

NOVEMBER 2020

# first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST | PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

LOGOS AT HOME, PRESCHOOL & CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

# PASTOR'S LETTER

**"We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."**

**Hebrews 6:19-20**

Over the past 3-5 years, many a church and organization developed the vision slogan: "20/20 Vision." Yes, we had our exciting plans and clever slogans. And then 2020 arrived, requiring many a church and organization to literally close their doors. In the midst of political chaos and "covid fatigue," I now hear folks declaring, "I can't wait for the ball to drop." Perhaps the declaration of a new year from Times Square will represent a "do over" or a fresh start.

However, as I seek to reflect upon the year 2020 with eyes of faith, I cannot help but think that the Lord has used this year towards our benefit. Take a moment to consider a vision for the future shared by Joseph to his brothers. I wonder at what moment he began to think, "I certainly didn't see that coming" or "this hasn't quite been my year." Where might he have hit "slavery fatigue?" Was it in the pit before being sold into slavery? Or was it in a jail cell after having been falsely accused of a crime? Consider the excitement that must have accompanied the early church as they laid hands on the apostle Paul and his missionary companions. What vision slogans might they have had? Perhaps "Expanding our Horizons" or "Making Fishers of Men." Could Paul have at any point, while chained to a guard under house arrest, felt, "I can't wait for the ball to drop" or "maybe if we get a new political leader in place, my fortunes will change." Put me in the shoes of Joseph or the apostle Paul and I am certain that it would have been difficult for me to see that God was always in control. Who could have guessed Joseph would end up the second most powerful man in all of Egypt? Isn't it amazing that the inspired letters written by Paul from prison have now been read by billions of people?

Where do you place your hope in these uncertain times? On whom or what do you fix your eyes? With eyes of faith, can you see the silver lining of 2020? Has the Lord been sending any message your way- perhaps in regards to your spiritual mindset or priorities in your life? Sometimes we need a little time in a pit or a jail cell to gain eternal perspective in life and trust that God is still going about His business of shaping history and changing lives. Have you lost the 2020 vision or are you just simply waiting for the ball to drop?

May the Lord continue to bless you in this unique season of life!

In Christ,

*Pastor Dave Rockness*



# STEWARDSHIP

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

*Prayer- Lord of my life, help me to live for you here on earth while my heart longs for heaven.*

### **A Fleeting Moment- Job 8:8-19**

To make the best use of your life, you must never forget two truths: First, compared with eternity, life is extremely brief. Second, earth is only a temporary residence. You won’t be here long, so don’t get too attached...

Repeatedly the Bible compares life on earth to temporary living in a foreign country. This is not your permanent home or final destination. You’re just passing through, just visiting earth. The Bible uses terms like alien, pilgrim, foreigner, stranger, visitor, and traveler to describe our brief stay on earth.

Your identity is in eternity, and your homeland is in heaven. When you grasp this truth, you will stop worrying about “having it all” on earth. God is very blunt about the danger of living for the *here and now* and adopting the values, priorities, and lifestyles of the world around us. When we flirt with the temptations of this world, God calls it spiritual adultery. The Bible says, “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?” (James 4:4)

With all the fascinating attractions, mesmerizing media, and enjoyable experiences available today, it’s easier to forget that the pursuit of happiness is not what life is about. Only as we remember that life is a test, a trust, and a temporary assignment will the appeal of these things lose their grip on our lives. We are preparing for something even better...

It is a fatal mistake to assume that God’s goal for your life is material prosperity or popular success, as the world defines it. The abundant life has nothing to do with *material* abundance and faithfulness to God does not guarantee success in a career or even in ministry. Never focus on temporary crowns.

Paul was faithful, yet he ended up in prison. John the Baptist was faithful, but he was beheaded. Millions of faithful people have been martyred, have lost everything, or have come to the end of life with nothing to show for it.

*But the end of life is not the end!*

**Message from your Stewardship Committee**

*Excerpts from NIV Stewardship Study Bible  
Pastor & Author Rick Warren (pg. 623)*





# LOGOS/MSM



## Logos At Home

We have completed 4 weeks of our “Logos at Home” format, and are enjoying the Bible lessons presented by church members, and hearing feedback from the participants.

