

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,



This Easter season I am reminded of a simple principle of theology that we often fail to consider. That principle is that nothing is finished, no ending is complete, until God deems it to be completed. When Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb, everyone thought that the ministry of Jesus Christ was finished. The disciples went into hiding behind closed doors (John 20) and they only ventured out at night to fish for some food (John 21). Even though Jesus had told them repeatedly that he would rise on the third day, they were not thinking resurrection, they were thinking survival.

It occurs to me that this can be the case with many of us. God is working out world changing purposes that we do not and cannot know. At the same time, we are focused upon our small part of the world, surviving the complexities of modern life. We can remain in survival mode unless we make the effort to stay in touch with what God desires for us and His world. I once had a single mother say to me: "Don't talk to me about salvation, eternal life, and pie in the sky! Tell me how I can pay next months rent!" She was in survival mode and needed to feel safe and secure in a peaceful place before she could consider all that Christ has to offer her. That is why Christian outreach programs are so important, if we want to reach people with the good news, we have to help them feel at peace, safe, and secure.

After the resurrection, the disciples had to come out of survival mode in order to grasp the truth of their situation. It took them a while to understand the truth of the resurrection, and it took a while longer for them to understand the implications of resurrection and the importance of their calling. The other Apostles began to realize what Paul expressed when he said in Romans 8:31, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" They were beginning to find the peace, safety, and security they needed to get out of survival mode. Of course, after Pentecost they left their survival mode behind and fearlessly traveled to the ends of the known world to tell the good news, make disciples, and plant churches. What a difference the Holy Spirit can make!

As a church, and often as individuals, circumstances compel us to enter into a kind of survival mode, where we focus intensely upon immediate needs and defense of threats. While in that mode we have difficulty hearing the word of God which can bring a sense of safety, peace, and security. For over two years we have been under siege by the COVID19 virus. Our personal lives and economy have been trying to recover from that pandemic and now the war in Ukraine brings the threat of more economic turmoil and even the threat of world war. Many people are in survival mode.

We cannot know why God allows pandemic, war, and economic hardships and other terrible things that threaten today, but we can know that God's love is real and constant. This May, as we march toward Pentecost, I propose that we in the church offer the world an alternative to survival mode, that we read Romans 8 and meditate upon the fact that God is for us; God loves us, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. We can live confidently and securely in the knowledge and practice of that love. ~ Glenn





Ladies' Circle – Our next meeting for the Ladies' Circle will be ² Tuesday, May 17 at 10:30 am - Rev. Glenn will be our guest speaker. All women are invited to attend. Carol Foster has graciously offered her home for this, our very last gathering. We'd love to have all who attended in the past to come and enjoy this last time to fellowship together. There will be a light meal provided, so we do need to get a head count of those planning to attend. Please inform the church office or Joann Newland by May 3, so the meal can be planned.

National Day of Prayer - We are excited to again gather in prayer for our Nation and Virginia. Mark your calendars for Thursday May 5, come to the NDP celebration at HCHS Football Stadium. Event will begin at 6:30 pm. We are honored to have Jim "The Rookie" Morris as our guest speaker. His Cinderella story is a testimony to the power of dreams and their ability to inspire. His rise from school teacher to major league pitcher made history and a wonderful movie "The Rookie". Come join us in prayer.



Manse Fund- The Session has approved the collection of funds to help pay for the renovation and restoration of the Manse. There are monies that will not be paid by the insurance company, such as deductibles under our policy, and extra expenses incurred as a result of the fire, and it is these costs we are targeting with this fund. Once we know an estimate of costs, we will let you know the amount we will need, but funds can now be sent in and designated "Manse Fund" so we will be able to take care of these expenses. The Manse Fund will be a restricted fund only used for expenses caused by the fire and the restoration and maintenance of the Manse.

Pastoral News - "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven." I have recently realized that it is time for me to scale back my workload and begin a new season of life. Therefore, at last week's session meeting I announced my intention to retire from full-time service to the church effective June 30, 2022. The thought of leaving the church weighed heavy on my heart, because I have come to love this church and its members. At the time of the session meeting, I was under the impression that I would be required to leave the pulpit and end all pastoral activities. I was truly relieved, because after some discussions with session members and the Presbytery we have found that I can retire and reduce my workload significantly, while at the same time continuing to preach, moderate session, and provide other services to First Presbyterian of South Boston. I am delighted to continue to serve the wonderful people of First Presbyterian until the Pastor Nominating Committee finds the next installed pastor. ~ Rev. Glenn Coleman



Mother's Day - We want to wish all women, whether a mother of her own children, or not. All women have the opportunity to be an influence to others. Mother's Day is day to celebrate all those who have been an influence in our lives, teachers, mentors, mothers, etc. Thank you for your tender hearts and caring for those around you.



Prayer List - Don Cherry had shoulder surgery toward the end of the month. Ben Fincher - had quintuple bypass surgery, he is doing very well. Frances Anne Thackston was in the hospital for a time, and is in need of prayers to find better solutions for her health issues. Kim Albert - prayers to better tolerate new medications. Freshour family, Mike Freshour's father, Lynn Eldon Freshour passed away. Del Pool's mother was in the hospital with pneumonia, and is now in rehab. Molly McKinny diagnosed with lung cancer; Luanna Daniel, Patricia Burton's daughter continues to need prayers for healing. The children of Ukraine. Mary Ruth Burton - medical tests; Larry Jennings.



May 1 - Third Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "Jesus at the Waters Edge"

Scriptures: Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

May 8 - Fourth Sunday of Easter/ Mothers Day

Sermon Title: "Eternal Life"

Scriptures: Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30

May 15 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "The Love of God"

Scriptures: Psalm 148; Acts 11:1-18

May 22 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "The Living Reminder"

Scriptures: Psalm 67; John 14:23-29

May 29 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sermon Title: "Oneness"

Scriptures: Psalm 97; John 17:20-26

June 5 - Day of Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Our Helper, the Holy Spirit"

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17



**PASTORAL
SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The PNC Update - This week Pastor Glenn preached from the gospel of John chapter 20. This scripture chronicles the events that took place with the apostles in the weeks immediately following the resurrection of Jesus. A week after the resurrection, the disciples, without Thomas, were huddled in a locked room for fear of what the Jewish leaders would do to them if found. Miraculously, Jesus appears to them and says, "Peace be with you". He breaths on them and they receive the Holy Spirit. We all know the story where Thomas refuses to believe what the others told him without seeing for himself. A week later when Jesus once again appears to them, he says to Thomas "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

How often are we just like Thomas refusing to accept what is said or done without seeing it for ourselves? Believing without seeing proof is what faith is all about. The bible has much to say about believing without seeing. The book of John alone references this throughout. But if it were to be summed up in one word for believing without seeing, it would be "blessed". While none of us have actually seen Jesus, we choose through faith to believe in Him and His saving grace.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

For we live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

The candidate that was hosted by the PNC in March, has decided to accept a call to another church closer to their current home. The committee continues their search with the help of the Vanderbloemen Search Group. We have faith that God has already chosen our next pastor and that He will reveal it to us in His time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Grace and peace,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman





As we approach Mother's Day, I want to recognize the power and impact we, as women, have. I am ever more grateful for a loving example of how important women are. As we look back in history, women were not always regarded with much importance. However, Jesus Christ showed compassion and could even be called the first "feminist". As we look through the scriptures, we see many examples of His love and concern for women. He spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, even though the typical Jewish person would not speak to a Samaritan. (John 4:7-42) Christ spent time speaking with her and teaching her who He was, that He provides living water, and she was the very first person to hear the words from Him that He IS the Messiah. It was through her that many Samaritans gathered around and were taught by Christ for two days.

He spent time with Martha and Mary and taught them individually. We see Christ, with Mary, at His feet listening intently on His every word. Martha, was busy fixing the meal, and complained to Christ. He informed her that Mary was doing the "better" thing. She was building a relationship with Christ, and getting to know Him and His words. (see Luke 10:38-42) Sometimes we can be like Martha and worry about the meal or the house, but if we can be more like Mary and draw close to Christ, and hang on His every word, we will be the disciples and examples we were meant to be.

Mary Magdelene, who had been ostracized because of her many demons was healed by Christ, (Luke 8:2) and she became one of His faithful followers. She showed compassion and great love for Christ. She was with Him through many of His journeyings, and she was there at His crucifixion (Mark 15:40). She was a tower of strength, standing by during that horror to watch Him suffer and die for all. Then who did Christ show Himself to first after being resurrected? Not the disciples, not men, He appeared at the tomb to Mary (Mark 16:9). It was through Mary, that the disciples learned that Christ had risen and is alive again (Luke 24:10).

And of course, we know He showed the ultimate love for His mother, knowing she now had no one to care for her after His death, He spoke to John and asked him to care for Mary from then on. Christ, loves all. He loves women and our innate ability for compassion on others. I pray we will honor who we are, daughters of God, and recognize that we are treasures unto the Lord, and always choose to follow Him. ~ *Sherolyn*

Graduates - With May comes many graduations. We want to honor all who are approaching graduation; from High School or College, or a Trade school. All learning is a blessing and God rejoices in His children learning. It is through His help and love for us, that new inventions are created. He gave us our intelligence and we are asked to do the most with it. As the children of God we have an innate responsibility to learn all we can of Him, and intellectually; for the Glory of God is intelligence.



We Remember

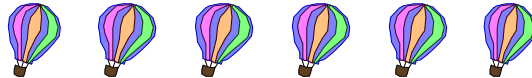


More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

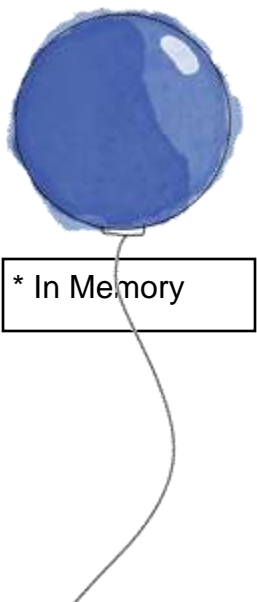
By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	2	3	4 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	 12:00 PM AA	6	7
 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	9	10	11 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	12 8:00 pm - AA	13 12:00 PM AA	14
15 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	16	17 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle At Carol Foster's 6:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Elders	18 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm—Choir	19 8:00 pm - AA	20 12:00 PM AA	21
22 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	23	24 	21 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	26 8:00 - AA	27 12:00 PM AA	28
29 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	30 Memorial Day 	31	June 1 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	June 2 8:00 pm - AA	June 3 12:00 PM AA	June 4

May Birthdays



- 1 Jeremy Cherry
- 3 Rick Harrell
- 3 Les Powell IV
- 4 Kelly Gravitt O'Kelly
- 4 Anne-Carlisle Cranford-Edwards
- 6 Darlene Bain*
- 7 Joseph Roberts
- 9 Terri Hazelwood
- 10 Jennifer Edmunds
- 12 Mike Long
- 12 Byrd Young*
- 13 Raleigh Powell
- 13 Patty Nelson
- 13 Jett Watkins
- 15 Nick Lumsden
- 22 Jim Burton*
- 24 Brittany Hazelwood
- 28 Winston Harrell
- 29 Sterling Roberts



* In Memory



Blessings on your Birthday!

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

Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:**

The Session met on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Rev. Coleman shared news of the congregation.
3. Next Presbytery Meeting – May 7, 2022, (Via Zoom)
4. PNC Report – The candidate that was hosted by the PNC in March, has decided to accept a call to another church closer to their current home. The committee continues their search with the help of the Vanderbloemen Search Group.
5. Lenten Luncheons are well attended.
6. Don Cherry presented an update from Mike Rand on the manse fire and progress with the insurance company and contractor estimates.
7. The Session approved notifying Brotherhood Mutual (our insurance carrier) of our intention to repair the Manse.
8. The March financial reports were reviewed.
9. Worship – Plans are underway to honor the High School graduates. The deacons are working on a gathering.
10. The college graduates will be recognized with a profile on each in the newsletter.
11. Kim Albert reported that she and Larry McPeters participated in a mission trip being led by Beth Car Baptist Church to Kingsport, TN. The trip went well.
13. Rev. Coleman announced that he would not be signing another Interim Pastor contract (current contract expires 6-30-2022). We are in discussion on possible ways that he might be able to continue to serve at a reduced time/workload.
14. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Upcoming :

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Ladies' Circle - Tuesday, May 17 at 10:30 am. - The very last one, come one, come all women; hosted by Carol Foster.

Deacons and Session - Tuesday, May 17 at 6pm & 7pm

First Presbyterian Church
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