



MARCH 2022

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



MEN'S BIBLE CLASS IS BACK! DETAILS & MORE NEWS INSIDE

SPRING ACTIVITIES! EASTER FUN, VBS PLANNING, & MORE...

PASTOR'S LETTER

"This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles..." -Ephesians 3:1

The Apostle Paul's perspective in his letter to the church in Ephesus is so refreshing! He does not desire pity nor expressed feelings of defeat. Paul sees purpose in his mission and the suffering he experiences is for the sake of the Gospel and the glory of Gentile believers. This is a worthy cause and he wants the reader to feel encouraged- God is still in control! I think I have said this phrase at least one hundred times over the past two years. I say it because I believe it. Certainly I have moments in which I do not feel it. That is why biblical perspective is so important in keeping us focused and encouraged. God is still in control! I cannot relate with the pain of being chained to a prison guard. However, I have experienced the frustration of a nationwide lockdown and mask mandates and social distancing rules and having restrictions placed on hospital visits of family/loved ones and graduations that cannot take place in person and funerals that could only be private preaching to twelve people in a room that seats four hundred... and the list goes on and on and on. Do I understand why we have had to endure this as a culture? Not completely. However, I do see God's hand in much of this and I am 100% convinced that He is completely in control!

My prayer this Lenten season is less about abstaining and more about returning. My prayer this year is not so much to fast from meat and chocolate, but to return to corporate fellowship and practices of worship. Yes, Lent is traditionally a time in which we give something up for a month or so. However, it seems as though this has been our posture for the last two years. Maybe not in a spiritual sense, but we have certainly abstained from many of our common practices. Why not make our focus this Lenten season giving? Giving more time to God in our devotional lives or to our church in fellowship or to the community in service. And as we return to giving, perhaps sacrifice and fasting will take place more organically (less time on social media, TV, working from home, etc.). And as we seek to return, may we do so with spiritual intention and keep our eyes on the One who is completely in control.

May the Lord continue to bless you and may His word be an encouragement to your spirit.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness

STEWARDSHIP



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

Prayer- Thank You, Lord, for the gifts of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit, who enables me to be a steward of all you have entrusted to me.

The Word Incarnate - John 1:1-18

Jesus the Word is the creator of everything; this is his world. This passage not only underscores Jesus' full ownership of all creation as his rightful possession but also serves as a foundation of his love and providential care for all he has made. Jesus, the Creator of the world, was unwilling to leave his “very good” creation to the destructive powers of sin, but rather, he came to redeem his handiwork

In the wisdom of God, to redeem man from his sin required the Son to become a man himself- The Word himself had to become flesh. John's Gospel begins with the astounding declaration of the act of God in becoming one of his own creation... If stewardship, in its simplest implication, is about giving, then John 1:1 confronts the world with the most sublime gift ever given, the most astounding act of generosity that can be imagined.

God presented his most valuable gift to man in the Eternal World made flesh. Once in the world. Jesus the Incarnate Son then gave himself to the Father in complete submission and to the world as the Servant from God. In his earthly existence, Jesus was a steward charged with a divine mandate. Stewardship can be defined as “the obedient management of life and all its resources under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God and the advancement of his kingdom.” Jesus fulfilled his role of steward perfectly:

No matter how difficult the testing became, no matter how demanding the giving of self, no matter how costly in terms of friendship, following, or popularity, Jesus managed his life faithfully. When ultimately such perfect management meant giving up his life for the cause of the kingdom of God, Jesus was willing, and he did so. He made no exception to his total stewardship of life for anything, including his life itself.

Looking at the world filled with people facing the death sentence of sin, Jesus Christ laid aside the riches of heaven and came to be Savior. As he walked the earth, he continued to give his all, managing every opportunity, every gift, every resource, for the glory of God and the building of his Kingdom. Even faced with death, he gave his last treasure, his own life, to save the lives of others. He went to the cross with no regret that if he had been a better steward he might have done more. He had done everything God wanted of him and he became the master steward, both Savior of humanity and example to those who would follow him. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

MISSIONS

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I'm sitting at 143 Coffee House this morning reflecting on God's wonderful grace. Weekends like this are rare and wonderful. I love to imagine the spiritual implications of what we experienced this weekend. There is a beauty and connection in the body of Christ that we don't always recognize simply due to the limitations of our perspectives and the busyness of our lives.

Lifewater is in the unique position of hearing the prayers of the villagers as they seek help, pray for relief, strength, grace, and a future. They even pray for the Church in America that we would be receptive to God and hear his call. Then, on the other side of the world, the Spirit moves in the hearts and minds of other members of his body, and people respond with empathy and compassion for those they will never meet. They give with generous hearts and open hands. Our part in this story began to unfold over a year ago with Dr. Campbell's willingness to share Lifewater with Jason and Chris. It was your willingness to explore ideas that started to open doors and create a connection. I love to watch how God moves through his people. It is humbling to be a small part of the effort and I am thrilled to work with you reaching vulnerable families in the most remote parts of the world with the gospel of hope and safe water.

To all of you, thank you for the opportunity to share Lifewater with your church, and thank you for your hospitality. Lifewater is indebted to your kindness and deeply appreciates your compassion toward the people of Ethiopia. You will create the resources and tools they need to take ownership of their communities' health and provide them the opportunity to hear about the love of Christ. Thank you for an incredible weekend.

I look forward to stewarding your support and sharing more about the impact of your gifts.

Gratefully,

Jim Evans, Lifewater

CHRISTIAN ED



Logos/MSM March Dates

Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday

***Bible classes will be held in sanctuary
See information below

Wednesday, March 9 - No Logos/MSM (Spring Break)

Wednesday, March 16 - St. Patrick's Day at Logos

Wednesday, March 23 - Camping and Fishing Night

Sunday, March 27 - Logos Choir sings at 11:00 worship service

Wednesday, March 30 - I've Been Working on the Railroad

Logos/MSM Save the Date!

All Logos/MSM participants are invited to a FREE trip to FearLess Adventure Park!

Saturday, April 2

11:00 a.m.

Lunch included!

More details to follow - stay tuned!

More information - go to <https://www.fearlessadventurepark.com>



Ash Wednesday Service

All Logos and MSM Bible classes will attend a special Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, March 2, as we enter the season of Lent. Pastor Jason Sentas will lead the participants in an understanding of the significance and meaning of Ash Wednesday.



2 services will be held on March 2:

4:30 - 5:00 - Grades 6-8

5:40 - 6:10 - Grades 1-5

The services are open to anyone in our community who would like to attend. Children will be seated with their Bible classes in the front of the sanctuary; others are welcome to join us in the sanctuary for this special service.

Vacation Bible School

- Dates: Monday, July 11 - Friday, July 15, from 9:30 am - noon
- Theme: "Jerusalem Marketplace," where we'll be immersed in Bible-times culture, learning and fun. Escape the hustle and bustle of the modern world and dive into our Bible-times VBS! Each day, participants will experience Jerusalem as Jesus did, learning valuable lessons, making fun crafts, singing great songs, playing fun games, as they

CHRISTIAN ED

rotate through activity stations with their “tribe.” As kids follow the steps Jesus took, they’ll discover what it means to walk with him today!

- Activity stations include:
 - Opening Celebration
 - Tribe Time
 - Marketplace Shops
 - Village Playground
 - Synagogue School
 - Village Bakery (snacks)
- Registration will begin on Sunday, May 1- all registration will be online.
- Participant ages: 4 year olds through rising 6th graders.
- Volunteers: Rising 7th graders-adults



You may find more information at www.group.com/vbs

Easter Activity

We will be making mini Easter Resurrection gardens as a special activity on Sunday, March 20 during both Sunday School times.

Session #1- 9:45-10:30 am

Session #2- 10:45-11:30 am

If you are unable to attend either of those times, you may pick up materials and directions in the fellowship hall on March 20. The Resurrection Garden is a wonderful way to remember this holy season in your homes.



First Kids Worship

We are making a lot of progress in our study of the First Catechism, and will be on Question 88 (out of 150) as we begin March. We will be studying the 10 Commandments during March. The group will participate in making Resurrection Gardens on March 20.

Saints Alive “Lunch Bunch”

The Saints Alive group (our “older” adult group) is planning to meet for lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse on Monday, March 21 at 11:30 am. The steakhouse is located at 398 Talbert Road, in front of Costco. Our group has a wonderful time visiting together, enjoys a great lunch, and catches up on how everyone is doing. We would love to have you join us! Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; ellen@mooresvillefpc.org) by Sunday, March 20, if you would like to attend.

YOUTH

Middle School Summer Camp

July 23 to July 27 the Middle School group is heading to The Great Escape at Young Life's Ocala National Forest Camp in Florida. The Great Escape was the first and is the oldest continually running middle school conference in America today. Founded in 1982 with 300 young people, The Great Escape has grown to 6 different camps and conferences in Florida, Tennessee, Colorado, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi.

The success of The Great Escape rests in the fact that the teams planning the events understand and know kids. Because so many of them are also full-time church youth leaders, they know that your number one goal for a summer conference experience is for your students to hear the message of Jesus.

Each week is packed full of recreation and activities as well as dynamic speakers, musicians, and other artists who understand how to communicate in real ways with young people. The Great Escape is a tremendously fun and exciting atmosphere where students feel comfortable and loved, and where they will have the best week of their lives experiencing the love of Jesus!

The camp, called Southwind, is located along beautiful Long Lake at the edge of the 420,000 acre Ocala National Forest. In addition to its beauty, Southwind has plenty to offer. Our activities include a water recreation area, paddle boards, canoes, high ropes, beach volleyball, disc golf and much more. The passion of the staff is ministry and their desire is to see our group have a meaningful and memorable experience. To register please go to mooresvillefpc.org/youth and fill out the form. The cost of camp is \$435 and the deadline is April 15. Contact Youth Intern Alyssa Deery (alyssa@mooresvillefpc.org) or Pastor Jason with questions.



PRESCHOOL

Dr. Seuss Week

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we have special days to celebrate Read Across America. We have Silly Sock Days on March 1 & 2. We'll dress like our favorite Seuss character OR in red, white and black on March 3 & 4. I can't wait to don my Cat in the Hat costume and read to all the classrooms!



Spring Break

Our Spring Break is scheduled for March 7-11. We hope you enjoy this time with your family.

Leprechaun Hunts

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of St. Patrick's Day and the Leprechaun. He's a tricky little guy who makes his appearance at school, but is elusive and hard to catch. The children always get excited to see if he will bring us gold! Remember to wear green on March 16 & 17. We will go on our Leprechaun Hunts and hopefully find his gold! Wish us luck!



CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | 1 Preschool Read Across America Week - Dr. Seuss 6:00 pm MCM- Circles | 2 Ash Wednesday Preschool Read Across America Week- Dr. Seuss 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 4:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Together Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave |
| 6 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF | 7 Preschool Closed- Spring Break 7:00 pm Scouts Troop BSA 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts Troop BSA 166-B | 8 Preschool Closed- Spring Break 10:00 am Circle 4 Meeting 12:00 pm Circle 5 Meeting 6:00 pm MCM Circles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Circle 3 Meeting | 9 Preschool Closed- Spring Break No Logos/MSM |
| 13 Daylight Savings 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF 7:00 pm Committee Meetings | 14 9:30 am Lost and Found Bible Study 7:00 pm Scouts Troop BSA 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts Troop BSA 166-B | 15 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm MCM - Circles | 16 Preschool Leprechaun Hunt 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 5:30 pm Wed. Night Together Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave 6:30 pm Lost and Found Bible Study |
| 20 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 5:30 pm Combined PYF Talent Show & Dinner | 21 9:30 am Lost and Found Bible Study 11:30 am Saints Alive Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm Scouts Troop BSA 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts Troop BSA 166-B 7:00 pm Property Meeting | 22 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm MCM Circles | 23 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 5:30 pm Wed. Night Together Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave 6:30 pm Lost and Found Bible Study |
| 27 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 6:30 pm Stated Session Meeting 7:00 pm HS PYF | 28 9:30 am Lost and Found Bible Study 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 116-B 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 116-G | 29 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm MCM- Circles | 30 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 5:30 pm Wed. Night Together Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave 6:30 pm Lost and Found Bible Study |

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 3 Preschool Read Across America Week- Dr. Seuss | 4 Preschool Read Across America Week- Dr. Seuss | 5 7:15 am Men's Bible Study w/Jason |
| 10 Preschool Closed- Spring Break 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 11 Preschool Closed- Spring Break | 12 7:15 am Men's Bible Study w/Jason |
| 17 Preschool Leprechaun Hunt 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 18 | 19 7:15 am Men's Bible Study w/Jason |
| 24 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 25 | 26 7:15 am Men's Bible Study w/Jason |
| 31 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal | | |

Birthdays:

- 3/1-** Pheobe McCall Coates
- 3/2-** Zachary Howard, Jean Pluer
- 3/3-** Meghan Seyller
- 3/4-** Garrett Howard, Sue Scovil Parnell, Claire Trimble
- 3/5-** Bob Campbell, Karen Korb, Jennie Meehan
- 3/7-** Tanner Ladd, Pattie Payne
- 3/8-** Mike Ladd
- 3/9-** Colton Mauney
- 3/10-** Abigail Abercrombie, Hunter McClure, KJ Reid
- 3/14-** Joshua Bernd, Amanda Copeland
- 3/15-** Christine Davidson, Eli Magnuson, Glenda Stutts
- 3/16-** Landon Zwolinski
- 3/17-** Neil Faulkenberry, Gary Rider
- 3/18-** Harrison Kendall, Pam Winter
- 3/19-** Wyatt Cox
- 3/20-** Jean Chislaghi
- 3/21-** Angie Creech, TJ Whalen
- 3/22-** Grayson Chappell, Bruce Piper, Ashley Coates Schaen, Johnny Stutts
- 3/24-** Will Davidson
- 3/25-** Becky McIntosh, Zach Miller
- 3/27-** David Blalock
- 3/28-** Tray Brawley, Jr., Madelyn Christman
- 3/29-** Judy Jordan, Ginny Swedenberg White
- 3/30-** Tara Rider

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Bible Class Members

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that after a pause of 2 years for the COVID 19 pandemic, The Men's Bible Class will begin to meet again starting March 20, 2022. We will continue to meet in our same classroom under the sanctuary and the class will begin at 10:00 as we always have. Ross Culp and Dave Ramey will be our new teachers, and we will study an 8-week program of Malachi. Our first lesson will be on Malachi chapter 1, verses 1-5. We hope you will be able to join us!

Prayerfully,

Tom Kirkland

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Ernie and Sadie Crymes who were married on Saturday, February 19.

Congratulations to Justine and Tray Brawley on the birth of their son, Houston Graham Brawley, on February 1. He joins his older brother Whitfield.

Congratulations to Jordan and Chris Magnusson on the birth of their son, Liam Edward Magnusson, born January 4. Liam's siblings are Eli and Maddison Magnusson.

Bereavement

Christian sympathy is expressed to Kim Streb in the loss of her mother on February 15th.

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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 or call 704-664-5275

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

March 2022

