

First Presbyterian News

1

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The Harvest is Plentiful

This time of year always brings out the pumpkins and hay bales as people celebrate the harvest. In Christian teaching, the metaphor of the harvest is frequently used to illustrate the work of evangelism. The concept draws from agricultural life, familiar to many during biblical times, making it a relatable and powerful image for explaining spiritual truths. The harvest signifies a season of gathering fruit from seeds that have been sown, nurtured, and cared for—a process that mirrors the journey of sharing the message of faith and bringing people into a relationship with God.

Scripture is filled with references to the harvest as a symbol for spiritual work. For example, Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Here, the field represents the world, and the harvest represents people who are ready to receive the good news. This imagery communicates urgency, opportunity, and the need for active participation.

Stages of Spiritual Growth:

- * **Sowing the Seed:** Evangelism often begins with sowing—sharing the message of hope and truth with others. Just like seeds need to be planted in the earth, the gospel must be shared in people's hearts through words, actions, and relationships.
- * **Nurturing:** After planting, farmers water, weed, and care for their crops. Similarly, evangelism is not just a one-time act; it involves building relationships, answering questions, providing encouragement, and demonstrating love.
- * **Waiting Patiently:** There is a period of anticipation and faith as growth happens out of sight. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. God saves people. We do not save anyone. Evangelists must be patient, trusting in the Lord that seeds sown will eventually bear fruit.
- * **The Harvest:** When the time is right, crops are gathered. In evangelism, this represents the moment when individuals respond to the internal call God puts on their heart and embrace and profess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and savior. They are born again through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the time we are living in! The Church today has the wonderful privilege of bringing these new disciples into the fold "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything [Jesus] commanded you."



Lesson for the Church today:

- * **Recognize the Season:** Just as farmers know when to plant and harvest, evangelists must discern when people are ready to hear and respond. Sensitivity and wisdom are vital.
- * **Work Together:** Harvesting is rarely a solo task; it requires teamwork. Evangelism, too, is a collective effort—as part of a community, believers support one another in reaching out.
- * **Labor with Expectation:** The image of the harvest encourages the Church to work with hope, anticipating a rich yield. Even if results are not immediate, faithful labor will ultimately bring in a harvest.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The harvest is a vivid and enduring illustration for the Great Commission, reminding us that spiritual growth, and gathering the harvest, requires dedication, patience, and cooperation. Just as a farmer rejoices in a successful harvest, so too does the Christian community celebrate when lives are transformed as they believe in their hearts and profess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and risen savior (Rom. 10:9). Embracing this metaphor inspires disciples of Christ to engage wholeheartedly in the work of sharing the Good News of the Gospel, confident that their efforts contribute to a greater spiritual harvest.

The current spiritual climate seems to indicate we are on the verge of another Great Awakening! So, Church, pray for more workers because, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Praise be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

In Christ,

Pastor John



October 5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “Pour Out Your Heart to the Lord”
Scriptures: Lamentations 3:19-26; Lamentations 1:1-6

October 12 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “The Lord is Sovereign”
Scriptures: Psalm 66:1-12; Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

October 19 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “A New Covenant”
Scriptures: Psalm 119:97-104; Jeremiah 31:27-34

October 26 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “The Day of the Lord”
Scriptures: Psalm 65; Joel 2:23-32

November 2 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “The Righteous Live by Faith”
Scriptures: Psalm 119:137-144; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Tee Godbold Memorial - update

We are so grateful to all that helped with the Match Campaign! We were challenged to collect \$20K and in return \$20K would be donated as a match gift. We came up a tiny bit short, we collected \$19,280. What an amazing tribute to Tee and to those who have passed and been long time members. We are grateful for our anonymous donor who went ahead and gave the full \$20,000. As a result we have gained \$59,280 in funds to help with needed church upkeep and restoration projects.



Operation Christmas Child - We are so grateful for all those who have helped so far to help gather items for the Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. We have assessed the items still in need We also are in need of the following items: T-shirts for Boys and Girls - all sizes (2-4, 5-9, & 10-14). Sports Bras for girls ages 10-14. Fun items: TY Beanie Babies, Barbies, other small toys, handbags, etc.



Prayer List - Jennifer McCarthy's mother, Betsy, has kidney issues. Danny Hazelwood continues to suffer with back pain. Dargan Cherry's brother having health issues and melanoma surgery. Rick Harrell had surgery at Duke, at the time of this writing he was still in the hospital. Maelyn Fraser Freshour at University of Chicago. Martie McCarthy was in the hospital with hip issues. Bob Riley has multiple terminal diseases. Connie Troy - cancer. David and Terri Smith's son had hip restoration surgery on one side and will have the other hip restored in October. Colter Wickemeyer's mother fell, now recovering. Kim Albert completed radiation therapy and was able to travel to Colorado. She is now at her river house on hospice. Bruce Link, Jim Luedtke's son's father-in-law, severed a thumb in a farming accident. JE Tuck - heart issues. Friends and family of Charlie Kirk. All those affected by the church shooting and fire. Mary Glass Sawyer is at Commonwealth Senior Living.

Praise - Brittany Hazelwood cleared from her Dr. off all heart meds. Brittany has decided to be baptized. Praise the Lord!



Card Ministry at Commonwealth - The Card Ministry will meet at Commonwealth to help the residents create beautiful cards on Wednesday, October 21 at 2 pm. Anyone interested in joining them to make cards and/or to help the residents are welcome to join them. This is a great ministry allowing the residents to have a fun activity.



