



Long-Range Planning

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Our youth recently began a new Sunday School series on prayer. We started by discussing the different elements of prayer - things like thanksgiving and gratitude, praising God, sharing our petitions and concerns with God, confessing our sins, etc. And we spent some time talking about the most important element of prayer - and the element we most often forget or neglect - that is, listening to God.

How often do we pause to listen for God's voice to us? How often do we take time to hear what God is saying to us? Are we much more likely to bring our agendas and petitions to God than to try to discern God's intention for us? Do we try to persuade God's will to align with our own rather than the other way around?

During our long-range planning process, may we take time to pause and listen for God's guidance and desires for us. May we set our own agendas aside and be led by the Holy Spirit. May we be still and *know that God is God*. May we know and trust that God is leading us and will "prosper the works of our hands" (Psalm 90:17), if we only listen.

Caution Bowen