

# FAITH MATTERS

August 2023



## Pastor Scott's Musings



*Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:5-9)*

On July 19, 2023 USA Today reported

"Summers are always hot. But this summer is different in some profound ways.

Record-breaking temperatures are hitting multiple cities. Phoenix recorded an unprecedented nineteen consecutive days over 110 degrees. Death Valley reached 128 on Sunday. Records are falling everywhere.

It's not your imagination: This is not a typical summer.

The extreme temperatures being recorded this summer are the result of the combination of natural variations within the climate system and human-caused climate change, with a hefty serving of El Niño thrown in."

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## Pastor Scott's Musings

CONT.

It is now August, and we know that the weather will only get hotter for a while. Looking at our yards can make us think about the words from Jeremiah above. Those areas that we keep well-watered look healthy and bear fruit, but those areas that we leave untended are dry, brittle, and crunchy.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have the source of all living water right among us, yet we can find it easy not to be tapping into that source. We disconnect from prayer. We abandon Bible study and meditation. We set aside worship and fellowship with the body of Christ. All of this leads us to being described *"like a shrub in the desert and shall not see any good come."*

We do not want to be dry as this description, but rather be thriving as *"a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

If we are plugged into the source of all living water, we have the opportunity to share that Living Water with others. Many are living their lives around us, even complaining about this record-breaking heat, unaware of the heat they will face if they continue to turn their backs on their Creator and His Son.

If we are drinking deeply of this water, we can never be dried up, and we can pour Living Water of the flames of Hell, dousing it and quenching its consuming power in the lives of those who have not yet become disciples. Let us seek to be transformed disciples, even when it is not easy, by plugging into our source of life. Then we will be able to bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Then we will see the kingdom of God expand.

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Scott

*Have you not  
known? Have  
you not heard?  
The Lord is the  
everlasting God,  
the Creator of  
the ends of the  
earth.  
He does not  
faint or grow  
weary;  
his  
understanding is  
unsearchable.  
He gives power  
to the faint,  
and to him  
who has no  
might he  
increases  
strength.*

ISAIAH 40:28-29



Come celebrate Faith and Family with the Washington Wild Things! This game will be Saturday, September 2nd, at 7:05 PM. We have 50 tickets to be shared with those interested in attending. This year, we are in section 109, which are actual seats (not the bleachers) and directly behind home plate. There is netting behind the plate to keep you safe from any foul balls.

Please see TJ Spruill to get tickets.

*faith*

## August 6, 2023 (Communion)

Sermon Title: Worship: Sacraments

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-8  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Focal Verse: "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" Ephesians 4:5.

Synopsis: "The Sacraments are the Word of God enacted and sealed in the life of the Church, the body of Christ. They are gracious acts of God, by which Christ Jesus offers His life to us in the power of the Holy Spirit." (Book of Order: W - 3.0401)



## August 13, 2023

Sermon Title: Worship: Offering

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

Focal Verse: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." v. 7.

Synopsis: "Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In the Lord's Supper we are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ for the life of the world. As those who have been claimed and set free by His grace, we respond with gratitude, offering Him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods." (Book of Order: W - 3.0411)

## August 20, 2023

Sermon Title: Worship: Blessing & Charge

Scripture: Numbers 6:22-27

Focal Verse: "So shall they put My name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them." v. 27.

Synopsis: "We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. The charge calls the church to go forth as agents of God's mission in the world.

## August 27, 2023

Sermon Title: Giving with Grace

Scripture: TBD

Focal Verse: TBD

Synopsis: TBD

## Special Notes: TJ Spruill Preaching

### Communications Committee - August 2023

This is a new committee for 2023. Pastor Scott proposed this committee early in his tenure. Bob Dilly had been working with Joan Rohaly (bookkeeper/Secretary) in picking up some "technical" tasks. When Pastor J left, some of the technical work he had been doing passed to Joan.

Because of that background the committee is sometimes assumed to be tech-heavy, but we understand that some of our challenges have as much to do with *coordination* and *teamwork*. While our paid staff keeps quite busy, our small church also depends on volunteer power – and we have some gifted and generous volunteers.

The more traditional "communications" work you see this year has been a reworked website, some changes in the weekly e-Blast, which will transition to Gmail soon, and the availability of email at LabortatoryPrebyChurch.org which we're beginning to deploy.

On the horizon, we hope to start using an online (pictorial) directory starting this Fall, and an improved process for requesting announcements and publicity. That said, we're still working on what our focus will be. I welcome questions or thoughts.

Bob Dilly  
Chair

Oh come, let us  
worship and bow  
down; let us  
kneel before the  
Lord, our  
Maker!

PSALM 95:6



## BIRTHDAYS

8/17 - Nic Barton  
- Linda Britko  
- Tammy Varner

8/20 - Ashlee Grandstrand  
- John Williams

8/22 - Grace Mitchell

8/24 - Jolie Welling

8/26 - Kyle Heather

8/20 - Theresa Messmer



## ANNIVERSARIES



8/8 - Pam & Steve Koppes

8/21 - Bridgett & Chris Barton  
- Kimberly & Richard Nichol

8/28 - Ashlee & Brett Grandstrand



Here in this worn and weary land  
Where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water  
We never will run dry  
So living water flowing through  
God, we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls with  
one desire  
Just to know You and to make You  
known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun, make darkness run  
and hide  
We know we were made for so much  
more than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

Into Your Word, we're digging deep  
To know our Father's heart  
Into the world, we're reaching out  
To show them who You are

So living water flowing through  
God, we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls with  
one desire  
Just to know You and to make You  
known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun, make darkness run  
and hide  
We know we were made for so much  
more than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive

Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable, anything is possible  
Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable, anything is possible  
Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable, anything is possible  
Joy unspeakable, faith unsinkable  
Love unstoppable, anything is possible

Just to know You and to make You  
known  
We lift Your name on high  
Shine like the sun, make darkness run  
and hide  
We know we were made for so much  
more than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive  
We were made to thrive, hey  
We were made to thrive



[Click Here To Listen](#)



*You yourselves like  
living stones are being  
built up as a spiritual  
house, to be a holy  
priesthood, to offer  
spiritual sacrifices  
acceptable to God  
through Jesus Christ.*

*For it stands in  
Scripture:  
"Behold, I am laying in  
Zion a stone,*

*a cornerstone chosen  
and precious,  
and whoever believes in  
him will not be put to  
shame."*

*So the honor is for you  
who believe, but for those  
who do not believe,  
"The stone that the  
builders rejected  
has become the  
cornerstone."*

1 PETER 2:5-7



# Music & Worship News

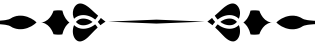


**The adult choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, August 23 at 4:30 PM in the choir room. Our first Sunday to sing for church will be for kick off Sunday on September 10. We are always looking for new members! If you are interested in joining the choir this year, please see Dennis or any choir member.**

**Bells have been sent out for cleaning and reconditioning. The Bell Choir practice will resume when they are returned. Colleen will advise everyone.**

**Committee will meet Aug 3 at 4:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. New members are always welcomed, please see Colleen for details.**

**Currently we are seeking volunteers for Liturgist and Children's message on Sunday mornings for September and October. Please see Colleen if you can serve in these areas.**

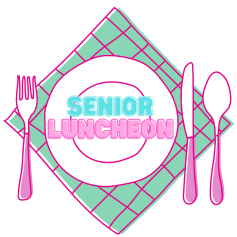


**There will be a PNC team meeting on Tues., Aug 15 at 6 p.m. at the church in the Fellowship Hall.**

**The Presbytery has updated and changed naming and a little on the format of the original MIF and PIF's to be posted in our searches.**

**We will be putting together new and updating our information as things have changed a bit with input from President of our Trustees, Fred Allen and our Clerk of Session Pam Koppes along with our Liaison and Chair of Presbytery COM, Rev Dave Mason.**

**Hope to see everyone there.**



**Don't forget to mark your calendar !  
The next senior luncheon will be held on  
Wednesday, October 4, at noon in the Fellowship  
Hall.**

**More information will follow at a later date.**



**Fall is on the way and youth group will be starting up before long.**

**Please watch for updates in the next newsletter.  
See you in the fall!**



*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done.*

ACTS 2:42-43

## Attention Dartball players.



Our new season will be kicking off on September 5th. If you are interested in playing this season please contact Fred Allen



SAVE THE  
*date*

## Presbyterian Women's Picnic

**When: September 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

**Where: Colleen Dille's home**

**Please bring a covered dish to share.**

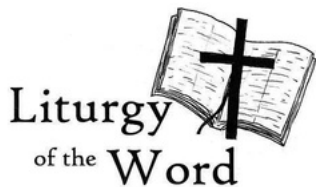
**All women are welcome**

*Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.*

LUKE 6:38



August - Grace Mitchell



August 6 - Darlene McDonald

August 13 - Karen Hanes

August 20 - Bob Dilly

August 27 - Pam Koppes



August 6 - Tammy Varner

August 13 - Harriet Dilly

August 20 - Pam Koppes

August 27 - Colleen Dille



# AUGUST 2023



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1	2 11:15 AM FROG'S SWIM DAY 7:00 PM NA	3 4:30 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE	4 7:00 PM NA	5
6 10:30 AM WORSHIP 12:00 PM PARTY FOR IZZY	7 7:00 PM DEACONS	8 10:00 AM GARDEN CLUB BOARD  PAM & STEVE KOPPEs 	9 7:00 PM NA	10 5:45 PM TRUSTEES 6:30 PM SESSION	11 7:00 PM NA
13 10:30 AM WORSHIP	14	15 6:00 PM PNC	16 7:00 PM NA	17 6:00 PM BYLAWS TASK FORCE  NIC BARTON LINDA BRITKO TAMMY VARNER 	18 7:00 PM NA
20 10:30 AM WORSHIP 11:30 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  ASHLEE GRANDSTRAND JOHN WILLIAMS 	21 7:00 PM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE  BRIDGET & CHRIS BARTON  KIMBERLY & RICHARD NICHOL  PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION	22 PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION  GRACE MITCHELL 	23 4:30 PM CHANCEL CHOIR 7:00 PM NA  PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION	24 PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION  JOLIE WELLING 	25 7:00 PM NA  PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION
27 10:30 AM WORSHIP  PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION	28 6:00 PM MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP  ASHLEE & BRETT GRANDSTRAND 	29 THERESA MESSMER 	30 4:30 PM CHANCEL CHOIR 5:30 PM NOMINATING COMMITTEE 7:00 PM NA	31 6:00 PM BYLAWS TASK FORCE	26 PASTOR SCOTT - VACATION  KYLE HEATHER 