Baptism - Brittany has made a wonderful decision to commit her life to Christ and be baptized Sunday, October 5 at the start of worship. After worship there will be a small reception gathering to welcome and congratulate Brittany into the fold of God in the Fellowship Hall.



Holy Interruptions - Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.

"Interruptible faith" is a posture of openness. It's saying, “Lord, here's my plan—but I trust Yours more.” It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

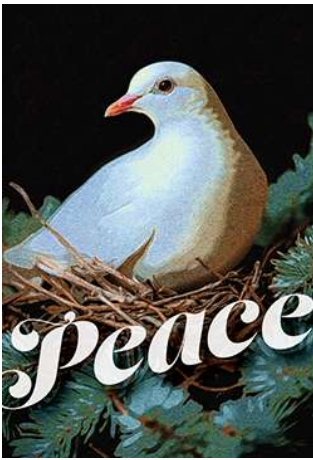
Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, *“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”* May we have the courage to let Him.

~ NewsletterNewsletter



Finding Peace and Hope

4



Recently we have witnessed many horrific and violent actions against the innocent. These are not actions taken during war, though in reality we are in a war against evil. There have been shootings of public people, in schools, and in churches. With these events my heart turns to Christ and His teachings.

He has asked us to “follow Him” to live and love as He has and does love us. Yet, so much hate exists today. But we can still find comfort and peace even amidst the gloom and darkness. In Psalm 85:8, we read, “I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people.”

John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled” and in vs 18 “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” And then in vs 27, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

I am grateful for the knowledge that “all will be well”. Perhaps not right now and today. We do have to continue to deal with trials of our faith.

Many church leaders call for us to be peacemakers. Christ taught His disciples at the Sermon on the Mount “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”. (Matthew 5:9-10 KJV). Christ repeatedly tells us “If ye love me, keep my commandments.

These scriptures and many others give me peace and hope. I know that Christ is over all and sees and knows our needs. He wants the world to follow Him. He will give us strength to persevere if we trust Him and turn to Him. As we turn to Christ, reading scripture and trusting His word we will be better able to do as we read “Let your hearts be comforted,... for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

What better blessing can we ask? We can find comfort! We know God. He has us in His hand and as we turn to him and become peacemakers, we will feel peace no matter what wickedness prevails around us. Let God Prevail! ~ *Sherolyn*



SUNDAY OCT. 19, 2025 @ 4:00 PM. WALKING FROM 801 WILBORN AVE TO CONSTITUTION SQUARE. STAY FOR PRAISE & WORSHIP

INFO @ [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESSOBO/EVENTS](https://www.facebook.com/firstpressobo/events)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	29	30	October 1 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	October 2 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	October 3 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	October 4
5 - Communion 9:00 am - Diaconate 9:45 am Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	6	7	8 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	9 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	10- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	11
12 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	13	14	15 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	16 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	17 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	18 6 pm - AA - Back 2 Basics
..... 19- 5 Cents a Meal collection 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am -Worship 12:30 pm - Session 4:00 pm - Christ's Kingdom in Motion	20	21 2 pm Greeting Card At Commonwealth	22 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	23 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA New Letter DEADLINE	24 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	25 6 pm - AA - Back 2 Basics
26 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	27	28	29 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	30 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	31 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	November 1 6 pm - AA - Back 2 Basics



- 4 Susie Luedtke
- 7 Laurie Edwards Morris
- 10 Kelly Chappell*
- 13 James Wyatt Barczak
- 15 Jerry Grubbs
- 20 Virginia Crutchfield
- 21 Pat Guthrie*
- 21 Rev. Glenn Coleman
- 22 Les Powell III
- 26 Kathy Farley
- 26 Red Guthrie*
- 26 Joni Owens
- 27 Jim Debiec
- 29 Pattie Grubbs
- 29 Rowena Van Duser Smith

* In Memory

We want to recognize everyone. 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, September 21, 2025.

1. Rev. John McCarthy opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared by Pastor John.
3. Minutes of the August 17th Stated Session Meeting and September 14th Called Congregational meeting were approved.
4. Next Presbytery Meeting – Thursday, October 23, 2025, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA
5. Pastor John updated the Session on the work being done by the Sanctuary Design Committee. Painting quotes are being gathered.
6. Earth Krafters has aerated, treated and seeded the church and manse lawns.
7. A worklist is being developed for Fall workdays for both inside and outside the church.
8. Budget & Finance – Financial reports for August 2025 were reviewed.
9. The proposed 2026 Church Budget will be reviewed for approval at the October Session meeting.
10. Local Missions – Operation Christmas Child 2025 - This month (September) still need monetary donations for shipping cost.
11. Worship - Next Communion, Sunday, October 5, 2025. Positive feedback on old method for communion.
12. The Nominating Committee has begun their work to develop the ballot for the new officer election.
13. A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 9th for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons and Trustees for the Class of 2028.
14. Pastor John closed the meeting with prayer.
15. Next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 12:30 pm.



- **Choir** - Wednesday's at 6:00 pm
- **Communion** - Sunday, October 5
- **Diaconate** - Sunday, October 5 at 9:00 am
- **Greeting Card Ministry** - October 7 at 10:30 am.
- **5 Cents-a-meal** - Sunday, October 19
- **Session** - Sunday, October 19 after worship

First Presbyterian Church
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Here is your October 2025 Newsletter