

First Presbyterian News

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Rev. Glenn Coleman - Supply Pastor
Sherolyn Barnett, Office Manager
secretary@1stpres.cc
Chris Jones, Choir Director
Ernest "Avon" Traynham—Sexton
Sue Wilkins - Treasurer



Face book:
www.facebook.com/firstpressobo
Website: 1stpres.cc

Office Hours
M-F 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
434-572-3581

By This Everyone Will Know You Are My Disciples

Just before Jesus left His Disciples, he said to them, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35. I think it speaks volumes that just before sacrificing himself for our mortal sins, Jesus says we will be known as his disciples if we love one another. Because of his love for us, Jesus was willing to sacrifice himself to take away our sins; Jesus died so that we may live.

Each of us can be known as a disciple if we follow the instructions of Jesus and love one another; we become closer to God when we do so. Even though the command from Jesus is short and very clear, most of us do not fully embrace the command. Yes, we love our family and friends but do we always love those that have harmed us? Jesus also said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:43-45. Now that is putting a fine point on the command to love one another! Jesus did not stop at "love one another;" he instructs us to love our enemies!!

The world we live in today is full of hate and discontent, locally, regionally, nationally and globally. There are many who would seek to punish and humiliate Christians simply because of our faith. Still, there are many who would seek to punish and cancel certain groups based on a multitude of factors. None of us can change the world by ourselves but we can change hearts, one at a time, by showing what a true disciple is and expressing love to everyone, even out detractors. God Bless you.

Mike Freshour

Co-Chair, Worship Committee



While Sherolyn is away from the office and on vacation, please call Don Cherry if you have any needs. He can be reached at 434-579-5159.

September 12 - The office hours will return to Monday through Friday 9 am to 1 pm.

September 4– Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Cross Bearing"

Scriptures: Psalm 1; Luke 14:25-33

September 11 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Lost and Found"

Scriptures: Psalm 14; Luke 15:1-10

September 18 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "That Kind of God"

Scriptures: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Luke 16:1-13

September 25 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Buy the Field!"

Scriptures: Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19

October 2 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Mustard Seeds"

Scriptures: Psalm 37:1-9; Luke 17:5-10



Women's Bible Study - The Ladies Bible Study will have our first fall meeting on **September 7**. Please note that we will meet on **Wednesdays** this year rather than Thursdays. We will meet in the **Fellowship Hall at 10:30**.

For our first meeting, we will have a quick review of the Screwtape Letters and conclude the book by discussing the final chapter. Those who still have their book, *"The Screwtape Letters"*, please bring it. If by chance you have misplaced it, do not be concerned. We will listen to an audio reading before the discussion.

We are picking up on the last letter to prepare us for the first part of our Fall Study: *"Screwtape Proposes a Toast"*. You do not have to purchase a book for the first part of the study. Each participant will receive a PDF of short story along with discussion questions.

This is a rather short story and will probably only last 2-3 weeks. In this story C.S. Lewis has us delve a little deeper into how Screwtape (Satan's right-hand man) can help to corrupt education, democracy, social politics and directly shift a cultural worldview.

The second part of our study this year will be of C.S. Lewis' book, *"The Problem of Pain"*. In this book, Lewis sets out to untangle the knotty question of Why must we suffer?

Everyone suffers. We take every precaution to escape it, but it's unavoidable. The fact is, we will experience some degree of pain and suffering in our lives. When pain occurs often our faith is rocked. We may become angry and have a lot of questions. We struggled with reconciling how a loving God can allow His people to suffer while others, whom we may perceived as evil, flourished. What's the point? What benefit does it serve?

We have all experienced pain—the death of loved ones, the betrayal of those closest to you, the loss of a job, a child in rebellion, the diagnoses that you were not expecting, and the list goes on.

Most often our pain results in a one-word question: Why?

Prayer List - Leon Plaster is having heart surgery Sept. 1. Bob Hughes' aunt - Peggy Hughes broke her hip, Jerry Grubbs is having radiation treatment for cancer at Duke. Gene Haugh is ill impeding treatment. Luanna Daniel continues to need prayers. Chris Jones having vertigo issues, Kim Albert's 11-year-old nephew is on a new faith journey wanting to know more about God and the Bible. Janice Traynham, Avon's wife had surgery, Dr. William Will returned home after his hospital stay. Prayers for his caregivers. Mark Foster had throat surgery, it went well, his throat is very sore, but healing. Ginny Troy is back in South Boston. She is now at Commonwealth Assisted Living. Connie Troy continues to need prayers. Peggy Burton with cataract surgery complications. Alice Freshour for recovery. Chris Jones also asked for prayers for a neighbor with substance abuse issues. Alice Waskey, Flooding victims in Kentucky and Colorado. Students and teachers as school begins.



A very enthusiastic group of volunteers provided an amazing taco bar/salad bar dinner to the Prizery summer theatre actors in July. We are grateful to the following for helping out with this project in many different ways: Sallie Adams, Kim Albert, Sterling Byrd-Roberts, Don Cherry, Kathy Edmunds, Kay Lewis, and Joni Owens; and thanks to Carol Foster, Jim Luedtke, and Laurie Morris for being willing!

"Dear Kim and all the fine folks at First Presbyterian,

"On behalf of all of us here at the Prizery, we can't thank you enough for the delicious meal (and fun door-prize goodies!) you provided to our summer actors.

"Being our first summer back, these young professionals felt blessed by the hospitality you radiated during their time here in South Boston. "We hope to collaborate with you again in the future!

"Sincerely,

The Prizery Team"



PNC Update - Jehovah-Rapha: The Lord Who Heals³

The origin of the name Jehovah Rapha can be traced back to two Hebrew words used in the Old Testament, which in combination can mean “God who heals” or “God who restores.”

God first revealed Himself as Jehovah-Rapha to the Israelites after their exodus out of Egypt.

After three days of wandering in the Desert of Shur, the Israelites were in desperate need of water. They discovered a river, however, the waters were unfit to drink. As a reflection of the quality of the water and their emotional disposition, the Israelites named the river Mahra (bitter).

God divinely cleansed the waters by instructing Moses to throw a piece of wood into the water, thereby making it drinkable.

Following this miracle, God declared Himself as Jehovah Rapha to His people by proclaiming, “If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

This promise was also a gesture of assurance from God to the Israelites, who had borne witness to the 10 plagues that God had released over all of Egypt prior to their release from slavery.

The varying manifestations of God’s tremendous healing power as Jehovah-Rapha can be found in the following biblical passages to combat the following:

Sickness and infirmity (Psalm 41:3)

Healing from mental affliction (Jonah 2:5-7)

Spiritual fatigue (Psalm 23:3)

Emotional suffering (Psalm 147:3)

Anxiety or worry (John 14:27)



We can call upon Jehovah-Rapha today to heal us of our physical ailments and to provide redemption for our sins. Through the power of the blood of the Great Physician – Jesus Christ –, we can rise from our old sinful life as new creations in eternal fellowship with God.

This month the PNC is continuing conversation with a candidate. We do have concerns about our financial ability to call a pastor. Our prayer is that Jehovah-Rapha will provide healing and restoration for our church, community and world.

Grace and peace,

Don Cherry.

PNC Chairman

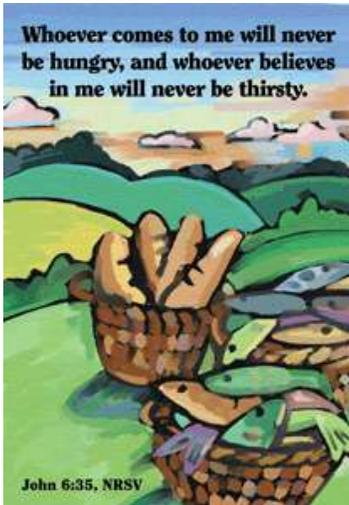


Greeting Card Ministry - Have you heard of a cancer quilt ministry or a prayer shawl ministry? In October we will begin a Greeting Card Ministry, where we will make greeting cards to send to church members. The possibilities are endless but include get well cards, cards of encouragement, congratulations, praying for you, or simply thinking of you.

Joni Owens has had training in making beautiful personalized greeting cards, and will share with us tips and skills for creating these meaningful expressions of care. (You DO NOT have to be an artist!) The idea is not only will we produce a stockpile of cards for church use, but will learn the techniques and have access to the materials to make cards for your own use.

The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 4, 10:30-11:30am, and we will continue meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at that time. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, and all materials will be provided. In addition to the card-making and fellowship, we will include a short devotion and prayer time as we consider the First Folks who would benefit from being lifted up by a simple card in the mail.

Bread of Life



As Christ was journeying and teaching, he gave several sermons. One of those sermons was the Bread of Life. During his ministry time, he had gained a large following of people who would travel with him as he went from town to town. One of these times was shortly after he had taught the 5000 and had fed them with just a few fish and loaves of bread.

Those that followed him were hungry and began saying “Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Christ began to teach them that “It was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world ... I am the bread of life.” (John 6:32-33, 35).

The people were confused thinking “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph”? Christ began teaching them that He is “the bread of life.” Though their ancestors ate manna, they died. Those who would eat of Him would live forever. This comment confused the people even more, trying to figure out how they were supposed to “eat” Him.

As I think of this question, I think of two ideas. 1) The Lord’s Supper we take the bread and wine, which represents Christ’s body and blood. 2) How often have we heard “You are what you eat.”? As we study scriptures, we are to ‘feast’ on them. As we ‘feast’ on the word, and take them into our hearts and body, they help us to become more like Christ. The word becomes a part of who we are.

Those two examples help us to understand Christ’s statement to “eat of my flesh, and drink my blood ...”

As Christ taught, many of the people felt the task was “too hard”. They began to turn and walk away. “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” Christ then turned to His twelve and said “Will ye also go away?”

Do we sometimes think what we are asked to do is hard? Are we ever tempted to walk away? We all have struggles, but Christ can and will give us strength as we turn and lean on Him.

Can we hold strong like the twelve who said “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 6:67 - 69) I pray that we will be faithful disciples and not turn away from the only one, the one who is mighty to save. ~ *Sherolyn*

First Folks in the News - You may recall how fun it was to check out the bulletin board next to the choir room and see newspaper clippings with the names of our First Folks highlighted. Bob Nelson carried out that simple ministry for many years.

If you’ll look again, those highlighted articles are beginning to reappear! We are in search of that special person who loves to read the newspaper and who feels called to share that gift with the rest of us by taking over this ministry. If you are that person just contact any member of the Session or the church office.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6





SEPTEMBER 2022

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



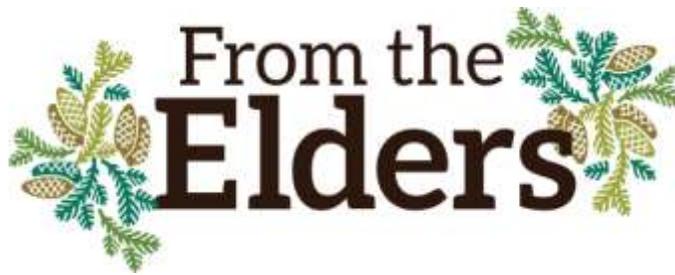
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mike Koch
- 6 Connie Marvin
- 6 Salli Pool
- 7 Connie Cox*
- 8 Harman Saunders
- 8 Michaella Fraser Freshour
- 8 Doris Koch
- 10 Sam Lewis
- 10 Julianna Berry
- 10 Carole Woodward
- 11 Tommy Wilkinson
- 14 Matthew Lee
- 16 Eric Roberts
- 17 George Burton
- 17 Sallie Adams

* In Memory

- 18 Dylan Berry
- 18 Jeremy Luedtke
- 21 Tee Godbold
- 21 Courtland Thackston
- 22 Mike Freshour
- 24 Grace McAbee
- 24 Parker Harrell
- 25 Joe Ferguson*
- 26 Fred Collins
- 28 Shirley Blackmon
- 29 Latane' Saunders
- 29 Susan Chandler

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 Sunday, August 28, 2022

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Members of the Communicants Class (Maelyn Fraser-Freshour, Logan Chappell and Matthew Fraser-Freshour) presented their faith journeys, answered the constitutional questions, and were accepted into membership through profession of faith.
3. News of the congregation was shared.
4. Kim Albert attended the virtual Presbytery Meeting on August 20th as Commissioner. She gave a brief report on the meeting.
5. Membership Roll – Margaret (Marge) A. Nelson passed away July 19, 2022
6. With the change in schedule for Pastor Glenn, the monthly Stated Session meetings will be moved to the 3rd Sunday after worship (12:30 pm) and the Diaconate will meet at 3:00 pm on the same day.
7. PNC Report – Continues to work with the Vanderbloemen Search Group to identify potential candidates for our next pastor. The PNC is in discussion with a candidate.
8. Worship – Next communion October 2nd.
9. Rally Day – Sunday, September 11th.
10. Local Missions – First Presbyterian provided dinner for the Prizery's Summer Stock Theatre cast and crew on Thursday, July 21, in the early evening. There were 7 young people in attendance. A note of thanks from the Prizery was shared with the Session.
11. Property – Mike Rand shared a HVAC quote from Elliott Electric for installation of four heat pumps to heat and cool the sanctuary at a cost of \$57,771.00 be approved. The motion was seconded and after discussion, approved.
12. Mike Rand presented an update on the progress of the insurance claim for the fire in the Manse. A second contractor quote has been received and submitted to Brotherhood Mutual.
13. Budget & Finance – Financial report was reviewed
14. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



Upcoming :

Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

5 Cents-a-Meal collection - Sunday, September 18

Deacons and Session - Sunday, September 18. Session at 12:30 pm and the Deacons at 3:00 pm.

First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
South Boston, VA 24592