



Church Family,

I'm sure all of you are aware that the CDC issued new guidelines for COVID 19 regarding the use of masks, and social distancing for those who have been fully vaccinated. As a result, the Session has changed our church's protocols effective immediately. It is the intention and desire of the Session to provide an environment that is conducive to Worship, Study, and Ministry that works for all our Guests and Members. Here are the new guidelines.

Temperature screening will no longer be done by our Ushers and Greeters and is not required to enter the building. We will leave our thermal scan thermometers on the resource table at the Sanctuary entrance for those who may wish to self-screen. If you do self-screen and have a fever, we ask that you not participate in church activities until your fever is gone. If, while at home, you are not feeling well or know yourself to be running a fever, please stay at home until you are well. We will continue to make available masks, wipes, gloves, and hand sanitizer for those who need or desire to use them while on campus.

Masks will no longer be required for those who are "fully vaccinated." We will not ask for proof of vaccination but will ask that you be thoughtful and considerate of your brothers and sisters in Christ who may be more susceptible to the virus. If you are not fully vaccinated, you should always wear a mask. If you cannot comply with this courtesy, in consideration of others who are most "at risk," please enjoy our services through our online opportunities. Our online streaming of the worship services and videos for the children will continue.

In the Sanctuary, as you stand at the entrance and look at the stage, the following rules will be effective immediately. The two sections on the right (sound booth side), the far right and the middle right, will both be fully open – "No Mask Required - No Social Distancing" in place. The far left section (near the courtyard windows) will be "Mask Required – Social Distancing Required". The middle left section will be "Mask Optional – Social Distancing Required". So,

the far right and middle right sections will be available as they were pre-COVID. The far left section will continue to operate under the Covid protocols that have been in place since June. And the middle left is a compromise between the two. Look for signs in the Sanctuary lobby and on the back rows of the pews.

This division of our worship space is an attempt to try to provide the highest level of safety and liberty. Those who are “fully vaccinated” and done with masks and restrictions, have half of the sanctuary to sit in and worship. Those who desire to attend worship but want the security of full Covid protocols have a section on the far left. And those who might see a mixed need will have a place they can utilize in the middle left. When attending other church events, Bible Studies, Sunday School, or simply being in the common spaces of the church, “fully vaccinated” individuals do not have to wear masks, but they do need to be sensitive to and protective of those who are wearing masks. In this way we can share our facility, maintain our close family connections, offer some freedom from the Covid protocols, and keep safe our most concerned and vulnerable.

I hope you will join with me in celebrating God’s grace and mercy as He has watched over us and kept us safe as a church family during this long and frightening process. Let us be especially considerate of those who are still “uneasy” or “at risk” regarding their health. Let us all be mindful that Covid is still active in our community. People are still dying from this disease, even as the case numbers have improved. We pray for those who are still being devastated by this pandemic. We are grateful to God that the vaccines are effective and that we can return to a “more normal” lifestyle. May God continue to watch over and bless us individually, in our families, in our church family, and in the world.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff



Sunday will be Pentecost. Be sure to wear something red, yellow, or orange!

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING – Pentecost on Sunday, May 23rd. If you would like to contribute to the Pentecost Special Offering, you will find special offering envelopes in each pew. Your contribution helps youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. The Pentecost Offering started in 1998 and Presbyterians have raised more than 15 million which has benefited the younger members of God’s family!



VIRTUAL SERVICE – Please be sure to comment when you are watching our virtual service. This is how we are taking attendance and we want you to be counted. And remember, we are open on Sundays for worship if you are comfortable joining with us, using the precautions we have in place. You are welcome to bring a beverage **with a lid** into the Sanctuary now. No food please.

TITHES – Please call the church office if you would like to drop off your tithe to ensure a staff member will be available to let you in the building.

PENTECOST

SCRIPTURE FOR MAY 23

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sermon Title: Bones

The Flowers – this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by David & Courtney McAliley and in celebration of Maddalynn's 2nd birthday on May 21.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - The New Fellowship Class is now meeting in the dining room (302). They are studying a series by Phillip Yancy called "What's So Amazing About Grace".

The Foundations class will resume for the rest of the month of May. This class is led by David McAliley and will meet in the choir room.

If your current class is still not meeting or you have never attended an adult Sunday School class, you are welcome to participate in either of these two classes!

Something to ponder: Ezekiel 37 – Remember reading about the dry bones? Scripture says there was a noise, a rattling. Then there were sinews and flesh, and skin covered them. Noise? Rattling? What???? Remember the bones were dead! How can this be? Until next time, my Bible is open, and I hope yours is too!

"FOOD IS LIFE!"



DEXTER'S CORNER.....

Question: Is there any sin that God will not forgive?

Answer: Another good question and one not often discussed. In Matt 12:30-31 we read the words of Jesus, "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters. Therefore, I say unto you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven them, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven." (NASB)

Jesus claim to be the Son of God was authenticated primarily in the signs and wonders He performed, more often referred to today as miracles. The Bible supports that He was able to do this because of who He was and His ability to do these miracles, came from the Spirit of God, or the Holy Spirit, the third part of the trinity.

So, to reject the Holy Spirit as the enabler for the miracles Jesus performed is to reject the Holy Spirit. The people who charged that Jesus was in league with Satan rejected, consciously and willingly, the God who met them in Christ and in the words and the acts empowered by the Spirit.

In summary, if you don't believe in the Spirit of God you don't believe in Jesus as the Son of God, and if you don't believe in either you have rejected the power that can cleanse you of sin and welcome you into the presence of God. Therefore, you have committed a sin that cannot be forgiven, the sin of unbelief.

THOUGHTS FROM DEXTER..... I'm reading in Samuel 12:16. Samuel tells the gathered Israelites, "Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes!" (NIV)

One of the almost comical things we see in the early formation of the Israelites as God's chosen people (for responsibility, not privilege) is that while God is performing a miracle, the people are appropriately in awe and swear allegiance to Him. But, if He's not doing something miraculous to either deliver them from a looming catastrophe or rescue them from an enemy, they seem to pretty much forget Him. Look at all the warnings in the book of Deuteronomy about how NOT to act once they were in the promised land and how quickly they were involved in every one of these things they were supposed to avoid!

Is our life the same? Do we feel close to God while He is doing a work in our life, but if He's not evident in daily activity, do we seem to lose contact with Him? Jesus told the doubt filled crowds of His day, "But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." (John 5:17 NASB). God is ALWAYS at work, and I fear most of the time we are completely unaware of it. But this is where faith comes into play. If we had all the answers, we wouldn't need faith, and Scripture plainly tells us that faith is what God wants from us.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE - All children and youth Sunday School classes will be taking a summer break and not meeting in the months of June, July, and August. We will offer Summer Bible Theater each week for those children whose parents are attending an adult Sunday School class that is continuing through the summer. Summer Bible Theater will take place in the K-2nd grade classroom (315) and will be led by Anne Marie Moore. Each week will feature a DVD from the Animated Bible Story series from Nest Learning along with a coordinated activity. Registration will be appreciated for Summer Theater each week. If you plan to bring your children, please email Lorie Lewis (lorie@steelecreekchurch.org) by Thursday of each week.

BASIC TRAINING -our fellowship group for 2nd - 5th graders will have an end of year pool party on May 23 at the Brody's house. The group will take the bus after worship and return to the church around 2:30 pm. Bring a swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen; pizza and drinks will be provided. Look for an email next week with a permission slip or if you need more information, you can contact Abby Brody, amcarter@coastal.edu.



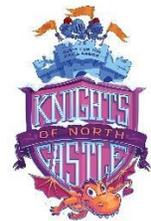


GRADUATE RECOGNITION - Sunday June 6, our youth will lead the worship service and we will be recognizing our high school and college graduates for 2021. We do not want to miss anyone; so please let us know if you have a graduate in your family by calling the church office or sending a message to Lorie Lewis (lorie@steelecreekchurch.org).

Activities for Children this Summer!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- JULY 13-17

Plan to join us on an adventure to the Knights of North Castle, as we explore the Quest for the King's armor! Vacation Bible School 2021 will take place Sunday, June 13-Thursday June 17, 5:30 pm - 8:15 pm (dinner served each night, 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm). Registration is now open and additional information is available at <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/scpcph/>



Registration is open to all children 3 years old by June 1 through those who will have completed 5th grade. Registration deadline is May 31. For more information, please contact Cathy Farnham- cathy.farnham@gmail.com, Lorie Lewis- lorie@steelecreekchurch.org or Megan Winget- mmwinget@yahoo.com.

BETHELWOODS, CAMP-IN-A-VAN -July 28 - July 2

Bethelwoods will bring their staff to our campus, each day, 9 am – 3 pm. This week of crafts, games, activities, worship, and singing will be open to children who have completed Kindergarten-5th grade. Use the link below for more information and to register by May 31.

<https://onrealm.org/SteeleCreekChurch/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZWVjMzk3OWI0tMGM0ZS00YWYwLWE0NTktYWQwMjAxMjgzZjMz>

PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS

Pleasant Hill Preschool has a couple openings remaining in our rising 3-year-old summer camps. (Children must be 3 or turn 3 by September 1.) Details on the two weeks offered are listed below. Please email Cait at director@pleasanthillpreschool.org to register.

Week 1: Outdoor Adventures!

June 7-10 9:00am-12:00pm \$150

Come join us as we explore all the fun that can be had when we turn off our electronics and step outside. We will explore topics such as camping, hiking, outdoor sports, nature, and water fun. Our imaginations will carry us to exciting spots like oceans, ponds, caves, and mountains. It will be like opening a gift as we discuss all the wonder our world can hold. At this camp, we will play, learn, craft, and explore up a week to remember.

Week 2: Dinosaurs-RAWR!

