the day, resistance to Rome, elevation of Pharisaical moral tradition, reluctance to give grace...and Jesus critiqued while also participating in that culture. He was of a culture.

Christ and culture in paradox is a way of viewing the two as unrelated to one another, the idea that Jesus cares about the "spiritual" and our culture is about other types of issues like politics or economics.

(continued on next page...)



EGG HUNTS | BOUNCE HOUSES | FACE PAINTING

FREE HOTDOG LUNCH

* * * **MARCH 22** * * *
NOON - 2:00 PM

JOIN THE FUN!



**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT



But, the real call of Christians is to allow Christ to transform culture. There is no way to avoid culture. Culture can simply be defined as the things we make, buildings, music, clothing. And Christ transforming culture is to allow the Holy Spirit to speak through and into the way we interact with that culture.

So, when it comes to culture we don't need to worry or be threatened by new music, new clothing, new paint colors or car designs. These are all areas that Jesus can redeem, work through, and demonstrate his grace and love through. We can participate, and yes at times rebuke aspects of culture, but also realize that Jesus himself is not threatened or worried by culture.

Chris Richardson
Lead Pastor



Math and Literacy Enthusiasts

Pritchard has a long-standing relationship with the students and staff at Charles H. Parker Academic Center, and we're excited to continue supporting this school community! One meaningful way you can make a difference is by serving in hands-on learning opportunities, helping students grow in literacy and math skills. Your time and encouragement can have a lasting impact. To volunteer, register on Church Center and select the day and time that works best with your schedule - making it easy to get involved! Please note that all volunteers are required to complete the CMS volunteer form prior to volunteering. If you have any questions, please contact Grace Sykes in the office or at gsykes@pritchardchurch.com

Missions Opportunity

Please join us in providing breakfast and snacks for the unhoused on Saturday morning, May 30 from 7:00-9:00am. We will be working with Leah's Hopes and Dreams. If you are interested in participating either financially or by coming and supplying food, please contact Sheila Williams at 704-502-5043 or email her at gbwhome@yahoo.com for more information. Check out their website by visiting -

www.leahshopesanddreams.org

A Summary of the Pritchard Church Monthly Generosity Report

JANUARY 2026

A copy of the full report is available on request.

	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Generosity (Tithes & Offerings)	\$58,154	\$58,154
Other Income	<u>\$26,135</u>	<u>\$26,135</u>
Total Revenue	\$84,887	\$84,887
Expenses	\$145,127	\$145,127
Net Income	-\$60,240	-\$60,240

You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

This isn't just true for us. Scripture says that this was true of God. The most famous verse in all the Bible, John 3:16, says, "For this is how much God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

While this truth extends beyond our finances, it certainly includes them. See, it should not be that one person bears the financial responsibility for a church. And really, it shouldn't be that only a few people carry the financial responsibility for a church. God doesn't call one or only a few people to support His church; He calls EVERY member to play their part.

Now, while a few people might give more in terms of how many numerals are to the left of the decimal point, God measures our giving differently. God is looking at the heart (see Mark 12:41-44). What does your financial generosity say about your love of God and what He has called Pritchard Church to be a part of?

Pastor Chris has been preaching about the Prodigal Savior. Jesus did the "unexpected" in how the world views things, because He was not the kind of Savior everyone was looking for. Let me ask, are you a Prodigal Giver? Will you go against what the world values and, out of obedience to God, give out of love?

Saved to Serve,
Rusty Thomaston

We Express Our Love & Sympathy to:

~ Kay Branton and family in the passing of her husband, Larry Branton

FACILITIES WORK DAY!

March 7, 2026

We'd love to have you
come lend a hand!

JOIN US FOR A FACILITIES WORK DAY! WE'LL BE TACKLING STORAGE ROOM
CLEANOUTS, SMALL REPAIR PROJECTS, AND GENERAL CAMPUS
IMPROVEMENTS AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO CARE FOR OUR SPACE.

TWO SHIFTS ARE AVAILABLE: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM AND 12:00 PM-3:00 PM,
OR FEEL FREE TO STAY FOR THE WHOLE DAY!

Night for Life

Join us for an unforgettable evening of vision, impact and hope at Night for Life. Pritchard Church is hosting a table and inviting friends who would like to know more about this life-affirming work. This year's event will shine a light on how Queen City Pregnancy Resource Center is pushing back darkness and taking ground for life across Mecklenburg County - bringing compassionate, life-saving care into neighborhoods where it is needed most. Through powerful visuals, compelling stories, and a shared commitment to life, guests will experience how darkness is being replaced with light - one clinic, one family, one life at a time. Night for Life is more than a gala - it is a call to mobilize. Together, we will celebrate lives saved, cast vision for the future, and take ground for life in the Queen City! If you'd like more information, please contact John Austin at maxton747@gmail.com

Thursday, March 26 / 6:00-8:00pm at the Charlotte Convention Center Crown Ballroom

REGISTER online www.friendsofqcprc.org

Summerfest

May 11-15
August 17-21

Unshakeable Promises
Isaiah 41:10

COST: \$350. Register on Church Center or call the office. Deadline for MAY is April 1.
Deadline for AUGUST is July 1. Contact Grace Sykes with questions or for more information.

March

Sunday, March 1...COMMUNION

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
12:00pm—Pritchard Kids Team Meeting

Monday, March 2

Tuesday, March 3

10:30am—Women on Mission
2:00pm—Afternoon Bible Study Group (Spence home)

Wednesday, March 4

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
10:00am-4:00pm—Thrift Store open
6:00pm—Facilities Forward Meeting
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

Friday, March 6

Saturday, March 7

9:00am-3:00pm—Facilities Work Day
5:00pm—Pritchard Youth Upper Room
5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, March 8...DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
11:45am—Missions Meeting (Williams Lounge)
11:45am—Christian Education Meeting (W306)
5:00pm-7:00pm—All On the Table

Monday, March 9

6:30pm-7:45pm—Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, March 10

10:00am—See 'n Sew
12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Wednesday, March 11

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
11:00am-1:00pm—Sweet Spirits
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 12

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

Friday, March 13

Saturday, March 14

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors

Sunday, March 15

9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship
11:45am—Ridgecrest Team Meeting
12:00pm—Women's Ministry Fellowship Lunch

Monday, March 16

Tuesday, March 17

12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Wednesday, March 18

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
10:00am-4:00pm—Thrift Store open
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers

Friday, March 20

Saturday, March 21

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors
9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups

Sunday, March 22

10:30am—Worship

12:00pm—Spring Fling

Monday, March 23

Tuesday, March 24

10:00am-12:00pm—Volunteers to Crisis Assistance
12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Wednesday, March 25

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
8:30am—Women's Prayer Breakfast (Tryon House)
6:30pm-8:00pm—Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 26

6:30am—Men's Prayer Breakfast (Jonathan's in Matthews)
10:15am-11:15am—Sunago Singers
6:00pm—Night for Life (Convention Center)

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

5:00pm-7:00pm—More Than Conquerors
9:00am—Children and Youth Programming
9:15am—Connect Groups
10:30am—Worship

Monday, March 30

Tuesday, March 31

12:30pm-3:00pm—Pickleball

Happy Birthday!

Evan Whitehead	3/1	Kim Jones	3/15
Rick Kisiah	3/1	Cy Elder	3/20
Toni Littlejohn	3/2	Sharon Wilkerson	3/21
Larry Jessup	3/6	Randy Allen	3/23
Stephanie Graham	3/7	Joyce Oakley	3/26
Debbie Hough	3/9	Michael Martin	3/26
Mary Brooks-Brown	3/10	Robert Ladd	3/26
Donny Wisor	3/11	Kevin Elder	3/28
Hope Riggins	3/11	Eddy McCoy	3/30
Frances Nettles	3/13	Charlene Washburn	3/31
Kristin Rogers	3/14	Phoebe Richardson	3/31
Jennie Brecht	3/15	Tara Rogers	3/31