

OCTOBER 2025

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



THIS MONTH: WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

UPCOMING: CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF MVL FPC!

PASTOR'S LETTER

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant... Come and share your master’s happiness!’ – Matthew 25:21

Dear Church Family,

It is sometimes good to step back and reflect on the blessings the Lord has placed in our lives. Just this past week my uncle, John Huffman, took his final earthly breath and entered into God’s Kingdom. He was a man larger than life! At age 20 he led his first Holy Land trip with Norman Vincent Peale. He went on to lead an additional 36 Holy Land trips! At age 29, he was the lead pastor of a Presbyterian church at which President Richard Nixon attended thirteen times. During his pastoral years of ministry, he was also chaplain for the Miami Dolphins, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Senior PGA tour (western region). He chaired numerous boards for prominent evangelical organizations, including World Vision, Christianity Today, and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



I had the privilege of serving on staff with John for a decade at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church of Newport Beach, CA. This was a church of 4,500 in which he served for almost four decades. I was also blessed to experience with him my first Holy Land trip which was the last Holy Land trip that he ever led!

What stood out to me most in John’s ministry was his leadership, integrity, grace, and compassion. He was a type A leader! (Double A) He made it clear that anyone who served on staff with him needed to be on top of things in their own area of ministry. He was not there to micromanage or hold anyone by the hand. He led by example. John was the same person at church as he was at home, in the community, or at the golf course. I witnessed his integrity and grace by the way he held to his convictions in a very diverse denomination, yet treated those on the opposite side of theological division with genuine respect.

He also showed tremendous compassion and grace to those on his staff who at times may have undermined him or given him a tough time. He never used his influence or power to hurt those that may have hurt him. The most noteworthy part of his ministry in my mind was the powerful connection he made with people around the world who had lost a child. This came from a deep place in that he lost his oldest daughter, Suzanne, to Hodgkin’s disease at age 21.



What I loved the most about my uncle John was his love for family. I have vivid memories of family vacations going all back to my toddler years. He was always larger than life! (6'4") He was always loud! He could be intense, yet he was also fun, engaging, and genuinely enjoyed being with family. As a nephew, I was blessed to get a visit from my uncle in numerous settings- Lake Wales, FL, Wheaton, IL, Quincy, Ma, Litchfield, CT, and right here in Mooresville. He invited me to attend board meetings, he would offer to preach in each of my settings, and he would often spend the night at our home and engage with my six daughters who also viewed him as larger than life!

As I reflect on the life of my uncle, I feel tremendously blessed to have been gifted with a person who has impacted me as a nephew, pastor, husband, father, and friend. Rest in peace Uncle John!!

It continues to be a privilege to serve alongside you in ministry!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness

JUST A THOUGHT...

Just a Thought: Grasping the Love of Christ

In Ephesians 3, the apostle Paul offers one of the most breathtaking prayers in the New Testament. He kneels before the Father and prays that believers would be strengthened in their inner being by the Spirit, so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith. His longing is that we would have the power “to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that [we] may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18–19).

What strikes me is that Paul doesn't pray for the church to be more productive, more disciplined, or more impressive. Instead, he prays that we would be strong enough to slow down, to become rooted in love, and to comprehend the incomprehensible: the love of Christ.

Power, Reimagined in Christ

When Paul speaks of power, he isn't talking about power to rule, conquer, or dominate. Christ has already done the conquering—He defeated sin and death on the cross. The power we need today is different. It is the power to become humble, to rest in God's love, and to let go of striving. It is the power to resist the lie that God's approval depends on our performance. It is the power to pause long enough to remember: “Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.” This is the upside-down way of Jesus. In a world that seeks control and strength, Christ calls us to a deeper strength—the strength to forgive, the strength to trust, the strength to walk in grace. This is not weakness. It is Spirit-given power to know that we are loved and to live from that love.

How Do We Grasp Christ's Love?

Paul's prayer reminds us that none of us can grasp the love of God on our own. But we can place ourselves in the posture to receive it. We grasp it by opening Scripture and letting the Word remind us again and again of God's mercy. We grasp it in prayer, not rushing to fill the silence, but pausing

long enough to let God's Spirit speak peace over us. We grasp it in community, as we encourage one another and remind each other of the truth that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It takes power to slow down. It takes power to resist the distractions that shrink our vision of God. And it takes power to lift our eyes from ourselves and behold a love that is wider, longer, higher, and deeper than we can measure.

So, let us join Paul's prayer for one another: that God would strengthen us by His Spirit so that we may truly know the love of Christ. And as we grasp even a fraction of that immeasurable love, may our lives and our church overflow with it—united, renewed, and rooted in Him. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20–21)

Reflection: Ways to Practice Grasping Christ's Love This Week

- Pray Paul's Prayer Daily — Read Ephesians 3:14–21 each morning, asking God to help you comprehend His love in a fresh way.
- Practice Rest — Set aside ten minutes of silence each day to simply sit in God's presence, without an agenda, remembering that His love is not earned but given.
- Share the Love — Encourage someone this week by reminding them of God's love. A text, a note, or a prayer can help them grasp what you are also learning.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Moses

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date!

On Sunday, November 9th, we will have one combined worship service at 11:15am. This will be to celebrate our church's 150th year anniversary! The service will be followed by a luncheon and a 45-minute program. This program will both celebrate the past and cast a vision for the future. Andy Poore, our town historian, will be giving a presentation to highlight the history of our church. This will be immediately followed by an update from our vision team, complete with a prioritized plan for the future and renderings to give a picture of what our leadership plans to do with our facilities. We hope to see you there!

Saints Alive

Welcome back to another amazing year of Saints Alive. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month (Sept - May) we meet for a time of fellowship and fun. Lunch costs \$10 a person. RSVPs are asked on or before the Sunday prior to Saints Alive. Our Next Saints Alive will be on Tuesday October 21. Meredith Whitlow will be back to share more with us about Music Therapy.

Time: 12:30 - 1:30pm
Location: Fellowship Hall
RSVP: by October 17th

Saints Alive

September 16 - 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Nate Sentas - Sharing about his work with Campus Outreach

October 21 - 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Meredith Whitlow - Benefits of Music Therapy for all ages

November 18 - 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Hope Mobility - a special needs missions overseas

December 16 - 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Advent Concert with David Hamilton

Welcome New Members!

This past month we welcomed several new members into our congregation.

Pictured right: (left to right) Heather & Michael Linen (son Travis), David Vail, Adelle Ostensen, Kathryn & Henry Walton

Pictured below: Josh & Emily Brown (Jack), and Angela Willard, Sue & Mike Tribby, Katie & Breck Kennerly (Wyatt & Clair).



ATTENTION LADIES-SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Tea and Brunch

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025
11:30AM-2:00PM

Allow the love of Christ to fill your heart anew with hope for the season ahead!

Registration begins October 26th



STEWARDSHIP

GIVING YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENTS, AND
YOUR TITHES TO GOD'S WORK...

PRAYER: *Lord, thank you for your call on my life. I want to follow you.*

Follow Me: *Mark 2:13-17*

It was only a few words, yet the man left the tax booth immediately. Mark records no conversation, no preaching, no confession of faith, but the response is as abrupt as that of Simon and Andrew as they left their nets (Mk 1:14-20). Why? Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer says that...the cause behind the immediate following of call by response is Jesus Christ himself. It is Jesus who calls, and because it is Jesus, Levi follows at once. This encounter is a testimony to the absolute, direct, and unaccountable authority of Jesus. There is no need of any preliminaries, and no other consequence but obedience to the call. Because Jesus is the Christ, he has the authority to call and to demand obedience to his word. Jesus summons men to follow him not as a teacher or a pattern of the good life, but as the Christ, the Son of God. In this short text Jesus Christ and his claim are proclaimed to men. Not a word of praise is given to the disciple for his decision for Christ. We are not expected to contemplate the disciple, but only him who calls, and his absolute authority. According to our text, there is no road to faith or discipleship, no other road – only obedience to the call of Jesus. So began a new life in every sense of the word for Levi. He simply left his old life and followed this teacher – abandoning home, work and security but moving toward a life of “infinite possibilities” and “significance.”

