

First Presbyterian News

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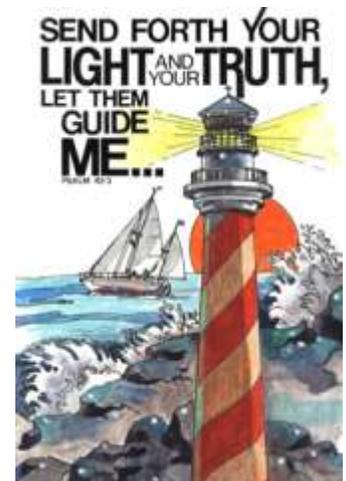
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M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Closed on Friday
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Hello, First Presbyterian family and friends!

The services the last few weeks have been pretty HOT, and I am not just referring to Glenn's wonderful sermons...the air conditioning has been on the fritz. Watching the choir almost wilt and seeing many in attendance fanning themselves to try and fend off the heat made me begin to wonder; how in the world people sat in the very same sanctuary in the past before air conditioning? Those Presbyterians were chosen but I am certain they were not frozen!

All of us like to reminisce about the "good old days" when life was simple, we were comfortable and things just seemed to make more sense. As I watched my fellow Christians fanning themselves, I also contemplated whether the "good old days" were actually that good? Being in church is good, always, but I would much rather be in an air-conditioned church than not; especially if the temperature is in the mid-nineties. Sure, times were simpler then, but the people who sat in the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian a hundred years ago had their own troubles and tribulations. World War I had just concluded and while the twenties were roaring, world economic collapse was on the way which would lead to the second World War a decade or so later. We all pine for the good times but, just like the bad times, they do not last.



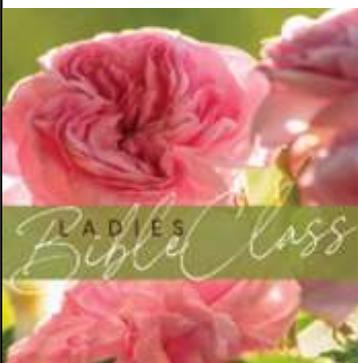
Oddly, if one thinks about it, it is in the bad, uncertain times that Christians grow and become better Christians! Trouble creates a capacity to handle it. During the bad times, we learn to deal with adversity and discover the true joys of life around us. It is in the times of trials and tribulations that we Christians truly learn and understand that regardless of how bad things seem, God will always provide us with what we need. Realizing that we can make it through adversity and turmoil strengthens resolve and teaches us that through hope and faith in God, we can endure and prosper. So, in these difficult and uncertain times, "Do not say 'Why were the old days better than these?' For it is not wise to ask such questions." Ecclesiastes 7:10. Instead, we should use the wisdom gained while overcoming uncertain times to show the power of God's love and grace. Though the world is seemingly more chaotic every day, I hope and pray that each of us, as best we can, will use our gained wisdom and faith to act as beacons of hope for those around us struggling in these uncertain times.

God Bless,
Mike Freshour
Worship Co-Chair



The Summer Community Choir

is performing their annual concert Sunday, August 7 at 7pm at First Baptist Church. Several of First Presbyterian members are a part of this choir. It is directed by Rev. Susan Davis. These concert performances bring the community and local churches together in musical worship. Don't miss this opportunity to worship and praise the Lord for His many blessings.



Women's Bible Study - The ladies study group will restart their group after Labor Day. The exact day and time is still to be determined. The last class was on the *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. This class will continue with studies by C.S. Lewis. The first few classes will center on a follow-up book titled: *Screwtape Proposes a Toast*. Mark your calendars that women's study will begin in September. More information will be forthcoming as we near September.

Prayer List - We learned early in the month that Marge Nelson had need of back surgery, though she seemed to be recovering, some complications arose, and she passed away on July 19. Dr. William Will fell from a roof, and was taken down to Duke. He is in ICU and improving, though he has a long road ahead. Several members were sick to varying degrees with COVID: Mac Lacy, Leon Plaster, Frances Anne Thackston, and others, but all are improving. Peggy Burton had cataract surgery, unfortunately didn't go well, she will need to have it re-done. Prayers for her and the doctors. Chris Jones' neighbor has substance abuse issues, and is in need of intervention/prayers. Ginny Troy was moved to Danville for rehab, was doing better, but got sick with an infection. She is improving, and has been moved back to South Boston to Commonwealth. The Fincher's welcomed the birth of twin grandsons. Les Powell IV had foot surgery, he is healing and doing well. Schuyler Barnes, the wife of a friend of Jeremy Cherry was placed on hospice care, at only 31 years old, and mother of a two-year-old passed away. Becky Shroeder passed away. James Edmunds' mother was in the hospital with congestive heart failure. We offered prayers for Joan Owens. We have been in mourning for the many shootings and horror around the country. However, through it all, we know the Lord is watching and answering the many prayers.



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.



Searching for a New Pastor



PNC Update - Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord Shall Provide

There is a contemporary Christian worship song by Maverick City Music entitled “Jireh” that is getting a lot of play time on Christian radio these days. The lyrics harken to Genesis 22 where Abraham was instructed by God to take his son, Isaac, and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah.

*“Jireh, You are enough
Jireh, You are enough
And I will be content
In every circumstance
Jireh, You are enough”*

Abraham’s obedience required an enormous extension of his faith. Hebrews 11:17-19 says, “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

At this time, Isaac wasn’t a little boy. He was a young man, perhaps in his twenties. Yet he, too, must have exercised a remarkable amount of faith and obedience to trust both his earthly father and his Heavenly Father. He allowed himself to be bound and placed on the altar. Perhaps he closed his eyes as Abraham’s knife rose in the air above his throat. But at that moment God intervened, saying, “Abraham, Abraham.... Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me” (Genesis 22:11-12).

The Bible says, “Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, ‘In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided’” (Genesis 22:13-14).

In Hebrew, “The-Lord-Will-Provide” is Jehovah-Jireh. There’s a deep lesson in this name, for Isaac was a symbol of Christ, the only begotten Son whom the Father offered as a sacrifice for our sins on the mountains of Jerusalem, which is also known as Mount Moriah.

But there’s also a lesson for us in our everyday needs. We are deeply needy people, and sometimes we need emotional support, or financial help, or physical aid, or provisions related to an emergency or crisis. In such times we can approach Jehovah-Jireh on the Throne of Grace. We can call Him that, for He is the God who provides.

This month the PNC is in the process of interviewing another candidate. Our prayer is that Jehovah-Jireh will provide enough for all our needs.

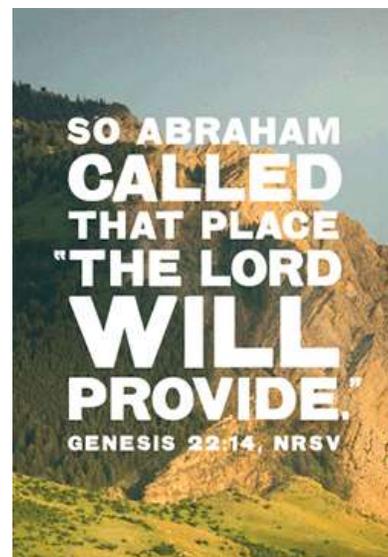
Grace and peace,

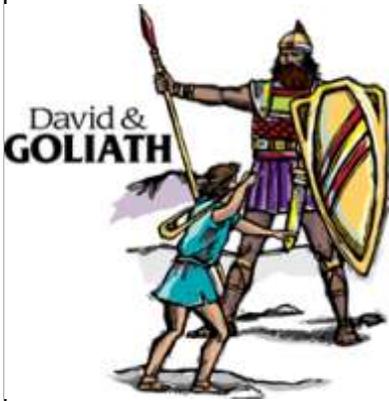
Don Cherry.

PNC Chairman



Summer Office Hours continue Monday thru Thursday from 9 am - 2 pm. With the office being closed on Fridays. In September the office will resume normal 9 am - 1 pm hours Monday through Friday.





I spoke at church Sunday, July 24. I chose Conquering Goliath as my main thought. We all know the story of David and Goliath, and how insulted Goliath was at the Israelites sending a boy to fight. Saul had put armor on David and wished him God's help as he sent David to battle Goliath. But David had never used or proven the armor, plus it was too heavy, so he removed it. He had used and proven his sling and some stones, as he fought a bear and a lion to protect his father's sheep; he also trusted God. David's reply to Goliath was: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." (1 Samuel 17:42-46)

I came across a quote about Goliaths being all around us like "hulking giants with evil intent to destroy us. These are not nine-foot-tall men, but rather men and institutions that control attractive, but evil things that may challenge and weaken us." As I read and thought about Goliaths, I was led to many other things that in themselves may not be evil, but they do take us away from God and opportunities to do His work. Some of those "Goliaths" I thought of are: social media, sports, even exercise and yard work can become Goliaths, if we allow them to become our main concentrations, and activities. Any good activity can become "bad" or a Goliath if we allow it to draw us away from church, scripture reading, saying our prayers, visiting the sick, sharing the good word of God with others, etc.

How do we ensure we do not allow these things to become a Goliath? We do more of those things in the previous sentence: reading scriptures, drawing closer to the Lord, allowing His Spirit to guide us in our daily activities, and asking for His help to use our activities for His good.



Technology can be such a blessing. We have entire books of scripture on a tiny device in our pockets (our phones), and we can access His word at any time, more easily than in any other generation, and yet this generation has less contact with God and His holy word. I pray we will turn to God, trust Him to lead us, and that we will spend more time doing His will and bringing others to Him. ~ Sherolyn



August 7 - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Faith Is a Journey"

Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

August 14 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Family Values"

Scriptures: Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 12:49-56

August 21 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Glenn will not be preaching this Sunday

August 28 - Twelveth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Party Talk"

Scriptures: Proverbs 25:6-7; Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 4- Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Cross Bearing"

Scriptures: Psalm 1; Luke 14:25-33



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	August 1	August 2	August 3 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	August 4 7:00 pm - AlAnon 8:00 pm - AA	August 5 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	August 6
7 Communion 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	8	9	10 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	11 7:00 pm—AlAnon 8:00 pm - AA	12 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	13
14 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	15	16	17 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm—Choir	18 7:00 pm—AlAnon 8:00 pm - AA	19 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	20
21- 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	22	23	24 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	25 7:00 pm—AlAnon 8:00 - AA	26 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	27
28 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	29 <i>Newsletter DEADLINE</i>	30	31 12:00 Noon AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	September 1 7:00 pm - AlAnon 8:00 pm - AA	September 2	September 3

2 Meredith Howell
4 Donnell Corelle*
6 Joan Owens
7 Ann Crabtree
10 Jim Luedtke
10 Drew Morgan
12 Joanna Harrell
12 Caroline Harrell
14 Barbara Johnston
15 Lisa Howell
17 Wilma Hendley*
19 Sylia Hendley
20 Ronnie Crabtree



23 Wayne Roller
24 Candice Powell
25 Dan Koutsos
29 Sally Slaff
29 Marge Nelson
30 Debbie Burton*
31 Polly Ratcliff*
31 Robin Hall

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

* In Memory



Session Notes: Session and Diaconate did not meet in July. A report will be available in September after their August session meeting. A date and time is yet to be determined for their meeting in August.



UPCOMING EVENTS 	Upcoming : Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm. Deacons and Session - TBD
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First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
South Boston, VA 24592