

The PRESSbyterian

www.1stpresbyterian.org

May 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

There is a survey that has been asking kids since the 1950s, "Am I important?" Back in 1950, 12% of teenagers answered "yes." Today, that number is 80%. (<http://www.communicationstudies.com/the-age-of-self-importance>)

As a societal group we struggle with many questions. Unfortunately, and all too often, amid our intellectual ascent to answer these questions we leave behind or even leave God out. We might begin by asking God to help us seek the answers, but life happens, we can become fatigued by the process, the length of time it takes for change; we grow impatient, and begin to rely more on our own abilities and talents than God.

Even under the best circumstances our bend tends to be in the direction of narcissism, hubris and self-reliance. Why is this survey important? What does it tell us about ourselves and subsequent generations? At the root of human problems - poverty, injustice, disease, war and pestilence, we find ourselves, we encounter our pride. We try. We have "good intentions," but more often we truncate the experience of God in our lives. We settle for a god made in our image, rather than living like we are made in His. We postulate. We believe that by getting the right people in the right place, spending the right amount of money, that we can govern ourselves.

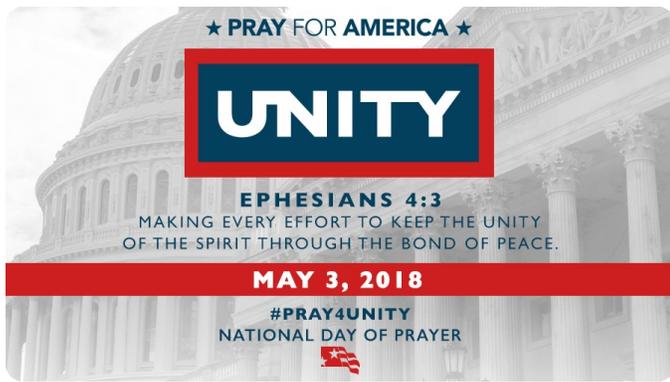
We either turn towards God in *all* things and in *all* ways or we risk a great misunderstanding of ourselves and the world in which we exist. We get this wrong and chaos results, and our collective pride and witlessness leads to tragically flawed utopian experiments.

We have the ability to choose. We can leave God out. We can amplify our self-importance. We can insist on removing, rejecting and denying God's authority or we can begin with the appropriate posture for humans: the posture of prayer. Of course, we should pray each day - all the time - "without ceasing," according to Thessalonians 5: 17. To this end, we have an opportunity to collectively pray for our nation, our leaders, the world and even our self during this year's National Day of Prayer.

Our sanctuary will be open May 3rd at midnight. We then have opportunities for someone to be present and praying for 24 hours. If you would like to sign up, there is a sheet in the Centre or see Kaye Borgstedt. However, you may simply stop by at your convenience throughout the day and spend a few moments in prayer. Perhaps amid our age of self-importance I will also pray for less of me and more of God. Knowing, in the end, "He must become greater; I must become less." John 3: 30

Reinhold Niebuhr wrote the following prayer, perhaps for the benefit of subsequent self-important generations like ours. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen."

Grace, Mercy , Peace and Prayer,
Pastor Darren



National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 3. Once again, our sanctuary will be open for 24 hours as we join with other churches across our nation to pray. Sign-up sheets are available in the Centre and McLees Gallery. Sign up and help us keep the tradition of someone praying in our sanctuary for 24 hours. Friends are invited. Prayers are silent and prayer guides and meditations are provided. Come and stay for whatever length of time you can.

PRAYER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONVERSATION OF YOUR DAY. TAKE IT TO GOD BEFORE YOU TAKE IT TO ANYONE ELSE!

PRAYING TOGETHER SEPARATELY

At noon each day please stop what you are doing and pray for our National Day of Prayer. The theme this year is American Unity and the Bible verse is Ephesians 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Let's pray for God to show us what we each should do to have a united America.

MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

will be received on Sunday, May 13, in churches across the state. This offering supports seniors who outlive their resources and depend on the generosity of others for their continued care in one of our *Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina*.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

MAY 6, 2018

Bring your favorite dishes to share with your church family and enjoy a delicious meal in the Centre following the service of worship. Chicken will be provided.



Piccolo Spoleto Comes To Orangeburg

featuring Taylor Festival Choir and members of Na Fidleiri

Thursday night, May 24, 2018

First Presbyterian Church, Orangeburg

6:30 p.m. - Silent Auction in Presbyterian Centre

7:00 p.m. - Concert in Sanctuary

\$15⁰⁰ in advance \$20⁰⁰ at the door



PENTECOST OFFERING

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth establish a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Local congregations keep 40 percent of the funds we donate to initiate or support programs for young people in our own community. This offering will be received on Sunday, May 20.

HONORING OLDER PEOPLE ENTHUSIASTICALLY

Please join us as we celebrate our more life experienced members on Wednesday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the Centre. All ages are invited and our puppeteers have a special production planned that you will not want to miss. Meal is baked spaghetti, salad and dessert. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for those 10 and under. Let's show our appreciation by having lots of folks here to celebrate our more life experienced members.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Augustus Blake Burroughs
and
Sullivan Bourne Burroughs

sons of
Mr. and Mrs. Shane (Angela) Burroughs, Sr.

April 15, 2018

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, May 1. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets

may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01	Dee Anne Miller Gordon Weigle, III	5/15	Joe Belcher Gordon Weigle, II
5/02	McGill Hutto		Libby Ridgeway
5/04	McCrary Johnstone		Jay Hutto
5/05	Randy Smoak Retta Guthrie Paul Trimmier	5/16	Jackson Strickland
5/06	Ruth Harvey Janet Gilchrist	5/17	Michael Delaney Abby Lee
5/08	Betsy Davis Jacob Fogle Sarah Beth Fogle	5/20	Aaron Strickland
5/09	Webbie Davis Caroline Marcus Susan Shirer	5/22	Danny Fogle
5/10	Rob Miller Sarah Coggins	5/23	Grayson Smith
5/12	Lessie Gayle Dickson	5/25	Maggie Robertson
5/13	Norma Shaffer Barbara Shirer Thomas Gué, Jr.	5/26	Ruth McCormick Sue Thomas
5/14	Lee Hendren Porter Weigle	5/28	Jason Fogle Erin Carter
		5/30	Ann Ji Salley Larry Jordan Karen Davis
		5/31	Yuri Davis

MAY CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circle 1:	Wednesday, May 9	8:15 a.m.
	Youth House	
Circles 2 & 4:	Tuesday, May 8	10:30 a.m.
	Conference Room	
Circle 3:	Monday, May 14	6:30 p.m.
	Chestnut Grill	

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WOMEN BUILD 2018

REMAINING SCHEDULED WORK DAYS
Saturday, May 5 and 19; Wednesday, May 30

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LIVING FAITHFULLY
BELIEVING

SERVING BOLDLY
DOING

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE

From this



To this



Thank God we are Easter People. We are in the EASTER SEASON which lasts 50 days beginning with Easter Sunday. Advent and Lent are 40 days. Why is Easter season longer? Read the Scriptures and see how Jesus spent His time after the resurrection and before the ascension. And what about His disciples? We read about their fear and doubt to the point they shut themselves up behind locked doors.

Many of us can relate to doubt and fear. Have you ever had a mountain top experience? Excitement and

enthusiasm abound but then reality sets in and the doubt can begin with such questions as, "What do I do now? What does this mean in light of the resurrection?" Life with Jesus was full of surprises for the disciples and so it is with us. Mountaintop or routine experiences/events occur for us. Instead of doubt, let's be open and see where Jesus is leading us.

Jesus spent a lot of time reassuring the disciples and He will be there for us. Just need to be open and trust. He will help us open our minds and hearts to new possibilities. We have His grace to help us understand differing ways and to be flexible. It takes an open mind before the eyes can see. Sometimes what may appear to be new is not but we have opened up to see the possibilities. There are lots of references to darkness and light in the Bible. As Christians, we know Jesus is the light and His grace will open our eyes to see.

And finally, Jesus was bearing witness to all in talking about God. We, too, must bear witness to what God has done in our lives. What He has done and our witness may be different depending on our season of life. But an open and honest witness/testimony is what we need to spend time doing. Also, appreciate and support those who are sharing. The point is Easter is not over. Thank God, it will never be as we are an Easter people.

CHALLENGE: Where in your life to you need to be "bearing witness"? Start now.

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for making us Easter people. Help us always take advantage of every opportunity you give us to be witnesses for you. Amen.

Kaye Borgstedt
Christian Education Coordinator



Vacation Bible School June 11 - 15

Join First Presbyterian June 11-15 for Rolling River Rampage VBS for a fun filled time of learning about Jesus! All children 3K (completed) - 5th grade (completed) are invited.

Please register online at

<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/1stpresbyterian/>

by June 1, as the registration website will be closed after that date.

The cost is \$15 per child with a \$30 maximum per family. This includes a T-shirt and one CD per family! Money can be turned in to the church office or mailed (536 Stanley Street, Orangeburg 29115). Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and include VBS in the memo line. Once you've paid, you can pick up your VBS CD, so your child can begin learning all of the fun, new songs! *If you want to ensure that your child gets a certain shirt size, you need to register by May 1.*

We also need youth and adult volunteers! If you'd like to help during VBS, please sign up at <https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/1stpresbyterian/>.

Sarah Coggins
Youth and Children's Director

MAY GTF

- May 2 Honoring Older People Enthusiastically (see announcement)
- May 9 The Three F's: Food, Fun and Fellowship: Sarah Coggins
- May 16 What You Always Wanted To Know about Hymns and Were Afraid To Ask: Sylvia Trimmier
- May 23 Stump the Preacher: Darren Bess

BETHELWOODS CAMP-IN-A-VAN

Bethelwoods Camp-In-A-Van will be July 16-20 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Monday-Thursday and 9:00 a.m. until noon on Friday).



All children 5K (completed) – 5th grade (completed) are invited to join us for an exciting day camp at the Centre. The camp will be led by counselors from Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center and will include games, Bible stories, songs, crafts, and fun!

Registration forms are available on the church website, and you can drop off registration forms at the church office or email them to Sarah at scoggins@1stpresbyterian.org. The cost is \$25 per child, and this includes lunch each day.

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian and put "Bethelwoods" and your child's name on the memo line.

Sarah Coggins
Youth and Children's Director

GENERAL FUND 2018

For month ending March 31, 2018	Month	Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$33,412.33	\$131,890.34
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$50,149.37 *</u>	<u>\$130,151.13 *</u>
	(\$16,737.04)	\$1,739.21

* Includes \$7,562.50 transfer to Missions account.

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



May 2018

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. George "Sugar" Hill
Mrs. Mary Ann Cannon
Mrs. Shirley B. Westbrook

GIVEN BY

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnwell, Jr.
Mrs. Kay Stroman
Mr. and Mrs. John Shuler
Mrs. Helen W. Culler
John Knox Sunday School Class
Mrs. Frances Lytch
Mr. George Ware

PRESCHOOL NURSERY SCHEDULE

May 6	Hewitt
May 13	Myers
May 20	Nexsen
May 27	Wolfe

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

May 6	Axson
May 13	Coggins
May 20	Dangerfield
May 27	Delaney

PRIMETIMERS IN MAY

May 15, 2018
Myers River House