Bonhoeffer elaborates: Besides Jesus nothing has any significance. He alone matters. When we are called to follow Christ, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to his person. The grace of his call bursts all the bonds of legalism. It is a gracious call, a gracious commandment. It transcends the difference between the law and the gospel. Christ calls, the disciple follows; that is grace and commandment in one. “(I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts)” (Ps 119:45).

Philosophy professor, speaker and discipleship author Dallas Willard takes a similar view on the call of discipleship: “The vast grim ‘cost of discipleship’ is something we hear constantly emphasized.” However, heeding the call is incomparable to the cost of ignoring Jesus’ call to take on his “easy yoke” (Mt 11:29-30). Willard says that “to depart from righteousness is to choose a life of crushing burdens, failures, and disappointments, a life caught in the toils of endless problems that are never resolved. Here is the source of the unending soap opera, that sometimes horror show known as normal human life.”

When the choice is posed in such terms, what can one do but join with Simon Peter in saying, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God” (Jn 6:68-69).

Message from your Stewardship Committee
Excerpts from NIV Stewardship Study Bible
Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Page 1284)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What's Happening This Month:

- 1. We need HELP!** Our WNT sprouts ministry needs some extra helping hands. If you are willing to serve 1x or 2x a month on WNT in our 0 - 2's class, please reach out to melissaf@moorevillefpc.org. We cannot provide this act of loving service to our young families without you!
- 2. October 15, WNT Worship Night-** Worship nights are for the entire family. All children ages Kindergarten and up will join their families at the worship service. Our Sprouts ministry will be open for childcare.
- 3. October 29, WNT COSTUME NIGHT!** Come in your favorite costume (halloween costumes are great as long as they are not scary and no weapons of any kind please) PARENTS you are invited to dress up too!! There will be a costume parade after dinner.
- 4. Children's Ministry Bulletin Board-** We have a bulletin board in the fellowship hall with the monthly bulletin, updates, important dates and information. Feel free to check it out throughout the month for reminders and information.

Check in for Nursery - Highschool

Just a reminder, all children going to a Sunday School class, WNT or Youth group event should be checking in at our check in station. Children 5th grade and younger will get a name tag with a matching guardian name tag for secure pick up. No name tags will be printed for our MS or HS students. Please be sure to check in your children before you take them to their class or meeting area.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sprouts Ministry (0 - Preschool) - 2nd floor

0 - 23 months - Nursery room

Toddlers (our 2's and 3's class) Duck room

(Teachers: Ms. Allison, Ms. Melissa)

Preschool (our 4-5 year olds) Bear Room

(Teachers: Ms. Margaret, Ms. Lily)

Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

Drop off - Fellowship Hall

Pick up: 3rd Floor Classrooms

K-1st Grade Room 322

(Teachers: Ms. Lucy, Ms. Andrea, Ian)

2nd-4th Grade Room 324

(Teachers: Mr. Rick, Ms. Denise, Ms. Kathryn, Brother Bill)

4th-5th Grade Room 309

(Teachers: Ms. Courtney, Mr. Will, Ms. Jodi, Hatten)



Congratulations to our 2nd graders as they receive their bibles. Continue to pray for them this year.

Children's Sunday School Hour: 10am - 11am

Sprouts Ministry is our Nursery - preschool

We love the playground! We have a great time getting outside, running, playing and building friendships. Please know that we aim to go outside weekly weather permitting.



Toddlers and preschoolers will participate in a time of music/worship as well as in a Bible lesson, activity and a visit to the playground if the weather is cooperative. We will provide a light snack.

Infants - young 2's will be in our infant room playing and being cared for by some wonderful volunteers. They will be provided a snack of cheerios and water or whatever you bring in their cup. *Please bring a cup for them if you are able, we have labels here for you to use to label your child's cup.*

Check in will begin at 9:45 after the Sunday School teachers have prayed together. Please wait for the check in time to begin so that our teachers can pray and get to their classes before you and your children do.

Kingdom Kids is our Kindergarten - 5th grade

Elementary school classes will use the following schedule:

10:00 Kingdom Kids meet in Fellowship Hall for a time of worship, scripture memorization, games and more. After we conclude our large group time together, the children will divide by grade and head to their classes on the 3rd floor with their teachers. Please pick up your K-5th graders from their classes on the 3rd floor.

*****Please note- any children who have not been picked up by 11:10am will be brought to the second floor childcare room (Duck room) so that our teachers can get to church on time.**

Wednesday Night Together

Choir 5pm - 5:30pm

Please check your children in before heading to their choir classes.

Children ages 5 years old - 3rd grade will meet in the choir room

Children 4th grade - 12th grade will meet in the sanctuary

Dinner 5:30pm - 6:15pm

Dinner will be in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is \$5 a person with a max of \$20 per family. High chairs are available as well as a "kids meal" choice.

Classes for all ages 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Sprouts ministry - Child care will be provided for 0 - preschool.

0 - 2 - Fish room

3 - preschool - Duck room

Elementary children will once again be working through "The Biggest Story"

K - 2 - Room 324

3 - 5 Room 322

Children will only be dismissed to someone with the appropriate matching tag. Please know we are doing this for the safety of the children. If someone other than the person who dropped them off is picking up, we will also accept a picture of the parent security tag. Snap a pic and share it with whomever is picking up. Please do your best to pick up all children by 7:40pm.

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. We also have a few classes camping in the classroom and learning about spiders and insects.

Original Art

Our Fall fundraiser this year transforms your child's artwork into custom keepsakes. These are great gifts for Christmas and will be back in plenty of time to wrap them up and put them under the tree! The artwork and order forms were sent home the last week of September and are both due back with your payment to us by Tuesday, October 7th.

Fall Break

Preschool will be closed October 13-17th for Fall Break. This is a great time for picking out pumpkins, jumping in the leaves or going on a family hike. Enjoy this break and we will see you back on Monday, October 20th.



Farm Days

During October, we get "Down on the Farm." We explore animals that live on the farm, how crops grow and what farmers do on a farm. To celebrate our learning, we have a farm petting zoo visiting us on October 9th and 10th. Dress like farmers or your favorite farm animal those days! We look forward to a cock-a-doodle good time!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, October 31st is our Parent-Teacher Conference Day. Sign-up sheets have been sent home and your teachers will confirm a time with you after fall break. Please note - Preschool will NOT be in session that day to allow time to discuss our students' progress with all our parents.

Mark Your Calendars

October 7: Original Works Fundraiser Orders Due
October 6 & 7: Chapel with Pastor Moses
October 9 & 10: Farm Days
October 13-17: Fall Break, Preschool Closed
October 20: Library with Mrs. Crystal
October 31: Parent-Teacher Conferences, Preschool Closed

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hey Everyone!

I feel led this month to share some testimonies about what God has been doing amidst our young people recently:

1. Students are sharing their faith boldly! Every week we are hearing stories of how our kids are telling their friends/teammates/coworkers/family about Jesus. And often those conversations have led to new students showing up for the first time to be discipled at our youth group!

2. Our young adults are meeting on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm for worship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship! Our church has had a group of college students that consistently meets in the summer, but we are now developing enough local leaders to sustain the group throughout the whole year! God has met us on Tuesday nights in many powerful ways already, and we are looking forward to what He will keep doing.

