

Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter March 2023

Pastor's Corner

The Desert of Compassion by Rachel Srubas is the Lenten devotional book for this year's 46 day stretch of time that will lead us to the cross and the resurrection that is Easter. This book has given me some interesting things to think about, from the way in which I think about the words that are used to describe the way we walk with each other during times of trial to the variety in deserts around the world. This last thing, the variety of deserts really stuck out to me,



because if I was asked to describe a desert, I'd say something along the lines of a place that is hot, sandy, and lifeless. Yet, in the devotional I learned that deserts, in all their varieties cover one-fifth of God's created earth, and are homes to one-sixth of the world's population. "Some deserts – the Antarctic, for example – are freezing cold. In coastal deserts, such as Namib of southwestern Africa and the Atacama in northern Chile, weather tends to be mild and even muggy. On all deserts of the world, including those in humid coastal areas, little rain falls. Aridity

makes a desert. In places from the southwestern United States to the Gobi region of Central Asia, dry conditions give rise to communities of drought-tolerant plants and animals".

All these different deserts are like each of our own journeys. No two journey looks alike, and none of our deserts will remain the same. Not from day to day or year to year, because the Lenten season is about the way in which we journey through the wildernesses, the deserts of our lives. Perhaps we are journeying towards a new job, or new grandkids. Maybe the journey is through an illness or a concern about what tomorrow may bring. Each of these journeys, and the many more we are on, gives us a chance to respond to the world around us. Christ responded to the trails of the world, and his time in the wilderness with faithfulness and humility, and with actions that reflected the word of God as opposed to the word and world of humans.



None of these journeys are easy to travel, and deserts can make us feel like we are traveling through the places where no rains fall all alone. But the joy of being the body of the Christ, of truly being the church, and loving/caring for one another is that these journeys do not happen in a vacuum. We are not stuck in desolate places without each other, or without any of the persons of the Trinity. Each of us, and each persons, has the ability to walk through these harsh places, and the hard realities of the world together. We find ourselves in many different kinds of deserts this Lenten

season, I pray that you will not journey alone, but seek those who will walk with you. Blessings during this season of arid wilderness journeys.

Pastor Patrick

Session News

- Approved replenishing Pastor's Discretionary fund to normal balance.
- Set the date for Session retreat for April 1
- Heard reports:
 - Cameras have been installed in pavilion
 - There will be a 5th Sunday event in April
 - Tabby Weaver elected chair of Congregational Life & Ministry Committee
 - Missions & Outreach reported that 109 meals were served on the 4th Monday of January
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th, time to be determined.

Presbyterian Women

The Mitchells Presbyterian Women met February 14th in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed an impromptu Valentine tea party. Kim Hicks led our Bible study "Grace for Every Trial" Chapter 5 "Pity for Pity Sake".

Our "Souper Bowl" event collected 158 cans of soup for the Food Closet. Thank you all for donating to this annual project.

We are continuing the Monthly Food Closet donations each month with designated needs. For the Month of March we are collecting items for Easter Baskets. Last year the Food Closet commented they were very much appreciated. We are accepting candy, Easter novelties, books and coloring books to make baskets.

We are also still accepting donations for the "Loads of Love" program sponsored through Sycamore Park School. They need gently used clothing and shoes for infants to teenagers and personal hygiene products.

Stay tuned for information on our "Women's Retreat", a time of fellowship for all!

Our next meeting is March 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Kim Hicks will provide our Bible Study "Grace for Every Trial" Chapter 6 "More work at the Dump"

Kaye Inskeep
Moderator

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church met on Thursday, March 2, 2023 for dinner, planning of the sausage sales, and pancake supper on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

The Men will not meet in April since Maundy Thursday falls on the 1st Thursday in April.

The Men will host The Honorable David Durr, Cedar Mountain District Board of Supervisor member at its May 4 meeting. Dave will give an update on what is happening the Culpeper County. The Men invite all who wish to attend to do so.

Pancake & Sausage Supper **Sausage Sales**

The Men of the Church will be selling sausage again this year. One-pound packages will be \$7 per pound. Order forms are located throughout the church or contact Bill Miller at 540-825-2783 or Steve Hicks 540-718-2098 to place your order.

The Pancake & Sausage Supper will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall between 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, baked apples, and sausage gravy will be \$10 per person 10 and over, and \$5 for children under 10. Net proceeds will go to the pavilion construction fund.

Safety and Security Committee (SSC)

Nothing new to report

Church Events/Information

Pavilion – Buildings & Grounds

Nothing new to report

Mission and Outreach Committee Report

Missions and Outreach met February 27. Carol reported the Manna Project served 124 guests. She stated the family we are assisting and reported they appreciate all we are doing for them. She invited them to join us at church.

Habitat: no action until possibly next year. Habitat is reorganizing.

Loads of Love: no action taken. Roger will schedule a meeting for the committee to meet with the Principal at Sycamore Park.

'Cancer Care Bags': Janet has a list of the preferred items and will meet with Crystal for further planning.

Patti Weaver, Secretary

Congregational Life and Ministry Committee

Hello from the Congregation Life & Ministry Committee! Mark your calendars, we are busy planning our next 5th Sunday gathering on April 30th. Additional details will be included in the April Newsletter. The coffee hour sign up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall, please consider signing up. Our next committee meeting will be held Wednesday March 15th at 6:30 in the Adult Sunday School Room. We welcome new members, feel free to come join us.

MPC Spotlight

Nothing for this month.

Worship Committee

Nothing new to report. First meeting will be on March 5.

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.

March 2023

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 Kara Cuccherini Paul Inskeep	21	22	23	24	25 Vic & Teresa Squire
26 Chris Jaderborg	27 Lou Preihs	28	29 Amy Inskeep Bo Chase Doug & Crystal Settle Patricia Hawkins	30	31	

Ushers: Allyson and Kathy Thorpe Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini