

# First Presbyterian Church, P.C.A.

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April 2020

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Over the past few weeks our lives have been disrupted in ways that we could never have imagined. Our travel plans have been canceled. We're confining ourselves to our homes. Some of us have gone weeks without tasting Chick-fil-A for the first time in our lives. We're at home because our jobs have been deemed non-essential, or we're being asked to do our jobs in brand new ways. The entire sports world has come to a stop. Church buildings sit empty as pastors preach to congregations gathered around their computers, phones, and tablets. And we have sat in our homes and we have watched the news as this virus has spread around the world.

The truth is, that we do not know what to expect over the next several weeks. And as humans, when we don't know what to expect, our naturally tendency is to fear. But thankfully, God's Word meets us, even at our most fearful.

Psalm 23 says, ***"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."***

In Psalm 23, David tells us that when the Lord is your shepherd you do not have to fear. And this is not because what you are

experiencing isn't scary. It's because the Lord is with us.

If you are watching the news and struggling with fear and anxiety. Let me encourage you to meditate on these words this month because knowing that the Lord is your shepherd changes how you face an uncertain tomorrow.

How does the reality that the Lord is our shepherd, change how we face tomorrow? I want to give us two ways. First, when you are confident that the Lord is your shepherd, you can stop trying to be your own shepherd.

You and I aren't qualified to be our own shepherds. And when we try to be, we are filled with fear and anxiety, because we don't actually have the power to provide for our own physical needs, we don't have the ability to know all things and to be able to lead ourselves down right paths, we aren't powerful enough to keep ourselves safe for harm, we aren't able to keep ourselves from being overwhelmed by the fear of harm, and we certainly have no control over the future. Psalm 23 tells us, that we can stop trying to be our own shepherds. We have a shepherd, who loves us, and who has all the power to take care of us. We can stop trying to be our own shepherd.

And then second, Psalm 23 tells us to place our trust in our good shepherd. One of the beautiful things about this Psalm is that in John 10 Jesus takes up the language of this Psalm and calls himself the good shepherd. In John 10:11-14 Jesus says, ***"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep,***

***sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."***

Jesus came and is our good shepherd, who laid down His life for His sheep. Our merciful and gracious Lord, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, and who keeps steadfast love for thousands, who forgives iniquity and transgression and sin, but who tells us that by no means He would clear the guilty. Put our iniquity and our punishment upon His own Son. Jesus laid down His life for us so that all of us who like sheep have gone astray, can be forgiven for our sins and be reconciled to our good shepherd.

God has proven over and over again that our fearful hearts can rest, knowing that we really can trust Him to provide for us. Romans 8:32 says, ***"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"*** God gave us His Son, the most precious thing that He could give us, to make a way for us to be forgiven. To provide us with a future where we can dwell in His house forever. To provide us with a confidence that we are His people, and that all His promises apply to us as well.

Grace and Peace,  
Jeff

# April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>Wed. Study:</b> 6:30pm (via Zoom)  <b>B-day:</b> Chonda Griffith	2	3	4
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Worship:</b> 11am (via Zoom)  <b>B-day:</b> Billy Symon, Sr. <b>B-day:</b> Meredith Cole (Mackin)	6	7	8 <b>Wed. Study:</b> 6:30pm (via Zoom)  <b>B-day:</b> Isabella Dukes <b>Anniv:</b> TJ & Cindy Keasler	9 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Service:</b> 6pm (via Zoom)	10 <b>Good Friday</b>	11
12 <b>Easter</b> <b>Diaconate Meeting:</b> 8am (via Zoom) <b>Worship:</b> 11am (via Zoom)	13	14 <b>WM Council Meeting:</b> 4:30pm (TBD)  <b>B-day:</b> Kelly McClure	15 <b>Wed. Study:</b> 6:30pm (via Zoom)  <b>B-day:</b> Bess Weltin	16	17 <b>B-day:</b> Chaney Rimes	18 <b>B-day:</b> Talon Rimes
19 <b>Worship:</b> 11am (via Zoom) <b>Session Meeting:</b> 4:30pm (via Zoom)	20	21	22 <b>Wed. Study:</b> 6:30pm (via Zoom)	23	24	25
26 <b>Worship:</b> 11am (via Zoom)	27 <b>B-day:</b> Emily Mackin	28	29 <b>Wed. Study:</b> 6:30pm (via Zoom)	30 <b>B-day:</b> Jeff Bryant		

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

**Deacons of the Month:** Stephen Cannon and TJ Keasler.

**Food Ministry Leader of the Month:** Joy Mackin.

**Wednesday Night Studies:** 6:30 pm, via Zoom.

**Sunday Worship:** 11:00 am, via Zoom.

**April 9:** Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm, via Zoom.

**April 12:** Diaconate Meeting, 8:00 am, via Zoom.

**April 14, Women's Ministry Events:** Council Meeting, 4:30 pm (TBD), via Zoom.

**April 19:** Session Meeting, 4:30 pm, via Zoom.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$	7,906.50	\$ 15,915.50
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$	7,947.66	\$ 16,246.45
Net Gain (Loss)	\$	(41.16)	\$ (330.95)
	<u>2019</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$	8,481.15	\$ 15,151.81
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$	9,779.82	\$ 21,134.23
Net Gain (Loss)	\$	(1,298.67)	\$ (5,982.42)

**Due to COVID-19 all regular activities are on a "To Be Determined" (TBD) basis. More information will be provided via email on a weekly basis.**

**Your health and the health of our community is vital to getting back to a normal schedule.**

**Regular Sunday worship services will be broadcast online at 11:00 am using the Zoom application.**

## A 7-DAY CORONAVIRUS PRAYER GUIDE



### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pray for those who are sick, and their families, that the Lord would heal and comfort them.

### PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Pray for those on the frontlines treating those who are sick, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them.



### PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

Pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

### PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.



### PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

### PRAY FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.



### PRAY FOR CHURCHES

Pray for churches and ministry leaders, that they would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

**"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."**

**John 14:27**

*by His wounds  
we are healed*  
**ISAIAH 53:5**

# WARRIOR PRESBYTERY WOMEN’S MINISTRY— SPECIAL OFFERINGS

MAY 2020

## “SHOWERS OF BLESSING” OFFERING SUPPORTS SACRED ROOTS FARM AND SAV-A-LIFE OF TUSCALOOSA.

Sacred Roots Farm is a sustainable farm in Gainesville, GA, that provides long-term recovery for trafficked and sexually exploited women and their children. Here they experience safety and healing of mind, body and spirit, they discover and develop trust, and they find the hope that God has created for them.

Sav-A-Life in Tuscaloosa is a haven of hope for women who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Here they can receive clinical services such as free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling options on adoption, information on abortion, parenting, sexual health, and post abortion healing through their Healing Hearts program. Many other programs and services are also offered.



July 2020

## “SEND THE LIGHT” OFFERING SUPPORTS THE PCA’S RIDGEHAVEN CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS.

This is an annual special offering taken solely to provide funds for the youth within the Warrior Presbytery to help pay scholarships and expenses for summer camp at Ridge Haven located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. This “Send the Light” offering will specifically go toward the 2021 Summer Camp Scholarships. Applications by campers to receive a camp scholarship need to be received by the Warrior Presbytery Women’s Ministry in January or February for the following summer camp program. Youth wanting to apply for this scholarship must plan ahead.



October 2020

## “LOVE GIFT” OFFERING SUPPORTS THE PCA’S CDM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S MINISTRY

The PCA’s Committee on Discipleship Ministry (CDM) trains, equips, connects, and encourages women in the church to know Christ personally and be committed to extending His kingdom in her life, home, church, community, and throughout the world. The CDM provides resources of curriculum and books that are anchored and centered on the gospel. The Love Gift offering will specifically go toward encouraging and equipping female field missionaries abroad as well as investing in the work of CDM’s International Women’s Ministry to strengthen the global church.



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

## Please Pray for our Faith Promise Missionaries

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Beth Acton	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Nineveh
General Support	Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Sewing Project	Isaiah 55 — Reynosa, Mexico

## Hooked On Prayer (HOP):

Allinder, Ike	Gardner, David & Christy	McIntier, Jodie
Allinder, Kate	Harstad, Paula	Miller, Tommie
Bazuin, Caiden	Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Mills, Angel
Beeler, Peggy	Haubert, Chloe Belle	Morgan, Laura
Belcher, Samuel	Hayes, Betsy	Mutisya, Cecilia
Brantley, Maggie	Hocker, Jeannie	Parr, Higley
Brooker, Chrissy	Hogg, Ian	Pickerill, Paula
Brooker, Jan	Hoggle, Judy	Plummer, Kaegan
Bryant, Jessica	Holman, Joann	Reynolds, Christy
Bules, Jaimee	Hooks, Chesnee	Sakon, Ethan
Burkett, Holly	Husbands, Jennie	Sall, Terry
Busby, Rhae	Hux, Karen	Sharp, Chris
Bynum, Linda	Ivy, Kendall	Sims, Anna Katherine
Coker, Jean	Jennifer (Missionary)	Sims, Sarah
Collins, Brandon	Jowers, Cap & Patty	Spree, Thed
Cook, Patricia	Jowers, Johnny	Stephens, Kay
Craig, Noah	Jowers, Walter	Stephens, Ronnie
Curry, Walter	Keasler, Jo Anne	Taylor, Marie
Dale, Kelly	Kelly, Dale	TenHaaf, WM
Daughtery, Jody	King, Jessie	Thornton, Alaina
Davidson, Karen	Lane, Barbara	VanderMolen, Popko
Duncan, Conner	Leascher, Chad	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Dunning, Norbourne	Lessman, Linus	Womble, Caleb
Dyer, Doug	Lewis, Kathy	Wright, Hettie
Eshee, Judy	Ligon, Brandon	
Farst, Sharon	Lockett, Joanne	
Finley, Betty	McCraw, Beverly	

### OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

#### Cancer:

Jody Daugherty  
 Luke (Jonah's son)  
 Kaleigh Craig  
 Scott Kirkpatrick  
 Heather Wilson  
 Maggie Brantley  
 Kendall Ivy

#### Illness:

Ian Hogg  
 Laura Morgan  
 Neal Bules  
 David Headley  
 Allen Hammond

#### Special Needs:

Liz Bond  
 Sarah Elizabeth Hart  
 Frank Ramey  
 Viola Cook  
 William R. Horton  
 Baby Oliver Sullivan  
 Francis Mahaffey  
 The Hutton Family

#### Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick  
 Sam Brasfield  
 Steven Mackin  
 Victor Resto  
 Joseph Wilson  
 Josh Tyson  
 Blake Ivy

#### Expectant Mothers:

Amanda Bryant  
 Katie Gill

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.



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