

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

May 2022

Pastor's Corner

One of the regular “pastor” type emails that I get each day is from the Franciscan Father Richard Rohr and his center for contemplation. Each day there is something new to read and think about. As we go through the Easter celebration and season of the resurrection the email that included thoughts about Easter and Earth day has stuck with me. Especially as the world around us turns greener and blooms before us, not to mention the yellow coating of pollen everywhere that makes my allergies (and maybe yours) run wild. So, I wanted to share this email for you all to contemplate on. I pray that you find meaning in it and it leads you to find joy, even in the pollen.

For Catholic theologian Elizabeth Johnson, the resurrection of Jesus is a promise of new life for all creation:

As the first fruit of an abundant harvest, the risen Jesus Christ pledges a future for all the dead, not only the dead of the human species but of all species. In Jesus crucified and risen, God who graciously gives life to the dead and brings into being the things that do not exist will redeem the whole cosmos. As Ambrose of Milan [d. 397] in the fourth century preached, “In Christ’s resurrection the earth itself arose.” [1]

The reasoning runs like this. This person, Jesus of Nazareth, Wisdom incarnate, was composed of star stuff and earth stuff; his life formed a genuine part of the historical and biological community of Earth; his body existed in a network of relationships drawing from and extending to the whole physical universe. As a child of the earth he died, and the earth claimed him back in a grave. In his resurrection his flesh was called to life again in transformed glory. Risen from the dead, Jesus has been reborn as a child of the earth, radiantly transfigured. . . . The evolving world of life, all of matter in its endless permutations, will not be left behind but will be transfigured by the resurrecting action of the Creator God. [2]

Writing at the beginning of the pandemic, Franciscan theologian Ilia Delio reminds us that we can celebrate the risen Christ in our lives and in the natural world:

Where is this risen Christ? Everywhere and all around us—in you, your neighbor, the dogwood tree outside, the budding grape vine, the ants popping up through the cracks. The whole world is filled with God, who is shining through even the darkest places of our lives. To “go to church” is to awaken to this divine presence in our midst and respond in love with a yes: Your life, O God, is my life and the life of the planet. . . .

We have an invitation to go to church in a new way, by praying before the new leaves budding through dormant trees or the wobbly flowers by the side of the road pushing through the solid earth. . . [With Francis of Assisi], we too can sing with the air we breathe, the sun that shines upon us, the rain that pours down to water the earth. And we can cry with those who are mourning, with the forgotten, with those who are suffering from disease or illness, with the weak, with the

imprisoned. We can mourn in the solidarity of compassion but we must live in the hope of new life. For we are Easter people, and we are called to celebrate the whole earth as the body of Christ. Every act done in love gives glory to God: a pause of thanksgiving, a laugh, a gaze at the sun, or just raising a toast to your friends at your virtual gathering. The good news? "He is not here!" Christ is everywhere, and love will make us whole. [3]

References:

[1] Ambrose, On the Death of Satyrus, book 2, paragraph 102.

[2] Elizabeth A. Johnson, Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018), 190, 191.

[3] Ilia Delio, The Hours of the Universe: Reflections on God, Science, and the Human Journey (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2021), 195–196.

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Session News

Session did not meet during the month of April. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women will meet May 10 at **5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a devotional, and then Kim Hicks will lead us in Lesson 1, "My Servant Job" in *Grace for Every Trial* By Betty Henderson. We will also have a brief business meeting.

During the month of May, we will be collecting children's books and baby diapers for the Culpeper Food Closet. If you wish to donate any of these items, please leave your donation on the table in the Fellowship Hall outside the Security Room. Thank you to everyone that donated Easter basket items in April. The volunteers at the Food Closet and the recipients were so grateful. It made many children very happy.

Please keep in mind as you clean out your unwanted items and as you begin knitting, crocheting, sewing, jewelry making or whatever your talents may be, we will have our rummage/craft sale some time during the month of October 2022. All proceeds will go to the Pavilion Fund.

The Spring Gathering of Presbytery Women of the James has been changed to a virtual gathering and will still be on Saturday, May 7.

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church thank everyone who attended the Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday for their support. A special thank you to Pastor Patrick for serving as the narrator, to Ian Chini for sound support, Mary Scott Gyory and the Choir, and Janet Miller for her hard work and dedication.

The May meeting of the MOC will take place on Thursday, May 5, 2022 with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Steve Hicks—540-718-2098 or MenofMitchellsPC@gmail.com if have any questions.

Safety and Security Committee (SSC)

Nothing new to report.

Church Events/Information

Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds

Work is continuing on the pavilion project. The conduit stub-outs for electrical, security cables, and gas line have been installed. The stile has been built for the mounting of the electrical box. Currently we are waiting on the concrete contractor to give us a date to pour the concrete.



Congregational Life and Ministry Committee

The Committee is coordinating a Graduate Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 5, after church. Our graduate this year is Seth Massey. He is also our "Spotlight" this month. There will be a basket in the Fellowship Hall that day if you would like to leave Seth a congratulations card. More details regarding the lunch will be provided in a few weeks. Past graduates are welcome and we encourage everyone to attend and congratulate Seth.

Session rescinded action taken in 2020 halting coffee hour after the worship service. The CL&M Committee will now oversee this social function with the continued support of the Presbyterian Women's Group. The "after church social" will officially start in September as we usually skip the summer months. But since we have not been able to have this for the last two years, we thought it would be nice to do something between now and September. Starting Sunday, May 1 there will be one drink and a platter of cookies or snacks available after church. If you would like to host one of these, there will be a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. More information will be provided later this summer for the official start-up in September.

MPC Spotlight

Spotlighting Seth Massey

By Debbie Long-Smith, Congregational Life Committee Member

Seth Massey will be graduating from Culpeper County High School this Spring. Seth, born November 24, 2003, is the youngest son of Brett and Kathy Massey. Seth has an older brother, Conner, and an older sister, Heather. Before attending Culpeper County High School Seth attended Emerald Hill Elementary and Culpeper Middle School.

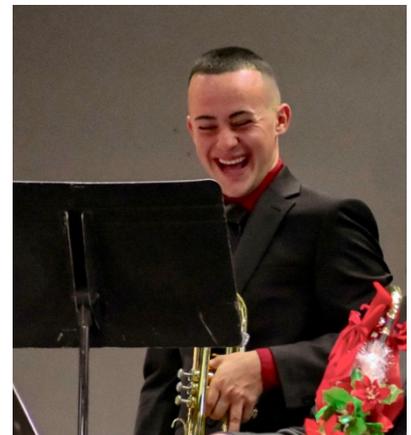
Seth's passion is music and he has played the trumpet since he was in the fifth grade. In the upper grades he was in his school's Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Concert Band. He was also a member of the All District Band.

Seth is not just talented in music; he has also been on the honor roll and received academic awards.

Seth has been an active member of Mitchells Presbyterian Church and has attended this church his entire life. As a Christian leader, he attended the Mission Trip in Webster Springs, West Virginia, participated in Rise Against Hunger, and assists with the mowing at Mitchells Presbyterian Church. Seth has also been active in Sunday School and Youth Group and served as the youth representative on the Session.

Seth will be attending West Virginia University this coming Fall Semester and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering, because he has always been interested in how things work. His sister, Heather, graduated from WVU. In what little spare time Seth has after his academic and band obligations, he enjoys hanging out with family and friends.

Best wishes to you, Seth. All of Mitchells Presbyterian will be praying for you. The future is all yours now. Go for it! May the Lord bless your steps and watch over you.



Worship Committee

Nothing new to report.

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.

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.

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.

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Stephen Grotz	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Marty Stuart	12	13	14
15	16	17 Jonathan & Tabbitha Weaver Tommy & Michelle Cuccherini	18	19	20	21 Steve & Kim Hicks
22	23	24	25 Rob & Lou Preihs	26	27 Tom & Denita Cuccherini	28 Jacob Inskeep
29	30 Daniel Grotz Vicky & Graeme Tidman	31				

Scheduled Usher: Perrin Kinsey

Scheduled Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini