

First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

Psalm 119:114 You are my Hiding Place and my shield: I hope in your word.

One of the things I've most enjoyed about retirement is having time to read! I'm working through my "to-be-read" list. Without a doubt, one of the most impactful and life changing books I've read is "*The Hiding Place*" by Corrie ten Boom.

Many of you are probably familiar with Corrie ten Boom, who is considered a model of Christian faith in action. She lived in Holland during the Nazi occupation. Compelled by her unwavering Christian values, she and her family became leaders in the Dutch Underground, hiding Jewish people in their home in a specially built room and helping them escape from the Nazis. Corrie, her beloved sister Betsie and father were caught, imprisoned, and sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany. In her book, she tells of having endured and witnessed unimaginable cruelty, persecution and atrocities.

Despite horrific circumstances, "The Hiding Place" contains countless examples of Christian love, faith, thankfulness and forgiveness. Corrie recounts this story: "Conditions in our barracks were terrible. When we first arrived, I told Betsie I could not bear the fleas that lived in our filthy blankets and mattresses. Betsie replied, 'Corrie, you must thank God for everything, even for fleas.'" Corrie couldn't fathom thanking God for fleas! However, it was later discovered that because of the infestation of fleas in their Barracks, the women guards and Nazi officers left them alone. The fleas most likely saved their lives! Additionally, Corrie and Betsie were able to hold secret bible lessons without fear. They thanked God for the fleas and the crowded conditions in the barracks because more people would hear God's Word. What a perfect example of realizing that what we sometimes think is a curse can be a blessing. ***"Giving thanks always and for everything to God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20***

Corrie's sister Betsie died there just days before Corrie's release in December 1944. Inspired by Betsie's selfless love and forgiveness during her imprisonment, Corrie established a post-war home for other camp survivors trying to recover. She discovered that love was far more powerful than hate, and that God's love could not be conquered. Corrie later traveled internationally as a missionary, preaching God's forgiveness and the need for reconciliation. Repeatedly, Corrie demonstrated that despite the circumstances you find yourself in, no matter how dark or difficult, God is always with you. As we focus on God's blessings, we are strengthened to persevere through life's challenges and disappointments.

Here are a few of Corrie ten Boom's famous quotes:

"Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness."

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God, you'll be at rest."

"You see, a potter can only mold the clay when it lies completely in his hand. It requires complete surrender."

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer."

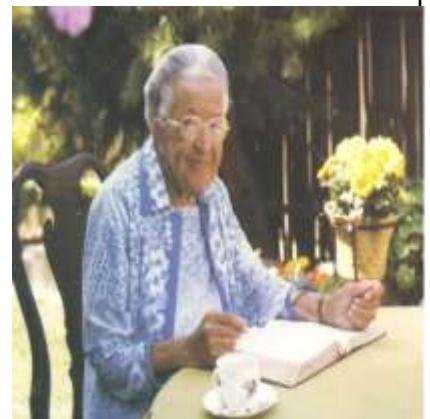
"Jesus did not promise to change the circumstances around us.

He promised great peace and pure joy to those who would learn to believe that God actually controls all things."

This is what the past is for! Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see."

Please read this inspiring book!

In Christ's love, Joni Owens



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Worship Schedule for the Summer

August 6 - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "God's Passion"

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Scriptures: Psalm 17:1-7, 15; John 3:1-21

August 13 - Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "All Mighty God" (Part 1)

Scriptures: Psalm 85:8-13; Psalm 100

August 20 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "All Mighty God" (Part 2)

Scriptures: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

August 27 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "All Mighty God" (Part 3)

Scriptures: Psalm 124; John 14:15-21

September 3 - Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: "Love Will Empower Your Gifts"

Scriptures: Jeremiah 15:15-21; 1 Corinthians 12 & 13

Prayer List - Hope Long Culpepper - aneurysm - in ICU at Duke. Alicia Coleman - cancer. Chase LaRue's family and friends after his sudden passing. Charles David 'Chuck' Conner's family and friends after his passing. Susan Butterworth (Deborah Sizemore's sister) as she becomes caregiver for Janae Butterworth who is under hospice care. Eric Morris (son of Clarence Morris, who recently passed) diagnosed with a brain tumor. Col. John Harris (Pat Hay's son) having heart surgery on August 7; Mary Glass and her family after her stroke. Jean Long - Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Joan - (in Norfolk) dealing with cancer (Rowena Smith's daughters); Don Smith.



Prayers continue: Barney Newberry; Kim's sister, Sherrie; Kathy Choate; and Chris Jones' friend, David's, mom, Rosa. Baby Nova.

Gratitude: Ted VanBenschoten on birth of 10th great grandson. Jim and Deborah Sizemore for all prayers for Janae Butterworth and family. Patricia Burton for all thoughts and prayers after the passing of Luanna.

Greeting Card Ministry - What a joy to make these beautiful cards, and know that they are brightening others' days. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 1 at 10:30 am. We meet in the classroom across from the nursery. Come and join us.



Women's Bible Study – The study of the book *The Shack* by William Paul is well underway. Discussions have been so amazing that it was realized time would not allow for completion of the book on the current schedule. So, the group will meet two (2) times in August for two (2) hour increments to complete the study and have time to also watch the movie. The next classes will be Wednesday, August 2 at 10 am till 12 noon. Then again on August 16 from 10-12pm.

Community Choir Concert – First Baptist Church is again hosting its annual Community Choir Concert on Sunday, August 6 at 7pm. This event is always full of beautiful music and a great way to spend a Sunday evening. Several of our church members will be part of the choir, hand bells will also be utilized.





PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

PNC Update - Run the Race!

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“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Over three years ago you voted to start a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for the next pastor for our church. Under the care of our Presbytery, we were trained in the process and sent out to accomplish our task. Over the months I have shared some of the paths that we have traveled, the candidates that we interviewed and the disappointments we have experienced. In all of this we have continued to run the race, seeking God’s will for His church while learning to wait on the Lord.

In early April of this year, we were introduced to John McCarthy by the folks at Vanderbloemen. In the course of our conversations, it became clear to us that God was revealing to us His choice for our next pastor. As in Hebrews, we were running the race and fixing our eyes on Jesus.

As I shared during the congregational meeting, we are partnering with John to help him achieve ordination in the PC(USA). We are excited to welcome the McCarthy’s into our church family and look forward to what the future holds for us. We continue to seek God’s direction as we share His love both inside and outside the doors of the church.

In His love,

Don Cherry, PNC Chairman



John C. McCarthy

Professional Experience



Office Manager New Fire for Christ, Norfolk, VA - February 2023 – June 2023

Pastor at First Presbyterian Dexter/First Presbyterian Hagerman (EPC), Dexter/Hagerman, New Mexico - October 2021 – December 2022

Assistant Pastor/Youth Pastor at Christ Community Church (Wesleyan), Toano, Virginia - February 2016 - February 2017

Adjunct Professor in Biblical Studies at Southeastern University (Florida), Williamsburg, Virginia August 2015 - June 2016

United States Navy, Religious Program Specialist, Naples, Italy - January 2005 - November 2010.

Education

Denver Seminary, Master of Divinity (Pastoral Counseling) - January 2011 - May 2014

University of Maryland University College (BS Psychology) - Class of 2010



God's Love

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Recently in studying for Sunday School, a story of two people with whom I can completely relate, impacted me and really caught my attention, as if for a first time.

Saul of Tarsus and Ananias. Saul: born Roman to Jewish parents, he grew up with privilege, was highly educated by a renowned rabbi, Gamaliel. Named after a king. He had the support of Rome and he was dedicated to upholding what he thought to be true.

However, when a dream came to him and he heard the voice of the Lord, who asked "Why persecutest thou me?" Saul was surprised, as he hadn't felt that he was persecuting the Lord; but was upholding the traditional Jewish teachings, and punishing for blaspheme.

When Stephen came to preach and let him know of the Lord's goodness, Saul later had him killed by stoning; a most painful way to die. Many feared and hated Saul, yet God knew him and his heart.

Ananias was a Christian church leader, and was directed by Christ to go and find Saul and bring him into the fold of the church. In Acts 9: 11-12 we read, "And the Lord said unto him, arise, and go into the street, ... and inquire ... for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight."

Ananias wondered, and no doubt was confused at the Lord's request. He even questions the Lord a bit; in verse 13, "Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ... he hath authority ... to bind all that call on thy name."

Then in verse 15, "But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chose vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."

In these scriptures we see that the Lord knows us, our hearts, and our potential. No matter how much evil we have done, he can help us find the right path and do the work we were meant to do.

Ananias, is a perfect example of Christ, and his obedience and love for all, even an enemy. Though he no doubt feared Saul, he approached him as a friend, and healed him of his blindness. Because Ananias was willing to obey the will of God, and do something scary, we have much of the Bible and so much of His teachings. Saul's name was changed to Paul, which in Greek more closely means small, or low. And Paul was ok with that. He went from being great to small. Don't we all feel a bit small when we sin, and then feel the need to repent? But the Lord, in all His abundant love, is willing to forgive, as many times as we will repent and come unto Him.

I love the story of these two men. One who had to drastically change his thoughts and ways, and the other who listened obediently; because of both we are richly blessed. ~ *Sherolyn*





The McCarthy's are excited to be moving to South Boston. When the work is completed, they will be living in the manse. In the meantime, they will be living in their RV in the Cluster Springs RV Park. John grew up as part of a Navy family. His mother lives in Williamsburg and they are thrilled to be close to her. Jennifer, John's wife, said during their visit to South Boston she was looking forward to having a place that they could call home. Jennifer grew up in Ona, West Virginia. They have two children, Liam (eight years old) and Moyrah (4 years old). Jennifer plans on home schooling the children.

John's first day in the office was Monday, July 24th. We hope that you will take the opportunity to get to know the McCarthy's and make them feel welcome.



August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	31	August 1 10:30 am - GCM	August 2 10:30 - WBS 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	August 3 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	August 4 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	August 5
Sherolyn Out for Vacation						
6 - 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship 12:30 pm - Session 3:00 pm - Diaconate 7:00 pm - Community Choir Concert	7	8	9 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	10 7:00 pm—Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	11- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	12
13 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	14	15	16 10:30 - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	17 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	18- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	19 9-12 NA
20 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am Worship		22	23 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	24 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	25 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	26
27 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship		29	30 12:00—AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	31 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	September 1 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	September 2

- 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 Syla Hendley
- 20 Ronnie Crabtree
- 23 Wayne Roller



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 24 Candice Powell
- 25 Dan Koutsos*
- 29 Sally Slaff
- 29 Marge Nelson
- 30 Debbie Burton
- 30 Moyrah McCarthy
- 31 Polly Ratcliff*
- 31 Robin Hall

* In Memory

We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.





Choir - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

Greeting Card Ministry - August 1 at 10:30.

Women's Bible study - Wednesday, August 2nd and 16th—10am - 12 noon.

Deacons and Elders - Sunday, August 6. Session at 12:30. Diaconate at 3pm.

5 Cents-a-Meal collection - Sunday, August 20th.

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

Here is your August 2023 Newsletter