Happy Birthday to the following participants:

### **October, November, and December Birthdays**

Camryn Stissel- October 7  
Olivia Sentas- October 12  
Raleigh Blair- November 12  
Reagan Blair- November 16  
Adrianna Whalen- December 6  
Jayne Rider- December 10

### **April, May and June Half Birthdays**

Avery Stutts- April 13  
Henry Coyle- May 8  
Reese Coulter- May 19  
Gabriel Solomone- May 23  
A.J. Whalen- June 26



### **November Bible Lessons / Weekly Themes**

November 4- Jungle Safari Night  
Bible Character: David

November 11- Veterans Night / God Bless America  
Bible Character: Esther

November 18- Horrible Hair Night  
Bible Character: Daniel

If you would like to watch past Bible lessons from earlier this semester, use this link to access: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrc8srl-K6L3YtDNG8o9iKw>  
(click “videos” to see past videos)

# LOGOS/MSM

## Logos at Home Thank Yous

Thank you to the following people who provided excellent Bible lessons during October:

Jason Sentas- Abraham lesson  
Margaret Auten, Stephanie and Olivia Sentas- Joseph lessons  
Lucy Hastings- Jochebed lesson  
Kim Streb- Joshua lesson



Everyone has done such great research and preparation. Special thanks to these folks who have stepped out of their "comfort zone," embraced some new technology, and have been faithful in teaching this next generation, in a very new way! Thank you!

Thanks also to Peter Sentas for his technical help as he uploads (or is it downloads??) the videos onto the church website each week. I appreciate his patience and expertise!

## Veterans' Day at Logos

\*\*\*Please note: We are planning to write letters to military personnel and veterans on November 11. Please send any addresses you may have of current military personnel so that we can send them some mail! Send address to Ellen Auten at [ellen@moorevillefpc.org](mailto:ellen@moorevillefpc.org).



# MINISTRIES

## Operation Christmas Child

We have distributed over 70 empty shoeboxes during October, and are looking forward to their return to the church by Sunday, November 15, filled with all sorts of fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items.

We are excited to be participating in Operation Christmas Child, and look forward with anticipation to the distribution of these special presents to needy children around the world. Even more important than the physical gifts, we look forward to children hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all, as they receive these shoeboxes.

### Shoebox Reminders:

- No candy or toothpaste in shoeboxes
- Include *new* toys and gifts such as toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, flashlights, school supplies, toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, soap
- Include a "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump, doll, stuffed animal, musical instrument, shoes
- Please do not include war-related toys, liquids or perishables
- Include a personal note to the child
- If possible, please include \$9 to cover shipping costs
- Turn in to Ellen's office by Sunday, November 15

Contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; [ellen@moorevillefpc.org](mailto:ellen@moorevillefpc.org)) if you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child.

## Advent Workshop

We will not be having our annual Advent Workshop in person this year. But Advent still goes on, and there are many wonderful ways to celebrate this special time of year in your own homes, with your families. A variety of resources will be available for individuals and families to choose from as we enter this meaningful season of the year. These resources will be available beginning Sunday, November 22 in 143 Broad, the fellowship hall and the parlor.

Supplies for Advent wreaths will be available to pick up in the fellowship hall from Sunday, November 22 through Sunday, November 29. Supplies include:

Advent candles

Pie pan with oasis

Advent wreath devotional

\*\*\*You will need to provide your own greenery for the Advent wreaths

# MINISTRIES

## Angel Tree Gift Program with The Christian Mission

The angel tree project will be a little different this year with limited church activities and attendance. In order to still bless our community and meet the needs, we will be using Sign Up Genius for you to choose your child(ren). Links to this program will be in the bulletin and in the weekly email, This Week at First Presbyterian.

Also available, in the coffee shop for the early service and in the parlor for the 11:00 service, there will be mission team members available with ipads/computers to help you complete the Sign Up Genius form should you need that. If none of that fits your fancy, you may also call the church office, make your choices known, and a staff member will complete the sign up information for you.

As in the past, we are partnering with the Mooresville Christian Mission to provide Christmas gifts for needy children, and the need is even greater this year because of the pandemic. With each angel you choose, you will be provided a local child's age, gender, Christmas wishes and/or clothing needs. Please plan to spend a minimum of \$35 on each angel and watch for bulletin and email announcements advising sign up and return dates of your child's gift(s).

There will also be the opportunity through Sign Up Genius to provide a \$50.00 food basket gift through our church to a local Christian Mission family. Thank you for helping us love our community together.





# PRESCHOOL

## A Special Thank You

Let me take a moment to tell you that we are so **thankful** for you and your children! Nothing beats the stories your children share, their laughter, and the excitement we see when your child learns something new. Those moments make Preschool feel more like a home than just a school. We love being a part of your family!



## Daylight Savings Reminder

Daylight Savings starts Sunday, November 1st. It's also a great time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and change your air filters in your home.



## Comfy Day

With the weather getting chilly, we're getting comfy at preschool! Wear your favorite comfy sweatshirts and sweatpants to preschool on November 19th and 20th. Let's see who is the coziest at school!



# PRESCHOOL

## Feast Day

The children will celebrate Thanksgiving on November 23rd and 24th in their individual classrooms. While we normally have our combined Thanksgiving Feast in the fellowship hall, we still have our eyes on the importance of this holiday. Thank you God for providing for us, keeping us safe at school and for all our preschool families. Thank you to all the parents who help make this meal festive and bountiful.



## Facebook



If you have not "liked us" on Facebook, please do! You'll get to see all our fun pictures and you'll receive reminders of upcoming events. Simply search "First Presbyterian Preschool-Mooresville" and hit the Like button! We're a fun bunch to follow! This invitation is for all our church family, too! The church family is so supportive of Preschool. We know you'll get a kick out of our little ones and all our adventures throughout the preschool year.

## Mark Your Calendars

November 5 & 6: Parent Phone Conferences  
November 11: Veteran's Day- Closed  
November 19 & 20: Comfy Day  
November 23 & 24: Feast Day  
November 25-27: Thanksgiving Holiday- Closed  
November 30: Preschool Resumes

# CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study 7pm HS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study	1	7am Men's Bible Study 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study	2	2pm Dave's Bible Study	3	4:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lost and Found Bible Study	4
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study 7pm HS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study	8	7am Men's Bible Study 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study	9	10am Circle 4 Meeting 2pm Dave's Bible Study 6:15pm Circle 3 Meeting	10	Preschool Closed- Veteran's Day 4:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lost and Found Bible Study	11
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study 7pm HS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Returned	15	7am Men's Bible Study 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study	16	2pm Dave's Bible Study	17	4:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Lost and Found Bible Study	18
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study 7pm HS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study	22	7am Men's Bible Study 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study Preschool Feast Days	23	Preschool Feast Days 2pm Dave's Bible Study	24	Office/Preschool Closed- Thanksgiving Holiday	25
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study 7pm HS PYF Boys & Girls Bible Study	29	7am Men's Bible Study 8:45am Lost & Found Bible Study	30				

# CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5 Preschool Parent Conferences 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason 8:30pm College Group (zoom)	6 Preschool Parent Conferences	7
12 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason 8:30pm College Group (zoom)	13 10am Circle 4 Meeting	14
19 7pm Pilgrim's Progress Book Study with Jason 8:30pm College Group (zoom)	20 4pm Boy Scouts Port-A-Pit Prep	21 11am Boy Scouts Port-A-Pit
26 Office/Preschool Closed- Thanksgiving Holiday	27 Office/Preschool Closed- Thanksgiving Holiday	28

## Birthdays:

**11/1-** Kendall Brawley, Joyce Sloop  
**11/2-** Brea Brooks  
**11/3-** Paul Beaver, Sible Winebarger  
**11/4-** Coley Culler, Walter Smith III  
**11/6-** Bill Archer, Ellie Glad, Sparky Hitchcock  
**11/7-** Brian Noe, Neil Trimble  
**11/10-** Bryce Estes  
**11/11-** Alana Creech, John Donelson, Jane Peterson  
**11/12-** Raleigh Blair, Jeff Davidson, Jordan Duncan  
**11/13-** Nate Sentas  
**11/14-** Julia Grimes, Ethan Robinson  
**11/16-** Regan Blair, Mike Campbell, Adonna Dickerson, Ellie Rader, Jake Robinson  
**11/18-** Nathan Glad, Alexis Lynch  
**11/19-** Ellen Nudi  
**11/20-** Millie Amon  
**11/21-** Nicole Lafone  
**11/25-** Bennett Dame  
**11/26-** Kailie Rockness  
**11/27-** Helen Neely, Margaret Sanders  
**11/28-** Steve Robinson  
**11/29-** Jason Kendall, Peaches Piper  
**11/30-** Cindy Hitchcock, Bethany Howard



## Bereavement

Christian sympathy is expressed to the family of Rick Harrington in his passing on September 29.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Carol McClure and family in the death of her father, Kenneth Jordan, on September 30. Grandchildren are Hunter and Josh McClure.

## Veterans ★ Day ★

Thank you for your courage,  
dedication, and hard work.  
And thanks to the military  
families for their support,  
resilience, and sacrifice.



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

9:30 am Contemporary Worship

11:00 am Traditional Worship

November 2020



# ECO

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians