

Fincastle Presbyterian Church



A Message from David—The Christian Hope

The year 2020 has presented to us (and by all appearances, the year 2021 will continue to present to us) great challenges that have driven many to despair. Our world is suffering through a pandemic: over 2 million deaths worldwide, and about a half a million deaths in the USA. Behind each one of those deaths stands a family and a community of friends who grieve the death of their beloved parent, grandparent, sibling, or friend. Countless others have survived, but will carry with them long-term con-

sequences.

Add to that political, economic and racial unrest both here and abroad, and you have a recipe for national and global despair. The psalmist in Psalm 121 asks the question: “I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come (Ps. 121:1)?”

Then immediately, the psalmist answers his own question: “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (Ps. 121:2).”

Now, of course, on a practical level, we humans must do what we can to solve these great problems. We must trust the wisdom of our medical community and follow their

counsel to get vaccinated. We must trust the wisdom of our leaders and work for solutions to our economic, political, and racial woes. God calls us to be responsible, i.e., to respond with both wisdom and faith to life’s great tests.

At the same time, however, we human beings will at some point be confronted+ by this one hard reality: even our best efforts will someday fail. Our final hope can not lie simply in our selves, nor simply in our efforts alone.

The Scriptures confirm this hard reality: “Christian faith is very realistic about the human situation.

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A Message from the Session—“Church Rear Lot Purchase”

Early February, every member should have received a letter from the session seeking funds to help pay for the 2.4 acres of land, purchased from the Holts that has been cleared and seeded. The purchase price was \$20,000 and over half has been collected from unsolicited funds. The Memorial Funds paid for the cost, so the Memorial Funds need to be “repaid”.

If you want to make a donation, clearly mark your check on the memo line **“CHURCH REAR LOT PURCHASE”**.



Facebook Live Worship Every Sunday 10:25 am



The team will continue to hold the services in the basement "sanctuary"

Directions for watching Facebook Live On Sunday

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/fincastlepresbyterianchurch/> on your computer or phone
2. Once the service starts, if you don't see the new Facebook post with the Facebook Live Video on the page above, refresh your page, or close it and go to the url above again.
3. The Facebook Live Video will begin at 10:25 AM. The service will start at 10:30AM. Music will start at 10:25

Worship Committee

Meet our "new temporary" pianist, Lori Turner in her own words.

I grew up in Botetourt County and graduated from Emory & Henry College in 1990 with a BA in Middle Education. During college I minored in piano performance and sang with

the Concert Choir. I am a mother to 3 almost grown children. Dylan 27, Owen 21 and Olivia 16. I live in Daleville with my family, our beloved Australian Shepherd dog, Riley and our cat, Sophie. I started playing the piano for church services when I was 14 years old and find great joy in providing music for worship. The piano is my main instrument but I enjoy making music with the concertina and singing with my guitar. I am also learning to play my recently acquired accordion. Thank you for this opportunity to serve as guest pianist for FPC.



Congregational Care Committee

February Birthdays

Beverly Schade 2/4, Kip Burton 2/26



Prayer Requests and Concerns

FPC Members: Evelyn Renshaw, Alan Brenner, Peggy Davis, Jean Branscom, Clyde & Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Phyllis Tenser, Dianne & John Poynor, Family of Gwen Griffith, Family of Paul Fitzgerald

Friends and Family: Laura Holt McCann, Jackie Ferrel, Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Doug Ross, Marilyn Koch, Alexsis Porter, Molly Rose, Gretchen Greiner, Lisa Curlee, Marc Evans, Michael Miracle, Ronan, Michael & Sandy Petrucci, Sharon Lane, Dana & Billie Wilson, Lilly Porter, Marlene Davidow

Mission and Fellowship Committees

Challenge: FPC Make February "Souper Bowl" Month



This was written before February 7, Super Bowl Sunday. Because in the past the church has celebrated by sharing a bowl of soup with each other, let's make a pledge to donate cans of soup or vegetables or fruit to a food pantry of your choice. Deliver your cans or bring them to the back porch of the church and they will be delivered to the Botetourt Food Pantry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle for you.



Bring your 2 Cents a Meal Donation to the Church

The little red wagon will be sitting just inside the basement door of the church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 10:00 am —12 noon the week of February 8 and 15.

If your can is as full as our can is after about 11 months, it needs to be emptied so there is will be room to collect more!



A Message from David—The Christian Hope—continued from p. 1

It knows both the fragility of life and the limits of life. It is futile to vest one's final hopes in wealth, in houses, in empires and armies; or even in the Temple of Zion. Far stronger than all these is the hope from God that enables those who believe to wait silently for him (*Leith, The Christian Hope, 1993*).

The great tests of life will come to each of us. In many cases we will be able to meet the challenges. We will solve the problem; treat the illness; fix what is broken, but only for a time. What then? From where will our hope come then?

The Apostle Paul provides this answer: "...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor

rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8: 37—39)."

As we continue our earthly journey into 2021 and into the years beyond, may we always be a responsible people who do what we can to address the great tests of life. At the same time, may we also trust in God and God's mercy and love revealed in Jesus Christ, for it is in Him that our final hope will come.

AMEN



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Mission Statement: Striving to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, Growing in God, Through uplifting and inspiring spiritual experiences, and Serving our community in love.

Church Staff

Interim Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D. Min

Treasurer: Becky Downs

Organist and Choir Director: Evelyn Renshaw

Bookkeeper/Secretary: Beth Clark

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am—noon

Other times by Appointment

Session Members

Lynne Bolton Sandy Gates Lyn Burton

Alan Brenner John Griffith Becky Downs

Cathy Goad Paul Phillippe Bo Trumbo

John Kilby, Clerk

Trustees

Bob Omer, Peggy Davis, Garland Jones

Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin— by Wednesday of the week

Monthly Newsletter—by 20th of the month