

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Dear First Folks,

Sometimes being the church just means being faithful. Faithful to worship, to ministry, to prayer, or faithful to God. We operate on faith because we know you are faithful. So in this season of Easter, let the resurrection be who you are. Let God bring new life to your faith as we are the blessed, growing, and difference-making church that God has called us to be.

Thanks for the ministry, love, and support You give. You are truly a blessing to me and to many here and across the world!

In Him,

Russell



May 7—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Your Presumptuous Heart"

Scriptures: Obadiah 1-4; Matthew 6:19-24

May 14—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sermon: "Wheel Within a Wheel"

Scriptures: Ezekiel 1:4-17; Acts 8:26-35

May 21

Sermon: "Dry Bones Revived"

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14; 2 Cor. 5:17-21

May 28

Sermon: "Prayers and Lions"

Scriptures: Daniel 6:16-28; 1 Peter 5:1-10

June 4

Sermon: "In A Little While"

Scriptures: Haggai 2:6-9; John 16:15-17

June 11—

Sermon: "Money Test"

Scriptures: Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:19-24

Youth Worker

The session approved a search for a part-time youth coordinator to assist in ministry to our youth. If you know of candidates or have suggestions, please let us know.



Thank You!

A card was received from C.W. Bing expressing gratitude for the warm welcome when they were here to visit. A special Thank you to Art Carter for providing them lunch after services.

"We continue to praise the Lord for the ministry partnership, friendship & prayer support with each of you at First Pres.!

Please keep C.W.'s mom in your prayers for her improved health.

We are truly blessed by your compassion."

~C.W & Leslie Bing



Church Playground

The session, on recommendation of Christian Education committee, approved purchase of new playground equipment for a north property playground near the new picnic shelter. The cost will be about \$7500. This may be the lasting legacy you want to give to the church, so if you would like to contribute towards that project, mark your gifts appropriately or ask a session member about it.



The Ladies' Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 2, at 10:30. The meeting will be held in the Philathea Room Rev. Lee will present the program. This is the final meeting until start up time again in September. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish for the luncheon that will follow the program. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

The Summer Mission Trip is set for the week of July 23-29! We will be working with the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) in Richwood, WV, to help with recovery from the flooding there last fall. We will be housed in a former parsonage that has been renovated for this purpose. The cost of \$100 per person covers housing, materials, and meals for the week. (Meals on travel days will be at your own expense.) NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY - there is a category for "Willing Helper!" If you are interested in joining the team, or need more information, contact Kim Albert, kalbert@ntelos.net or 434-579-5011, or Russell.



Summer Mission Trip Informational Meeting— We will have a meeting for all interested in participating in the Summer Mission Trip. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00pm. Bring your questions and mission needs to the meeting.



Overview of missionaries supported by First Presbyterian

We help financially support six missionary families around the world. Here's a brief sketch about each organization and the family's focus. You can help them by praying for them as well.

International Association for Refugees (IAFR) is devoted to the mission of helping people survive and recover from forced displacement. They do this in partnership with local churches, refugees' churches and the church-at-large. Paul and Reinhold Sydnor work in Austria and France. Please pray for their work in the midst of the current European immigration situation.

Mission Possible, Haiti seeks to equip Christ-centered leaders to share the good news of God's love and blessings for the people of Haiti. Mission Possible establishes Christian schools and provides supplies and food for the needy.

Oversees Missionary Fellowship (OMF) International works to take the gospel to many of the countries in Southeast Asia. OMF places Christians with professional skills in Asian countries to share the love of Christ and plant churches. Please pray for Art and Andrea that they will have continued success working with an east Asian people group to spread the word in more rural areas.

Pioneers passion is to see God glorified among those who are physically and spiritually isolated from the gospel of Jesus Christ. As the name Pioneers suggests, they are often the first organization reaching out to a specific people group or territory. Please pray for Dave and Rachael Carter as they work to spread the gospel among the Tama people in northern Chad.

Water for the Oppressed – Zambia focuses on delivering clean drinking water and the gospel to rural people to Zambia. C.W. and Leslie Bing are currently on home leave and look to return to Zambia in May. Currently C.W.'s mother is ill. Please pray for her healing as they will not be able to return until she is well. Also, pray for political stability in Zambia as current conditions are becoming unsettled.

Wycliffe has helped people around the world for more than 70 years to translate the Bible into their own languages. They also help with language development, literacy and other spiritual and physical needs. Please pray for Matthew and Teresa Lee as they work in Cameroon. Matthew provides language technology support and Teresa teaches missionary-family children.

Bible Reading Schedule

Week 34 — May 1-6

2 Kings 24– Psalm 137
Pages 914-942

Week 35 — May 8-13

Lamentations 1– Ezekiel 16
Pages 943–970

Week 36: —May 15-20

Ezekiel 17–40 Pages 971-1005

Week 37 —May 22-27

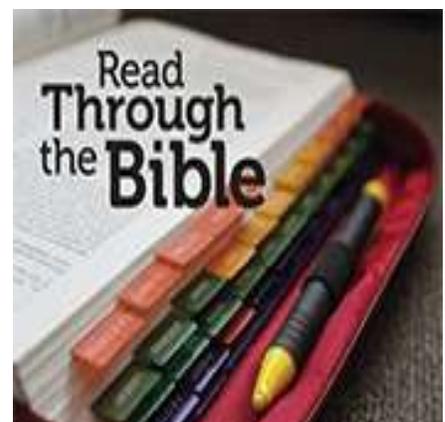
Ezekiel 41—Daniel 12
Pages 1006-1034

Week 38—May 29—June 3

2 Chronicles 36– Esther 5
Pages 1035—1059

Week 39—June 5-10

Esther 6—Nehemiah 10
Pages 1060—1086





Here is one of the latest articles in their blog.

Community Bread

(Learning from a Four-Year Old & a Piece of Toast)

There aren't too many things more challenging than serving breakfast to a finicky four-year old who woke up on the wrong side of the bed. Parents, caregivers, and anyone spending any amount of time with children know this struggle. A favorite food or dish one day is poisonous scum the next. It really doesn't matter if a particular item is a favorite or mainstay in their diet. If the mood strikes them to be defiant, the favorite is no longer a favorite.

Mealtime in our household has become an exercise in parental patience. I wish I could say that I've mastered this fine art, but...I can't! I am getting closer to mastering misdirection, distraction, and bartering, but the patience lesson is ongoing. My morning routine consists of brewing my morning cup of coffee while carefully discerning the breakfast du jour for our oldest son. One particular morning, toast was on the menu. Easy enough, right? Well, not exactly! He wanted a particular type of bread. Let me explain a little further. In a house like ours, we always have a multitude of bread. We have gluten-free bread along with an assortment of whole wheat gluten-full breads. My wife, Kate is always on a constant pursuit for a holy grail of bread; a whole wheat bread with limited all-natural ingredients, no preservatives, and all for a bargain price! This means our selection of glutinous options is ever changing. We return now to the morning in question. This particular morning, our son wanted one type of bread and one type alone. He would eat nothing else! "Dad, I only want community bread!" That's right; out of all our options he would only eat community bread. This would not be a problem unless you don't know what the heck community bread is or could be. I scavenged through the pantry reading every label. Was it a new type of bread bought on sale? Did it refer to some obscure market where she said bread was purchased? I had no clue, but knew that the success of my morning and therefore my day, hinged upon this defining moment. Where might I find this "community bread?"



After a few days, I thought to ask Kate. "What in the world is 'community' bread?" She flashed a knowing smile. First relishing in my lack of knowledge, before revealing the truth. "He's talking about your bread, the gluten-free bread, the bread you use for Communion at church?" Apparently, to young ears "Communion" sounds like "community". I couldn't help but laugh about the situation, especially when my young son unwittingly reminded me of an important truth!

We often approach Jesus' table with introspection and self-reflection. We are invited to consider our sins and find forgiveness and reconciliation with God before we approach. The simple act of sharing bread and a cup invite us to a deeper understanding of not only ourselves in the eyes of God, but also our relationship with each other.

It is this relationship with Jesus that motivates us to be a community church. It takes more than talking about it, but requires living it out; not just Sunday, but every day. Jesus stepped down from heaven to come to us. If we are to follow His example, we are to step out into our community and seek to serve, love, and sacrifice for the benefit of others.

At the table of God, Jesus takes the bread of life and lovingly proclaims, "Take and eat, this is my body which is broken for you!" The world is starving...starving for real food....starving for hope, purpose, significance, love and joy. There is good news for the starving; there is always more room at the table! There are plenty of seats and more than enough bread to go around. **This bread is not meant to be hoarded, protected, or guarded. Community bread is meant to be shared!**

More articles and devotionals can be found at ChristTheWordChurch.org

A description of a new Ministry coming to 1st Pres.



Power of Prayer:

In a church I attended previously we wrote our names on a slip of paper and placed it in a basket as we entered the church. When we left church we picked a slip of paper out of the basket & prayed for that person daily during the week. The results of that simple act were very powerful. Not only did the congregation grow closer together, but the power of prayer became very clear and personal. All we have to do is pray for one another as the Lord has called us to do.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of the Lord's people.

~ *Laura Edwards*

Happy Mother's Day

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May is the month we celebrate Mother's Day. In thinking about Mother's Day, I thought maybe I'd share my thoughts and beliefs about the mother of all living...Eve.

We read in Genesis 2:25 "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed". What I learn from this passage is they were innocent, like little children; just as young siblings are not ashamed, or aware of their gender differences; neither were Adam and Eve.

We also read "of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."(Genesis 2:17). I believe we are here on earth for a purpose. To prove we are willing to listen to and follow God's commandments. In this scripture the key words are "knowledge of good and evil". We have many choices to make each day, but we must have knowledge of good and evil to help us make those choices. Prior to Eve partaking the fruit they walked and talked with God personally. But just as children grow through learning, so Adam and Eve needed to have the ability to know right from wrong, and be separated from God, to act on faith. None of this could have happened had they remained in their innocent state.

I believe it was part of the plan that they had to make the choice, and it needed to be their choice, because God has granted us a great gift of agency, we have choices that affect us, as well as others, and our posterity, each and every day. If it weren't for Eve first partaking of that particular fruit, they would not have had that knowledge needed to make choices. I believe Eve made the only choice she could, and I'm sure with great remorse, but she realized it to be the "only" choice in order that growth and development could be possible. We all have had to make hard choices and mothers, in particular, truly influence generations. Eve was our first mother and gave us the ability to choose to follow God through faith and grow closer to Him. ~ *Sherolyn*



Youth group meet for Sunday Night Dinner & fellowship every Sunday at 6pm.

Sunday, May 21— Seniors will be honored with a breakfast at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 10 am. After service, they will go to Go APE in Raleigh, NC for a "Celebrate the Seniors Day".

Nickelsville Mission Trip June 12-16

Passport Camp—June 18-23 at Averett University—

We want to thank all those that have provided flowers for the sanctuary so far this year. We have a full calendar for May, and again we thank everyone for signing up. We do have some openings in June, so as the month approaches, please look at your calendar and see when you might be available to provide the beauty the God blesses us with each day. June 4 and 11 are the open dates, as of the printing of this newsletter.



Memorial Day Sunday

At 11:00 worship service on Sunday, May 28— a special moment has been planned commemorating Memorial Day. We will memorialize those who lost their lives serving our country, veterans no longer living, and (unconventional to tradition) will honor our living veterans and family/friends who supported them. Chris Jones with the choir and Teresa McCollum with the youth will participate to make these moments of remembering and of honoring God in our Country uniquely touching and special. Please plan to attend and invite your family and friends to join us.



May 15

7:00 —Diaconate Meeting
7:30 pm — Elders Meeting

Weekly Happenings

Prayer Group: Mondays at 10 am
Praise Team: Wednesdays at 6 pm
Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 April 5cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	May 1 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	2 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 12 noon NA	3 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	4 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA 	5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA 	6
7 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	8 10 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	9 12 noon NA 7:00 pm	10 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	11 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	12 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	13 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
14  9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm Youth Group	15 10:00 Prayer Group 12 pm NA 7:00 Diaconate Meeting 7:30 pm Elders	16 12 noon NA	17 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	19 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	20 NA 1-8
21 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Senior Breakfast- Go APE 11 am Worship 2 pm Piano Recital 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	22 12 pm NA	23 12 noon NA 	24 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	25 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	26 9 am Bulletins and Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	27
28 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth	29 Office closed 	30 12 Noon AA	31 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	June 1 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	2 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	3
30—5 cent meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA 6 pm Youth Group	May 1 10:00 am Prayer Group 12 pm NA	2 12 Noon AA	3 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	4 7 pm Men of The Church 8 pm AA	5 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	6

1 Jeremy Cherry

1 Brian Farley

1 Megan Henderson

3 Rick Harrell

3 Les Powell IV

4 Kelly Gravitt O'Kelly

4 Anne-Carlisle Cranford-Edwards

6 Darlene Bain



9 Terri Hazelwood

10 Jennifer Edmunds

12 Byrd Young *

13 Raleigh Powell

13 Patty Nelson

15 Nick Lumsden

15 Ginny Miller

22 Jim Burton*

28 Winston Harrell

29 Sterling Roberts



April Session Report

At the meeting since the last newsletter your Elders:

1. Participated in combined meeting with Deacons.
2. Prepared for and served communion on Easter
3. Updated and lifted up the sick.
4. Finalized mission goals from winter retreat.
5. Received updates on columbarium, membership, roster, playground, and church sign.
6. Noted next communion date is June 4.
7. Received Stephen Ministry update.
8. Approved Terri Smith as WW Glass Trustee
9. Approved and corrected minutes.
10. Discussed and approved balance sheets and year to date reports.
11. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Mission Goals from Retreat

The deacons and elders were able to choose and finalize new ministries which will be accomplished this year alongside the many other things God does through us. Those new ministries include:

1. Determining a new hunger ministry in the form we have done in the past.
2. Sending out daily devotional emails. (which has already begun).
3. Prayer slips for worship. This involves placing a slip with your name on it in a basket when you arrive for worship if you agree to pray for others, and picking one up as you leave to pray for others in the coming week.
4. Turkey gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas
5. Expanding and resourcing children's ministries.



Combined Bible School - We will have a combined Bible School with First Baptist June 5-9. Volunteers needed! Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering or if your child would like to attend. Contact Mary Tucker Irby at 222-0919 or firstbaptistweekdayschool@gmail.com or Educational Chair—Nancy Pool.

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