

First Presbyterian News

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Office Hours

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

May 2019

Dear First Folks,

As the newsletter goes to press, the world is warming to summertime temperatures, and God continues to work his wonderful grace! Be alert to resist the calls away from faith and to embrace the constant need of the Christian for spiritual food and action to bless others in the name of Christ our Lord. In this month are officer meetings, worship times, daily work at the church office, communion, Memorial Day, mission trip fundraiser and planning, and many other things to pray for and participate in. Thank you for the blessing that you are to God and others. We are indeed a light to the world, and God walks with us as we are Christians day by day.

In Christ,

~Russell

May 5 – 3rd Sunday in Easter

Sermon: “The Third Time”

Scriptures: Psalm 30; John 21:1-19



May 12 - 4th Sunday in Easter

Sermon: “My Sheep Hear My Voice”

Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

May 19

Sermon: “Love One Another ”

Scriptures: Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

May 26—Memorial Day

Sermon: “Take Up Your Mat and Walk”

Scriptures: Psalm 67; John 5:1-9

June 2– Communion

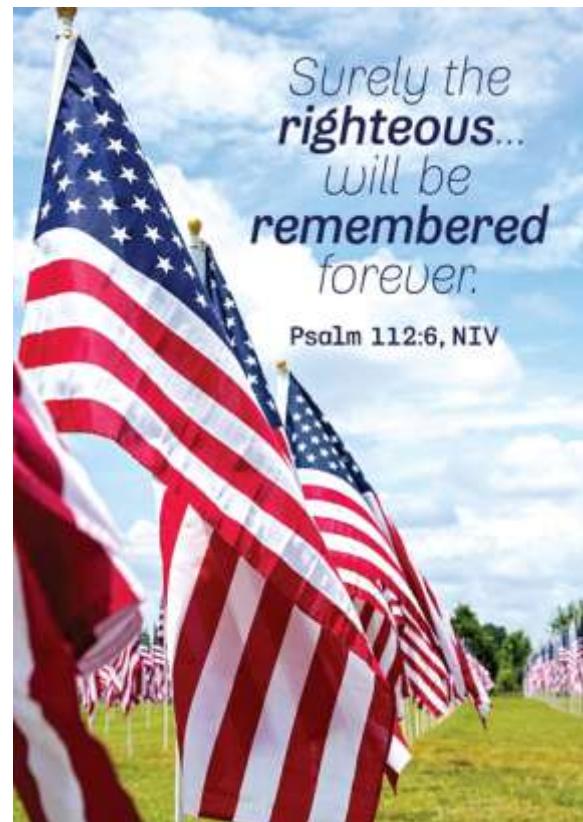
Sermon: “Time for a Prayer Meeting”

Scriptures: Psalm 97 ; Acts 16:16-34

June 9 - Day of Pentecost

Sermon: “The Lord’s Great and Glorious Day”

Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21





This month I would like to feature a story from the Pioneers-USA. One of the missionary couples that we provide support is part of this organization. Because mission teams work in some areas of the world where sharing names and locations could jeopardize their safety, we will share stories that are posted on the Pioneers website. ~ Don Cherry

Elder for Technology & International Missions

SEEKING GOD ON THE EDGE OF THE SAHARA

The gospel is such a beautiful message. But accepting it has a high cost.

"Last Friday was pretty special," writes a colleague serving on the edge of the Sahara. He'd asked us to pray about his plans to meet up with a local man, a seeker of God who had made friends with a short-term worker who gave him a copy of the New Testament.

After receiving the Bible, the local man's life began to take a radically different turn.

"The Bible began to speak to him, and he couldn't put it down. When he would go to bed, Jesus would appear in his dreams and speak to him, too. In three weeks, he finished the New Testament, along the way having visions and dreams of our Messiah. By the time I met with him last week, he was ready to become a Christian."



"There is no easy way for people to follow Jesus here."

At the same time, this seeker of God is deeply afraid of his family. If they find out that he is a follower of Jesus, he knows they will pressure and abuse him until he returns to the majority religion. And if he doesn't, they will either try to kill him or exile him from their family. That would be a huge loss to any of us, but even bigger for those in this part of the world.

"There is no easy way for people to follow Jesus here. The path that leads to eternal life is narrow, and hard. There is no better way for [this man] to get over this deep fear than to face it and endure persecution."

To be rejected by your family is devastating. To join the family of Christ, though, seems like a big risk. In such an environment, how do you know you can trust them not to disappoint or betray you?

"Would you pray that the Holy Spirit would prompt this brother to be bold at the right time, and that he wouldn't ignore His leading? Would you pray that he would have courage to meet other believers from the same background and be encouraged by their testimonies and fellowship?"
<https://pioneers.org/2019/04/11/seeking-god-sahara/>





Ladies Circle – We will meet Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 10:30 am at Sue Bales home. Her address is: 2010 Cherry Hill Church Road. Let us know if you are planning to go, so we can plan car pools.

Dr. Lee will provide the program. This will be our annual salad luncheon. Bring a salad to share. Desserts and drinks will be provided. (Directions: Head south on 501. Turn Left on 775 -Newton Farm Rd. Turn Left on 658, turn Right on Cherry Hill Church Rd. ~ 5.5 miles from here.)

Summer Mission Trip - The Summer Mission Trip is in the planning stages! The dates are July 28 - August 3. The Mission Team is always looking for people who want to try a new experience. There are only two requirements - a love for the Lord and a desire to serve His people. No special skills are needed - there is a job for everyone. Partial week stays can usually be arranged. To get on board or for more information, contact Kim Albert - 434-579-5011 or kalbert@ntelos.net.



Summer Kick-Off Picnic and Mission Team Fundraiser - Plan to fellowship over a picnic lunch on Sunday, May 19, immediately following 11:00 worship! A hot dog lunch with all the trimmings will be provided out back in the picnic shelter. We will celebrate the coming of summer and vacation time, which includes our annual Summer Mission Trip. Picnickers will have the opportunity to partner with the mission team by making donations toward the expenses of the trip. Come and enjoy a delicious grilled hot dog or two, chat with all our First Folks, play some yard games, and be a part of the work of our mission team!

National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 2 at Halifax County High School. Starting at 6:30 pm with a Flagpole ceremony, Prayer Stations at 6:45 pm . 7:00 pm will be the main event featuring - Country Singer and Speaker—Rory Feek. This is a gathering to encourage daily prayer for our nation. Come Pray for America at this special event! Invite friends and family to come and make this the best event in history.



History of Memorial Day - Originally known as Decoration Day honoring only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

General John A. Logan, a leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a national day of remembrance. The 30th of May, 1868, was designated for the purpose of strewing flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country. The title Decoration Day was chosen as it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May, in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change became effective in 1971. This same law also declared Memorial Day as a federal holiday. ~ taken from History Channel (History.com)

Happy Mother's Day

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"Joseph,
son of David,
do not be afraid
to take Mary as
your wife; for the
child conceived in
her is from the
Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:20,
NRSV

God knows us and our potential.

He knew Mary and the kind of person she was and would be, long before she was born. Scriptures testify of her, and Jesus birth long before the events even took place.

I have been thinking quite a bit about Mary. Very little is really known about her. But we do know she was faithful, obedient honest, humble, meek, a wonderful example of the type of people we should be, man or woman.

One characteristic that stands out to me, is the fact that she accepted what the angel told her regarding becoming the mother of the Savior. She didn't waver, run, or argue. She accepted it, and trusted in the Lord, and that He would help guide her on her journey through life. She said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Luke 1:38. We see that she willingly accepted the path the angel told her to take. She trusted God, and she knew she would be blessed.

Just as God knew Mary would be the mother of Christ, He knows us and our potential as well. We can react like Mary, or we can try to run like Jonah, or be very disbelieving like Zacharias, the choice is ours to make. Will we make the sometimes-hard choices to be the person God wants and knows we can be? Or will we choose an easier path that falls in line with the world.

Reason would certainly dictate that a virgin couldn't give birth. Reason would say a geriatric woman like Elisabeth or Sarah, could not give birth either, but with God all things are possible.

I love the psalm of praise she offers in Luke 1:46-49 "And Mary said, 'my soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.'"

She was correct, all generations do call her blessed. One of the Articles of Faith states: "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men..." Certainly Mary was a prime example of these characteristics. I pray I can be more like Mary, and willing to say in my times of trials "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word." ~ *Sherolyn*



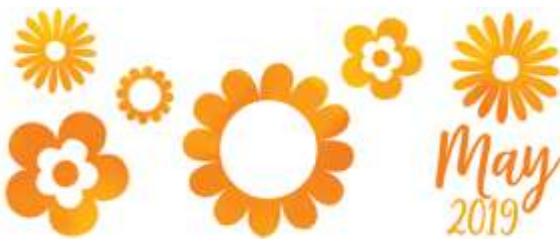
Mother's Day - is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world, and Mother's Day 2019 occurs on Sunday, May 12, in the United States. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.

History of - Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday".

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 28 5 cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	29 6pm NA	30 12 noon NA	MAY DAY 1 6 pm AA 6pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir	2 11 Moms in Prayer 6:30 NDP begins	3 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	4 NA12—1
5 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	6 6pm NA	7 12 noon NA	8 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	9 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	10 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	11 NA 12-1 GS Troop 796 meets 2-4
12 Mother's Day 9 am Worship 	13 6pm NA	14 12 noon NA	15 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	16 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	17 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	18 NA 12—1
19 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	20 6pm NA 7:00 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Elders	21 12 noon NA	22 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	23 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	24 9 am Bulletins & Newsletters 12 noon AA 6 pm NA <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i>	25 NA 12—1
26 5 cents a Meal 9 am Worship 10 am Sun. School 11 am Worship 6 pm NA	27 Office Closed 	28 12 noon NA	29 12 Noon AA 6 pm NA	30 11 Moms in Prayer 7 pm Men of the Church 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	31 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	June 1 NA12—1



1 Jeremy Cherry
1 Brian Farley
1 Megan Henderson
3 Rick Harrell
3 Les Powell IV
4 Kelly Gravitt O'Kelly
4 Ann-Carlisle Cranford-Edwards
6 Darlene Bain
7 Joseph Roberts
9 Terri Hazelwood



* In Memory

If we don't have your birthday listed,
please call the office and let us know.



10 Jennifer Edmunds
12 Byrd Young*
13 Raleigh Powell
13 Patty Nelson
15 Nick Lumsden
15 Ginny Miller
22 Jim Burton*
24 Brittany Hazelwood
28 Winston Harrell
29 Sterling Roberts



April Session Report

Elders Meeting

Session Notes: Since the last Newsletter, the elders met and:

1. Served communion on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday
2. Noted and prayed for those who are sick.
3. Elected delegates to upcoming Presbytery Meetings.
4. Approved a new discussion Sunday School Class.
5. Approved minutes for Elder and Deacon meetings.
6. Heard updates on local outreach ministry.
7. Was updated on property matters.
8. Was updated on development of plans for security.
9. Approved financials.
10. Was updated on Stephen Ministry with six care receivers.
11. Was updated on replacement of and addition to mission flags.
12. Planned communion for April 18 and April 21

May 20

7:00 pm - Combined Meeting
of Elders and Deacons

7:30 pm - Breakout for separate
meetings



Weekly Happenings

Praise Team Rehearsal: TBA
Choir Rehearsal: No Choir rehearsals until Fall
Men of the Church: Thursdays at 7 pm

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