July 26-29 9:00am - 12:00pm \$150

Campers will go roaring into this Prehistoric summer Adventure as they explore the Epic theme of Dinosaurs! This action-packed week is sure to be big fun. Together we will share some Dynomite learning games, excavation activities, crafts, and songs. Your child will roar like a Dinosaur, dig for fossils like a paleontologist, and play with friends like only preschool kids can. We are sure to dig up some smiles, knowledge, and a time to remember as we share a week based on this much-loved theme.

PLAYBALL SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is now open for Playball Summer Camp! This year camp will be offered at two locations-Allison Creek Presbyterian and Steele Creek Presbyterian at Pleasant Hill. All camps are from 9 am-noon for children ages 3 (must be fully potty trained)-10. Camp cost is \$125.00 per week.

June 7-11 Allison Creek

June 21-25 Allison Creek

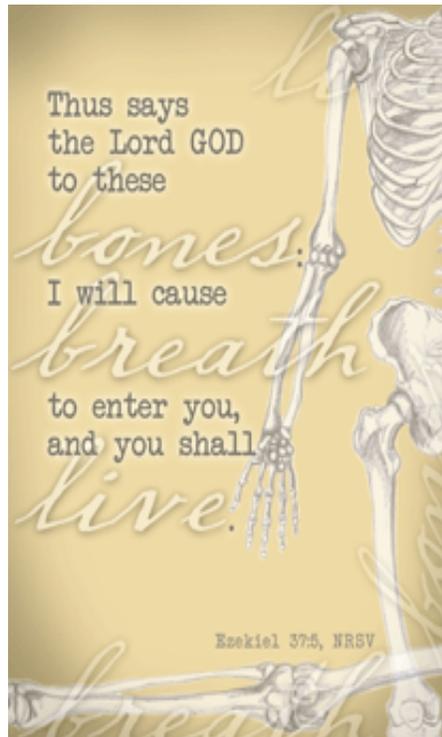
July 12-16 Steele Creek at Pleasant Hill

July 19-23 Allison Creek

Aug 2-6 Allison Creek

Aug 9-13 Steele Creek at Pleasant Hill

To register, please go to www.playballcarolinas.com



CHURCH ATTENDANCE MAY 16

Inhouse – 127

Facebook & YouTube - 412

Total – 539



Sunday, May 23

09:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship-Communion
11:45 am BASIC Training
02:00 pm GS Troop 3693
03:00 pm GS Troop 2009
03:30 pm GS Troop 3484
05:00 pm Youth Group
08:00 pm AA Meeting

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 26

06:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal
07:30 pm Handbell Practice
08:00 pm AA Meeting

Thursday, May 27

11:00 am Preschool Graduation
07:30 pm Technology Tech Team

Sunday, May 30

10 Cents A Meal Offering
09:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
08:00 pm AA Meeting



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – Please help us keep this list up to date. Call in with any information about our church families.



Marguerite Aycoth

Betty Burgess

Frances Currie

Lenora Fincher

Hannah Mauer

Ann Preslar

Betty Warren

Wayne Whiteside

Dick Bigham

Joy Burton

Charlie Earp

Louise Freeman

John McKay

Marilyn Price

Margaret Wert

Joan Brown

Betty Byrum

Dot Earp

Norman Kotraba

Margaret Niell

Gerry Roberts

Lois Yandle



Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill - Associate General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Charlotte, currently on active duty as a Chaplain with the Air Force.

Marilyn Price – Doing alright, but health concern

Dan Jorgensen – Cancer – Nephew of Allyson & Trey Rogers

Katharine Freeman – Health concern

Anne Preslar – Health concern

Walt White – Anne Preslar’s son-in-law – awaiting heart surgery

Jake – Hodgkin’s Lymphoma - Son of Brooks Runkle

Jeannie Purvis – Cancer

James Norcom – Hospice – Beth Carroll’s Uncle

Dick Bigham – Health concerns

Jordan Driscoll- Health concerns

Karen Barnes – Inoperable, aggressive, stage 4 Cancer – Aunt of Thad Carroll

Mike Spratt – Recovering from surgery

Richard Hoover – Health concerns

Sue Tanner – Health concerns

Charlie King – Duke Hospital in ICU – underwent another surgery on Wednesday - Nephew of Annette & John Freeman

John Hovis – Recovering at home

George Thrower – Awaiting a kidney transplant

Jean and Joe Furr – Health concerns

Bobby -In hospital with a blood infection and a lot of pain – Cousin of Judy Watkins

PRAISE

Brian Ennis – Well from COVID & knee surgery & back to work - Son of Beckie Ennis

Abby Brody – At home doing well from surgery

MEMORIAL DAY IS MAY 31ST



Please pray for our **Members of the Armed Forces**

Brian Cox – US Air Force, South Korea
Olivia Hommes – US Air Force Academy, Colorado
Lexie Simerly – US Army - Fountain, Colorado
Will Warsaw – US Navy - Japan
Gabe White – US Army - Ft. Lee, Virginia



**Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill
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5-21-2021