

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

February 2022

Pastor's Corner

As we continue to move through the year of 2022 (one month down already!), there are many things that guide our path. We lean on the news, each other, our faith, etc. to keep us grounded in who we are and in the direction that feel we are supposed to go. But what happens when we come to that fork in the road and both options seem to be desirable, or equally undesirable. How we choose to handle our changing situations is a defining feature of who we are, not only to ourselves but to everyone who encounters us during these times of choice. I recently finished a book call *Unraptured: How End Times Theology Gets it Wrong* by Zack Hunt. Hunt goes through his journey from teen, conservative, evangelical who blindly followed late night TV evangelist to a minister who had his faith blown up only to be able to put it back together. It is incredibly difficult to have one's faith turned upside down, especially when it is something that we feel so confident in. Yet, Hunt hits on something very important when he admits that he felt like he had all the answers to getting into heaven. He thought he had it all figured out, and anyone who questioned him was more or less shouted down. It is when we become stagnant in our faith, that our faith becomes insufficient. There are the parts of our faith that root us and are core to which all the other bits and branches stem from, yet when we stop trimming those branches, when we stop trying to get our faith trees to grow bigger and better, the tree itself starts to die. Hunt dives into many of the misconceptions and bad theology around the book of Revelation in today's world. The way in which some use this letter to the seven churches as a secret map to the gates of heaven is just one of the many examples he uses, and he uses these things because he believed this himself. We can never grasp the whole scope of God, our human brains simply can't handle something that vast because it defies all logic. When we boil life down to the black and white, to only looking at words on a page, or only one way of faith or route to take, we limit our own ability to grow and learn. We profess that the word of God is living and ever changing, so to must our faith as it is centered around these words. It is scary to think we may have bits of our faith wrong, and even scarier that we may have to choose how to put our faith back together. But the good news of the gospel is that we do not journey alone in the faith. It is said that when Christ died, the cloth in the temple that separate the people from the Holy of Holies was torn. We are never separated from God in Christ, no matter how solid or torn apart our faith is at any given moment. So when we reach those cross roads of faith, I suggest you take the route that is full of questions that may have no answer, because this route is where your faith tree will grow.

Patrick Lane

Pastor

Mitchells Presbyterian Church

540-881-0201

Session News

Items from January 13, 2022 Meeting

- Joint meeting with the Trustees: Trustee officer election results: Bill Miller, President; Debbie Long Smith, Vice-President; Dorlores Aylor, Asst. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer. The Church Treasurer and Clerk of Session also serve on the Board of Trustees.
- Elected Ron Evans as Church Treasurer.
- Elected Steve Hicks as Clerk of Session.
- Session voted to withdraw \$14,500 from the investment accounts overseen by the Trustees to fund Missions and Outreach in 2022.
- Patricia Hawkins, outgoing Ruling Elder, and Pat Payne elected to represent Session on 2022 Nominating Committee. The congregation will elect 3 additional members at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 27, 2022.
- Reviewed the insurance coverage for the church.
- Received the update that materials for the pavilion is delayed until mid-February. Final construction will be late spring/early summer.
- Tabby Weaver, Carol Inskeep, and Jimmy Walker with work with Pastor Patrick and Steve Hicks to develop policies for the use of church property.

Brett Massey will serve as Session representative to Christian Education; Carol Inskeep will serve on Mission/Outreach; and Tabby Weaver will serve on Congregational Life & Ministry.

Presbyterian Women

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women will meet February 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a devotional, and then Becky Payette will lead us in Chapter 7, "Mary and Martha of Bethany, Two Pathways" in *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:17-44, 12:1-8). We will also have a brief business meeting.

Continuing through February 13 (Super Bowl Sunday), we will be collecting canned soup for the Culpeper Food Closet. If you wish to donate canned soup, please leave your donation on the table in the Fellowship Hall outside the Security Room. A special thanks to Mary Lou Phillips for delivering our items to the Food Closet in November, December, and again in January.

Happy Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day!

Debbie Long-Smith, Moderator

Men of the Church

The Men will meet on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for dinner, Bible study, and fellowship. Men please reach out to Steve Hicks at 540-718-2098 or menofmitchellspc@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Safety and Security Committee (SSC)

Nothing new to report.

Church Events/Information

Donations to MPC

Any donations to the church can be mailed to:

Mitchells Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 98
Mitchells, VA 22729

All mail is being picked up twice a week and deposits are being made by Ron Evans, the church treasurer.

Worship Committee

Nothing new to report.

Thanks Barb

From Kim Hicks new home address for Ann Elyse

Ann Elyse Van Winkle
124 B Prescott Avenue
Marion, VA 24354

Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds

Morton Buildings (construction contractor) is still running behind schedule on starting new projects. James Smith (project lead) continues to maintain close contact with the contractor and will report any updates.

Sausage Sales—Deadline Fast Approaching

The Men of the Church are selling pork sausage again this year. It is \$5 per pound. Please order it online at <https://form.jotform.com/220047222726144?fbclid=IwAR1u43w03C7tZhS7iTeCCcOKs15ZDsslqkb8cbtV51tybRR5O1ixNUnO97Q> , fill out a form found in the Narthex, or call Bill Miller at 540-825-2783.

The **deadline** for orders is **February 10, 2022**. Sausage may be picked up on Saturday, February 19, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Other arrangements may be made by contacting Bill Miller or Steve Hicks (540-718-2098.)

Mitchells Presbyterian Email Prayer Chain

Patti Weaver has agreed to monitor and maintain the prayer chain email account. Thank you Patti for your service to MPC.

If you would like to receive notifications of prayer requests via email, please send an email to:

prayersofmitchells@gmail.com

Your email address will be added. This is open to members, regular attendees, friends, etc. Just have all requesters send an email and they will be added.

This prayer chain could be for major concerns, but also for things like “pray for my friend Sally; she’s going through a rough time,” or “my college daughter, Brenda, is taking her final exam in her major, please pray for her,” etc. You get the idea. Just anything that your heart seeks comfort over.

Prayer requests mentioned at church will try to be added, but it is best if you could just send them to the **prayersofmitchells@gmail.com** email address.

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ron Evans	2	3 John Preihs	4 Rachael Hulvey	5 Jeremy Tidman
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Beth McCall Carol Inskeep Kas Settle Jett Anderson	15 Bill Chase	16 Mary Scott Gyory	17 Greg Griffith	18 Marissa Ray	19
20 Pam Zwigart	21 Becky Payette	22	23	24 Adam Hicks	25	26
27 Wanda Hulvey Toni & Dan Upton	28 Michael Tidman					

Usher: Bill Miller

Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini