

# Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

## March 2022

### Pastor's Corner

It's time to turn the Christian Calendar again. We have entered the season of lent. That 40 day span (apparently Sunday's don't count, I have no idea why) in which we have often been taught that we need to deprive ourselves of something in preparation for Holy Week. However, in the last 5 or 10 years a new trend for Lent has arisen. Rather than subtracting something from your life in a pseudo fasting fashion, we add something into our lives that is meant to bring us closer to God or increase our spiritual lives. Maybe you have heard of this new trend or maybe it is completely new to you. Perhaps you are like me and have a traditional thing that you give up and aren't ready to let go of that tradition. For the last 5 or so years, I have been giving up social media for Lent. But here's the kicker, I was never really giving it up for God. Sure, sure I was doing it for lent and thus by association I was giving it up for God, but honestly it was just a reset for myself. It was a way to get away from the toxic world that is the internet and all those who use it's platform to spew hate and misinformation into the world just because they think it's funny or clever. Yeah, that was really my purpose, and sadly that it a lot of our worship lives or even faith lives. We do X Y or Z because it always has been done blah blah blah. It's nothing we haven't heard before when it comes to the church or Christianity. Reading this your guard has likely gone up, walls lined with wire and guards to keep those dang progressive, tradition hating changes away from our minds. But allow me to tell you that your guard can slip a little today. See, when I finally came to the realization that this Lenten practice was doing NOTHING in the way of bringing me closer to God, I decided to change what I was doing. Not only was this a selfish thing, still with myself more towards the center than it needed to be, but it was an attempt to bring God to the forefront of what I was doing during these 40 plus days. I am really, REALLY bad at journaling, but I invested in a Bible that's secondary purpose was to be something that I could write extensively in. It had wide margins and this allowed me to add a new practice. Deep Scriptural Reflection (my own term, trademarked, LLC, the whole thing 😊) is what I introduced into my Lenten practice. An hour or nothing but reading the same handful of verses, over and over. Writing down ever, single thought that came to me within that hour. Questions, affirmations, random interpretations, everything! So, once again here is the pastor asking you to think about what you do and have done before. It doesn't have to be extravagant, but I encourage you to think through this Lenten season with an open mind. To allow yourself to see Lent, Holy Week, Christ, God and the Holy Spirit all in new ways that what has always been. Perhaps, what always has been is re-affirmed or perhaps you find a new way to walk your faith. You never know what an open mind may find. Take it from someone who has needed to change his own way and following several long years of massive change, there's no better time than now to let your open mind work!

Blessings and Happy Lent,

Patrick Lane

Pastor

Mitchells Presbyterian Church

540-881-0201

## Session News

- Approved Installation of Rev. Patrick F. Lane for Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.
- Approved the new members class to be held on April 2 & 3 or April 9 & 10.
- Approved confirmation classes to be held late April and into May.
- Christian Education will be planning for VBS to be held this summer.

### Youth Group Report left out of the Annual Report

Due to an oversight on the part of the Clerk, the Youth Group Report provided below should have been in the Annual Report. My sincerest apologies to the Youth, Pat Payne, and Ann Walker. Steve Hicks.

### YOUTH GROUP—PAT PAYNE

The Youth Group held its first meeting on June 13, 2021 and was off to a great start! Meetings are typically held at church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, 5:00-6:30 pm, for all youth 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and above. Visiting friends are welcome and encouraged! We begin with a meal and a Bible lesson led by Pastor Patrick. Afterwards we enjoy a variety of crafts, projects, games, and fellowship indoors and outdoors.

A few of the highlights from 2021 include preparation of the youth flower garden with rock painting for the border, pumpkin decorating, a cupcake walk (great time!), painting and decorating birdhouses, and a fun missionary presentation with audience participation given by 3 youth from another church.

The youth group would like to sincerely thank the church congregation for their support and financial contributions which allow us to continue growing, participating in activities and enjoying fellowship together. We look forward to 2022!

## Presbyterian Women

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women will meet March 8 at **5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a devotional, and then Patti Weaver will lead us in Chapter 8, "Mary the Mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene" Witness to the Gospel in *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. This is the final chapter. We will also have a brief business meeting.

Continuing through March, we will be collecting breakfast items for the Culpeper Food Closet (cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars, pancake mix, syrup, etc.). If you wish to donate any of these items, please leave your donation on the table in the Fellowship Hall outside the Security Room.

At the February meeting, the women voted to have the rummage/craft sale during the month of October 2022. An exact date in October will be announced later. Please keep this in mind as you clean out your unwanted household items and as you begin knitting, crocheting, sewing, jewelry making or whatever your talents may be.

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of The James will be held on Saturday, May 7. When additional information is available regarding location, keynote speakers, and business items, it will be sent out via email.

Blessings to all, Debbie Long-Smith, Moderator

## **Men of the Church**

The Men of the Church will meet at 7:00pm on Thursday, March 3.

## **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.

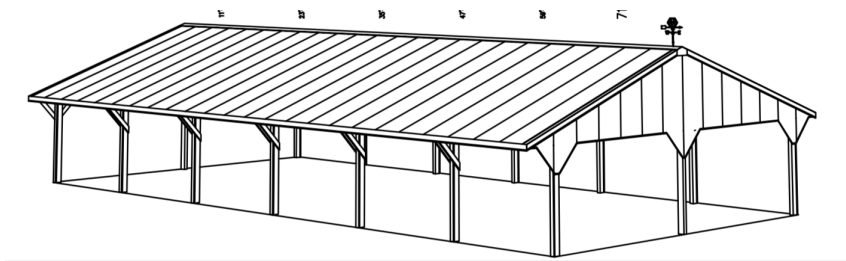
### **Worship Committee**

Nothing new to report.

## **Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds**

### **Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds**

It's going to happen! Mitchells Presbyterian Church has received confirmation from Morton Buildings that the delivery of building materials for the Pavilion is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at approximately 8:00 a.m. Construction should begin in approximately 1-2 weeks after delivery.



## **Sausage Sales**

The Men of the Church would like to thank you all for making this year's sales a complete success; all sausage was sold.

## **MPC News**

Congratulations! Mitchell's Presbyterian Church is now a member of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to the opportunities offered by our local Chamber, including networking, access to resources, community involvement and visibility.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:prayersofmitchells@gmail.com)** email address.

# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Michael Sousa	2 Madelynn Hussey	3	4	5
6 Ruth Marie Faulkner Lara Grotz	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Peter Inskeep	19
20 Alan Wolleben Smitty Smith Cara Cuccherini Paul Inskeep	21	22 Dan Upton, Sr	23	24	25 Susan Smith Vic & Teresa Squire	26 Chris Jaderborg
27 Lou Preihs	28	29 Amy Inskeep Bo Chase Doug & Crystal Settle Patricia Hawkins	30	31		

Usher: Roger Eakin    Accolyte: Tommy Cuccherini