

# First Presbyterian Church, PCA

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April 2019



## A Message from the Pastor:

In these last few weeks spring has arrived. We can look around, and we can see evidence of the new life of spring everywhere. We see the flowers coming up in our gardens, we see our grass turning green again, we see the animals scurrying around, and we can even see tiny green leaves on the tree branches. After winter, it's always an encouragement to see the new life that spring brings. And the same is true in our spiritual lives; we all tend to go through seasons in our spiritual lives. Sometimes we feel close to Jesus, and other times we feel like we're all on our own.

In John 15, Jesus tells us that if we abide in Him, we're going to experience seasons of fruitfulness and we're going to experience seasons of pruning. But the good news is that both of these seasons are evidence of God's care for us. John 5:1-5 says:

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

As the spring progresses, we're going to find ourselves getting busier and busier each week. And one of the dangers of busyness is that, to make time for all of the commitments in our schedules, we end up having to borrow time from other areas of our lives. Unfortunately the first area we borrow time from is usually from our time fellowshiping with Jesus in prayer and from our time with Him in His word.

And that separation from the vine means that we are likely to burn out quickly. We can be on every nursery rotation, we can be officers in the church, we can be in the building every day of the week, but if we're not spending time with Christ, if we're not drinking deeply from the vine the way we're designed to, our relationship with God is going to suffer and as a consequence of our relationship with God suffering our ministries will suffer as well.

Too often, we only pray long enough to ask God to forgive us and to ask Him for help with a list of things. We don't spend enough time to actually listen, because we're too busy trying to get something done. Too often we read God's word without taking the time to reflect on what we've read, because we're already late for work, or we've got to get the kids to school. It's like going out to dinner with our spouse or with a friend. We don't just tell them

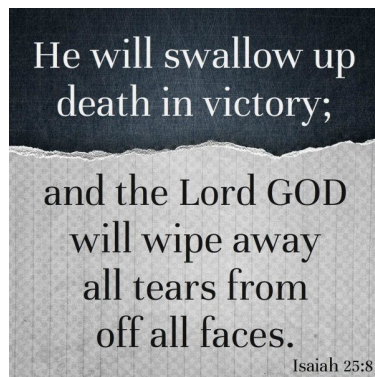
how our day went and then get out our phones and start playing on the internet for the rest of dinner. Sure we spent time with that person, but we didn't really grow closer to them at all. We just told them about us.

At times, even our busyness as Christians can keep us from spending time with our Savior. Don't get so focused on completing the task of praying or reading the Bible or serving at church, that you forget that the whole reason that you are doing these things is to grow closer to Christ, to be sustained, to be refreshed, and to be strengthened by Him.

And so I want to encourage us all, not to let our busyness cause us to ignore our relationship with Christ. Don't let your busyness keep you from spending time with your Savior. Don't neglect time praying, or reading your bible, or attending worship, or hearing the preaching of the word, or participating in the sacraments. These are all means that we have been given to sustain us and to produce fruit in our lives. And when we neglect these things we begin to feel like a dried up branch. But we're told that if we abide in Christ we will bear much fruit. As we enter spring, let us be careful not to let our busyness, even our good busyness, keep us from spending time with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

-Grace and peace,  
Jeff

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
	1 <b>B-day:</b> Chonda Griffith	2	3 <b>Wed Dinner:</b> 5:30pm <b>Adult Bible Study &amp; Covenant Kids:</b> 6:15pm <b>Choir Practice:</b> 7pm <b>B-day:</b> Colter & Lilliana Hilchey	4	5 <b>B-day:</b> Billy Symon, Sr. <b>B-day:</b> Meredith Mackin Cole	6
7 <b>Nursery:</b> Chonda Griffith	8 <b>B-day:</b> Isabella Liana Dukes <b>Anniv:</b> TJ & Cindy Keasler	9 <b>WM Morning Circle Bible Study:</b> 9:30am <b>Lunch Bunch:</b> 11:30am <b>WM Council Meeting:</b> 4:30pm <b>WM Evening Circle Bible Study:</b> 7pm	10 <b>Wed Dinner:</b> 5:30pm <b>Adult Bible Study &amp; Covenant Kids:</b> 6:15pm <b>Choir Practice:</b> 7pm	11	12	13
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Nursery:</b> Nadine Coddington <b>Diaconate Meeting:</b> 8am <b>Session Meeting:</b> 4:30pm <b>B-day:</b> Kelly Keasler McClure	15 <b>B-day:</b> Jaimee Bules <b>B-day:</b> Bess Weltin	16	17 <b>Choir Practice:</b> 6pm <b>B-day:</b> Chaney Ruth Rimes	18 <b>Maundy Thursday Communion Service:</b> 6pm <b>B-day:</b> Talon Roy Rimes	19 <b>Good Friday</b>	20
21 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Sunrise Service:</b> 6am <b>Nursery:</b> Ruth Symon	22	23	24 <b>Wed Dinner:</b> 5:30pm <b>Adult Bible Study &amp; Covenant Kids:</b> 6:15pm <b>Choir Practice:</b> 7pm	25	26	27 <b>B-day:</b> Emily Mackin
28 <b>Nursery:</b> Amanda Bryant <b>Fellowship Luncheon</b>	29	30 <b>B-day:</b> Jeff Bryant				



## Upcoming Events:

**Deacons of the Month:** Ray Evans and TJ Keasler.

**Nursery Workers:** Please arrive in the nursery by 10:30 am.

**Food Ministry Leader of the Month:** Ann Resto

### Wednesday Night Gatherings:

- Dinner, 5:30 pm. Meals are \$6.50 per person or \$15.00 per family.
- Adult Bible Study and Covenant Kids, 6:15 pm.
- Choir practice, 7:00 pm.
- Please note that there will be no Wednesday dinner or Bible study activities on April 17th due to the Easter week activities.

### April 14:

- Palm Sunday
- Diaconate Meeting, 8:00 am.
- Session Meeting, 4:30 pm.

### April 9:

- Women's Ministry, Morning Circle Bible Study, 9:30 am.
- Lunch Bunch: 11:30 am. This is a fun time of fellowship as the ladies meet for lunch following the monthly Bible study.
- Women's Ministry Council Meeting, 4:30 pm.
- Women's Ministry, Evening Circle Bible Study, 7:00 pm.

### April 18

- Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 6:00 pm

### April 21:

- Easter Sunday
- Sunrise Service, 6:00 am at the City Landing Pavilion.

### April 28:

- Fellowship Luncheon, immediately following the worship service.  
Team Leaders: Resto Family  
Committee: Ward Family and Eloise Harris
- HOP (Hooked on Prayer) has been rescheduled to May 5th due to the Easter schedule and the Fellowship Luncheon.

### Women's Ministry

Our annual Easter meal and food basket will help a family in need. Be watching for more information on how you can help.

**PLEASE  
REMEMBER:  
IF YOU ARE  
UNABLE TO SERVE  
FOR THE NURSERY  
OR FELLOWSHIP  
LUNCHEON,  
PLEASE MAKE  
ARRANGEMENTS  
TO ENSURE THERE  
IS ADEQUATE  
COVERAGE.**



### SHORTER CATECHISM

**Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?**

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, [62] of a priest, [63] and of a king, [64] both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

#### Scripture Proofs

[62] Deuteronomy 18:18  
Acts 2:33  
Acts 3:22-23  
Hebrews 1:1-2

[63] Hebrews 4:14-15  
Hebrews 5:5-6

[64] Isaiah 9:6-7  
Luke 1:32-33  
John 18:37  
1 Corinthians 15:25

<u>2019</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
<b>Gen. Fund Contributions</b>	\$ 8,481.15	\$ 15,151.81
<b>Gen. Fund Expenses</b>	\$ 9,779.82	\$ 21,134.23
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	\$ (1,298.67)	\$ (5,982.42)
<u>2018</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>2018 YTD</u>
<b>Gen. Fund Contributions</b>	\$ 8,096.00	\$ 15,358.00
<b>Gen. Fund Expenses</b>	\$ 4,238.53	\$ 10,684.84
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	\$ 3,857.47	\$ 4,673.16

### **Congratulations to the Symon Family!**

Baby Theodore Lennick Symon was born on Tuesday, March 26th, to Billy and Kristin Symon; grandparents are Billy and Ruth Symon.

**Thank you** to all who prayed and for the cards, food and visits during the passing of my sister, Gail Hedrick. We appreciated everything more than words can say. God has truly blessed us with a wonderful church family.

Ruth and Billy Symon

# Mission to the World: PCA Compassion Offering (April 2019)

**mtw**  
Mission to the World

**PCA COMPASSION OFFERING**

**GREECE'S WORST WILDFIRE IN 100 YEARS**

Composite image of an actual Greek home damaged by the wildfire

**CHRISTOPHEROS HAD LITTLE WARNING.**  
ON JULY 23, 2018, GREECE'S WORST WILDFIRE IN 100 YEARS SWEEPED IN FROM THE WEST, TRAPPING HIS SEASIDE CITY OF MATI BETWEEN THE WATER AND THE FLAMES. A STRANGE FEELING PUSHED CHRISTOPHEROS AWAY FROM THE OCEAN, AND HE AND HIS FAMILY RAN TOWARD THE FLAMES. [mtw.org/compassion](http://mtw.org/compassion)



**Miraculously, they made it through the fire unscathed. Not so for many others. The fire destroyed thousands of homes, businesses, and cars. A hundred people died.**

Pastor George Tolia, lead pastor of the Glyfada Church in nearby Athens, immediately began collaborating with MTW missionaries to rally other churches in the denomination to assist however they could. With the help of MTW Compassion funds, they began cleaning up homes in Mati, along with an MTW Global Disaster Response team.



Before long, the people of Mati were amazed by this selfless service and began to ask, "Why?" The church members were able to express that they show love out of an overflow of the love Christ has shown us.



After hearing Christopheros' remarkable story of survival, Pastor George told him: "That's amazing. As a Christian, I'm led to think that that was the Lord protecting you." This exchange kicked off a conversation about God—one of many such conversations.

Thanks to your gifts to the Compassion Fund, a foothold for gospel ministry has now been established. There are even discussions about planting a new church in Mati.

*This year, will you once again help us extend compassion to a world in need?*



*I want to give.* To donate electronically go to [mtw.org/compassion](http://mtw.org/compassion). To donate by check, mail this form along with your gift. *Thank you.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Mission to the World and write "Compassion 40043" on the memo line. Mail this coupon with your check to: Mission to the World • P.O. Box 744165 • Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

TMW-12

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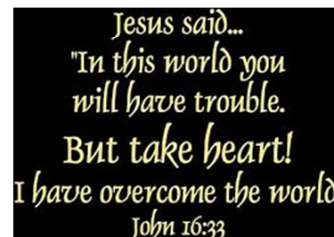
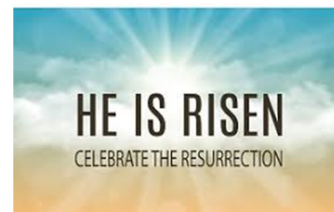
### Easter Events:

- April 14 - Palm Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 am.
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 6:00 pm.
- April 19 - Good Friday
- April 21 - Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Service, 6:00 am, City Landing Pavilion.
- Sunday School, 9:30 am.
- Easter Worship Service, 11:00 am.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."*



**FUN FOR  
THE  
KIDS!**



Saturday, April 6 at 9 am

Foscue Parkview Pavilion

For Kids Birth Through 11 Years Old

Enjoy Photo Booth, Egg Hunt, & Fun, Fun, Fun!

Specific hunting area will be designated for Special Need children

Sponsored by Friends of Foscue and Area Churches



## Hooked On Prayer (HOP):

Allinder, Ike  
Allinder, Kate  
Bazuin, Caiden  
Bedsole, Pete  
Beeler, Peggy  
Belcher, Samuel  
Boggs, Ben  
Brooker, Chrissy  
Brooker, Jan  
Busby, Rhae  
Coker, Jean  
Collins, Brandon  
Copeland, Roy  
Craig, Kaleigh  
Cross, Margaret  
Crispin, Michelle  
Daughtery, Jody  
Davidson, Karen  
Deas, Deloris  
Drinkard, Charles  
Duncan, Conner  
Dunning, Norbourne  
Dyer, Doug  
Eatmon, Megan  
Eshee, Judy  
Ezell, Bobby  
Farst, Dick  
Finley, Betty

Harstad, Paula  
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth  
Harvey, John  
Hayes, Betsy  
Hocker, Jeannie  
Hogg, Ian  
Hoggle, Judy  
Holman, Joann  
Hooks, Chesnee  
Husbands, Jennie  
Hux, Karen  
Jennifer (Missionary)  
Jowers, Walter  
Kimbrell, Tommy  
Kyser, Helen  
Leascher, Chad  
Leascher, Jim  
Lessman, Linus  
Ligon, Brandon  
Lockett, Joanne  
Marquis, Alana  
McCraw, Beverly  
McDonald, Nelda  
McIntier, Jodie  
Mickens, Jaleesa  
Miller, Tommie  
Mills, Angel  
Morgan, Laura

Mutisya, Cecilia Ndunge  
Perry, James  
Pickerill, Paula  
Plummer, Kaegan  
Reeves, Bob  
Reynolds, Christy  
Sakon, Ethan  
Sharp, Chris  
Sharp, Newt  
Sims, Anna Katherine  
Sims, Sarah  
Stemple, Nita  
Stephens, Kay  
Stephens, Ronnie  
Taylor, Marie  
TenHaaf, WM  
Terry, Pope  
Thornton, Alaina  
Tipton, Carolyn  
Tucker, Sadie  
VanderMolen, Popko  
West, Beth  
Williams, Mary Lynne  
Williamson, Trevor  
Wise, Naomi  
Witherspoon, Mary Stewart  
Womble, Caleb  
Wright, Hettie

### OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

#### Cancer:

Jody Daugherty  
Luke (Jonah's son)  
Kaleigh Craig  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
Deloris Deas  
James Perry  
Heather Wilson  
Maggie Brantley

#### Illness:

Carolyn Tipton  
Ian Hogg  
Dick Farst  
Laura Morgan  
Neal Bules

#### Special Needs:

Liz Bond  
Sarah Elizabeth Hart  
Frank Ramey  
Viola Cook  
William R. Horton

#### Military Personnel:

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

#### Expectant Mothers:

Kelly McClure  
Lindsay Symon



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.