



OCTOBER 2020

# first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



NEWS ON LOGOS, CHURCH MINISTRIES & PRESCHOOL!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD- VOLUNTEER THIS MONTH!

# PASTOR'S LETTER

**"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."**

**Psalm 46:1-3**

I will keep this article concise and to the point. Yes, this is a crazy time in our culture. We are experiencing the angst of a global pandemic in the midst of an election year. All of the hotbed issues are at play- feelings, theories, and convictions related to health, race relations, social distancing, Supreme Court justice nominations, climate change, etc. Not to minimize any of these topics, but please step back and recognize this- God is still in control! John Calvin put it this way: "When [faith]... has learned that He is the Creator of all things, it should immediately conclude that He is also their perpetual governor and preserver ... All the parts of the world are quickened by the secret inspiration of God" (Calvin, *Institutes*, Lxvi.1). John Jefferson Davis, one of my theology professors from seminary, states "Providence is that sovereign activity of God whereby He sustains, preserves, and governs all His creatures, and guides all events toward their appointed ends... By the providence of God all events of nature and history are directed toward the fulfillment of His eternal plan of salvation."

All this to say, hang in there! It is certainly appropriate to take seriously and engage with the issues of our day. However, do so with a Christ-like mindset and do so trusting that God is completely in control. As Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

May the Lord continue to bless you during these challenging times! If you are in need of pastoral care or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the church.

Much Love in Christ,

*Pastor Dave Rockness*



# STEWARDSHIP

**“Giving your time, your talents, and your tithes to God’s work...”**

Prayer- Lord, thank you for the gift of suffering. Whether I face persecution in this life or not, help me to steward any and all suffering that I experience for your glory.



## **Suffering Stewards- 1 Peter 3:8-22**

For some reason we have come to think of God as the God of Prevention. A kind of firewall that stands between us and life's flames. But is it just possible that we are looking for God in all the wrong places? Is it just possible that while we are overly occupied with securing our bodies, relationships, and lifestyles, God is at work growing his eternal life within us?

We are to be good stewards of the physical/temporal realm, yes, but we are never to depend on it for our security. We are to give our very best to our marriages, our jobs, our children, our health, and our earth, but never with the idea in mind that - in so doing - we buy an unassailable life. What we do buy in our efforts is strength of character to face the stuff of life from which no one is exempt and a front row seat in the unfolding drama of God's redemptive work.

Yes, God sometimes protects, blesses, and speaks in dramatic ways. But these aspects of our life in God pale in comparison to other characteristics of God's kingdom that are anything but dramatic. Training our ears on God's voice and our eyes on his face- even when it seems there is no one speaking and no face to be found- is by far the greater miracle, the greatest evidence of God's life in us. This is truly imaginative faith...

Evidence of God's presence refuses to be collected and trophied like shells from the seashore. We encounter him most certainly in the steady, unfolding redemption of our life's everyday circumstances.

### **Message from your Stewardship Committee**

Excerpts from NIV Stewardship Study Bible  
Pastor & Author M. Wayne Brown (pg. 1641)

# LOGOS/MSM



## Logos At Home

Logos At Home is off to a good start! Participants are enjoying a pre-recorded study of Old Testament Bible characters and a related music video. Then they participate in at-home recreation and dinner activities with their family. We have weekly themes, after dinner games, manners, table conversations- all the fun of Logos at church, while at home!

Weekly themes and Bible characters for October include:

October 7- NASCAR Night  
Bible Study: Joseph

October 14- Fiesta Night  
Bible Study: Jochebed (Moses' mother)

October 21- Sports Night  
Bible study: Joshua

October 28- Masquerade Madness  
Bible study: Ruth

Thanks to the following people who are leading the Old Testament Bible character studies: Margaret Auten, Mark Auten, Margaret Curtis, Lucy Hastings, Liz Rader, Jodi Rockness, Jason Sentas, Stephanie Sentas, and Kim Streb. If you would like to follow along with the activities, go to [www.mooresvillefpc.org](http://www.mooresvillefpc.org), click on "Ministries" then click on "Children."

## Confirmation

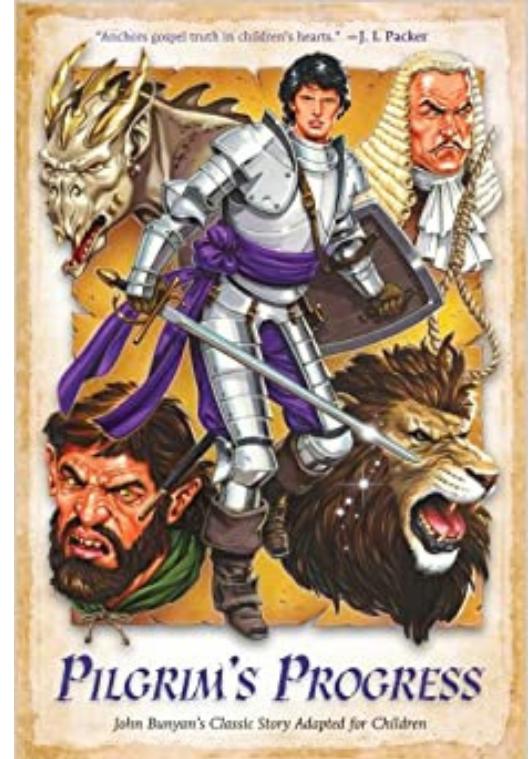
Class of 2020!



# MINISTRIES

## Children's Messages

We have started a series of Children's Messages focusing on John Bunyan's classic book, *Pilgrim's Progress*. We are following the adventurous journey of the pilgrim, Christian, as he makes his way from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. Already he has encountered some questionable characters- Pliable, Obstinate, and Worldly Wise, but also encounters good influences such as Evangelist and Help. Join us on this adventure, filled with meaningful lessons as we walk through our own journey! Children's Messages are posted on Saturdays, and may be accessed through the website: [www.mooresvillefpc.org](http://www.mooresvillefpc.org), click on "Ministries," then click on "Children."



## Sunday School

During this time when we are not meeting in person for Sunday School, materials are available for anyone who requests them.

For adults, if you would like to follow along with your familiar lesson quarterly, we will be glad to provide them for you.

For children, great materials are available using David C. Cook Bible-in-Life materials. Children and youth in preschool through high school can have access to the same materials we use when meeting in person.

Contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; [ellen@mooresvillefpc.org](mailto:ellen@mooresvillefpc.org)) if you would like to receive these materials.

# MINISTRIES

## Operation Christmas Child

We will be participating in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project again this year. With the impact of the global pandemic affecting us on a worldwide scale, the need is even greater this year, as caring agencies and ministries are stretched even thinner this year. The need is great, and the opportunity is ours to impact lives of children around the globe with the life-changing gift of Jesus Christ.

Empty plastic shoeboxes will be available to pick up in the church parlor, fellowship hall and 143 Broad, beginning on Sunday, October 11. Informational brochures will be inside the boxes.

The shoeboxes should be filled with toys, school supplies, personal hygiene items, along with a personal letter to a child. As these shoeboxes make their way to far-away countries, the recipients will also be part of instruction through "The Greatest Journey" discipleship program. What a wonderful way to share the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ!

Please include a donation of \$9 per shoebox, to cover shipping costs overseas. Please return filled shoeboxes to the church by Sunday, November 16. We look forward to seeing those boxes return to church with fun gifts for children in needy and desperate situations around the world.



# PRESCHOOL

## What We're Learning

Autumn brings so many learning opportunities such as apple tasting, leaf hunting, looking for pumpkin attributes and seeing God's hand in the fall foliage. Our school-wide theme for the end of the month is Down on the Farm. We love learning all about the farm animals and how farmers grow food. Be on the lookout on the preschool wing, as there might be some rather large animals to greet you! MOO!



## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Monday, October 5 is our Parent-Teacher Conferences Day. Sign-up sheets will be sent home and your teachers will confirm a virtual time with you. Please note, Preschool will NOT be in session that day to allow time to discuss our students' progress with all our parents.

## Parent Support



A big THANK YOU for everyone making cautious decisions about your child's health. Many of you are erring on the side of caution if your child appears to have a cold or sniffles. Together we are keeping the overall health of the preschool a safe one. We are cleaning frequently, washing hands and sanitizing the toys on a daily basis. Please keep praying for our continued health!

## Mark Your Calendars

October 5: Parent Conferences, Preschool not in session

October 12-16: Fall Break, Preschool Closed

October 29 & 30: Farm Day Parties

# CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary  3:30pm PYF MS Girls 3:30pm PYF MS Boys	4  Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School) 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Girls	5  6  6:30pm Lost & Found Bible Study 6:30pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason Logos @ Home- NASCAR Night Bible Study: Joseph	7  6:30pm Lost & Found Bible Study 6:30pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason Logos @ Home- NASCAR Night Bible Study: Joseph
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary  3:30pm PYF MS Girls 3:30pm PYF MS Boys	11  Preschool Closed- Fall Break 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Girls	12  13  Preschool Closed- Fall Break 2pm Dave's Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Boys	14  Preschool Closed- Fall Break 6:30pm Lost & Found Bible Study 6:30pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason Logos @ Home- Fiesta Night Bible Study: Jochebed
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary  3:30pm PYF MS Girls 3:30pm PYF MS Boys	18  19  8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Girls	20  2pm Dave's Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Boys	21  6:30pm Lost & Found Bible Study 6:30pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason Logos @ Home- Sports Bible Study: Joshua
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary  3:30pm PYF MS Girls 3:30pm PYF MS Boys	25  26  8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Girls	27  2pm Dave's Bible Study 7pm PYF HS Boys	28  Preschool Farm Days 6:30pm Lost & Found Bible Study 6:30pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason Logos @ Home- Masquerade Bible Study: Ruth

# CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason	2	3
8 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason 7pm College Group (zoom)	9	10
15 Preschool Closed-Fall Break 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason	16 Preschool Closed-Fall Break	17
22 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason	23	24
29 Preschool Farm Days 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason	30	31 

## BIRTHDAYS:

**10/1-** Fred Coates, Angie Toma  
**10/2-** Paul Manning, Paige Rider, Teresa Trimble  
**10/4-** Luz Heilman, Daniel Moore, Judy Roach, Beth Sink  
**10/6-** Hans Pluer, Liz Rader, Kate Woods  
**10/7-** Debbie Lackey  
**10/8-** Anne Baker  
**10/9-** Scott Knutsen  
**10/10-** Mark Childers, Beth Hall  
**10/11-** PJ Decastro, Beth Riefner  
**10/12-** Olivia Sentas  
**10/14-** Liam Campbell, Don Copeland, Carson Schaen  
**10/15-** Tina Brooks, Sarah Cook, Tony Ervin, Austin Russell  
**10/16-** Richard Hall, Shannon McIntosh, Bill Morrow  
**10/17-** Cadence Culbreth, Ellie Junkins  
**10/18-** Matthew Hutto  
**10/19-** Brad Chappell  
**10/20-** Stoney Culler  
**10/23-** Trenton Newell  
**10/24-** Donovan Fair  
**10/25-** Rusty LaBarre  
**10/26-** Audry Harris, Michael Zwolinski  
**10/27-** Jae Teeter  
**10/28-** Jackson Trimble  
**10/30-** Natalie Meehan, Amelia Christman, Taylor Dickerson  
**10/31-** Mike Toma, Carolyn Holhousesr, Tracey Prochaska

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If you would like to be added to or deleted from  
our mailing list, please send an email to  
[office@mooresvillefpc.org](mailto:office@mooresvillefpc.org) or call 704-664-5275

9:30 am Contemporary Worship  
11:00 am Morning Worship

September 2020