3. The Lord has been ushering in deep healing to lots of our students! All our volunteers have noticed a repetitive theme of how God has been moving in our youth ministry these past 2 months, and that is healing. The Holy Spirit is bringing healing to our students physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Watching our kids pray bold prayers over each other and then seeing God answer them has been very encouraging.

Those are just a few of the many ways that God is at work in our church right now! I ask that this month you join me in praying specifically for our youth group's big 5th Quarter event happening on October 24th. We are praying that God will send lots of teenagers who do not know Jesus to our church that night, and that He will draw them to Himself through worship, testimonies, and His word! If you are interested in helping serve as a volunteer for our 5th Quarter event, then please reach out to me. We need all the help that we can get!

Blessings,
Zeb Nelson

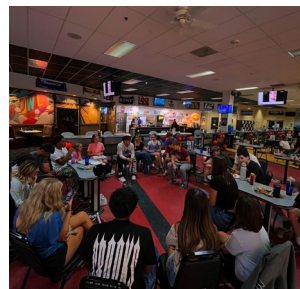
Important Dates:

October 12th: No Refresh Youth
(Fall Break)

October 24th: 5th Quarter Event
@9:30pm-12am

(We are partnering with FCA)

November 23rd: Combined Youths
Giving (Our youth group's
thanksgiving event)



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

			1 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm WNT
World Communion Sunday 5 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 5:00pm MS Refresh Youth 7:00pm HS Refresh Youth	6 9:30am Preschool Chapel 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	7 9:30am Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Cub Scouts	8 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm WNT
12 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 6:00pm Worship & Music Committee 6:30pm Finance Committee	13 Preschool Closed- Fall Break 2:00pm Circle 1 Meeting 7:00pm Personnel Committee 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	14 Preschool- Fall Break 10:00am Circle 4 Meeting 6:00pm Circle 3 Meeting 6:30pm Cub Scouts	15 Preschool Closed- Fall Break 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm WNT
19 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 2:30pm Prayer Shawl Team 5:00pm Congregational Care Council 5:00pm MS Refresh Youth 6:30pm HS Refresh Youth	20 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	21 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon	22 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm WNT
26 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 12:30pm Church Picnic 6:30pm Session Meeting 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth	27 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	28 6:30pm Cub Scouts	29 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm WNT

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>2</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Presbytery Meeting 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00am Preschool Farm Day 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am Preschool Farm Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Preschool Closed- Fall Break 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Preschool Closed- Fall Break</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30pm Refresh Youth- 5th Quarter</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Preschool Parent Conferences- No Classes</p>	

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
10/5- Robbie Pearson
10/6- Hans Pluer, Liz Rader, Kate Woods
10/7- Debbie Lackey, Camryn Stissel
10/8- Anne Baker, Lisa McNeely
10/9- Scott Knutsen
10/10- Mark Childers, Beth Hall
10/11- PJ Decastro, Adam Holman, Beth Riefner
10/12- John-Patrick Justice, Laura Rumble
10/14- Liam Campbell, Don Copeland, Carson Schaan
10/15- Tina Brooks, Sarah Cook, Tony Ervin, Austin Russell, Angela Willard, Ron Zanetti
10/16- Richard Hall, Shannon McIntosh, Bill Morrow, Ian Robb
10/17- Moses Camacho-Greer, Cadence Culbreth
10/18- Joanne Chaplinsky, Matthew Hutto
10/19- Brad Chappell, Tate Potts, Abigail Snodgrass
10/20- Stoney Culler
10/23- Trenton Newell
10/24- Allyn Ramsey
10/26- Audry Harris, Michael Zwolinski
10/27- Jae Teeter
10/28- Jack Barrett, Justin Foulke, Jackson Trimble
10/30- Amelia Christman, Taylor Dickerson, Natalie Meehan
10/31- Carolyn Holhouser

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Email: office@mooresvillefpc.org

mooresvillefpc@groups.facebook.com

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

8:30 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Traditional Worship

October 2025



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians