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# FIRST WORD

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The Monthly Newsletter of  
First Presbyterian Church of Lenoir, North Carolina

No. 8 of 2019, A.D.

August, 2019

## WORD FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:27-29 The Message (MSG)

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, "Who do the people say I am?"

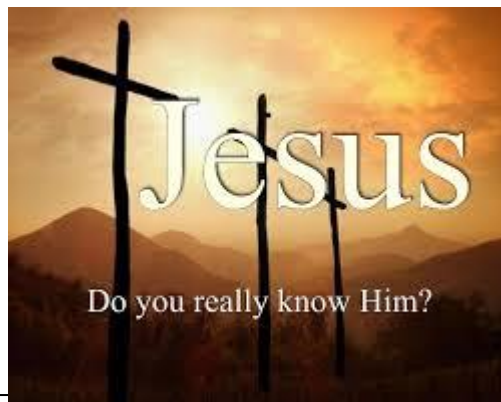
<sup>28</sup> "Some say 'John the Baptizer,'" they said. "Others say 'Elijah.' Still others say 'one of the prophets.'"

<sup>29</sup> He then asked, "And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?"

Peter gave the answer: "You are the Christ, the Messiah."

**The Message (MSG)**

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## **HANDBOOK TIPS**

### What to Bring To a Church Potluck (By Region)(part 2)

#### **The Casserole**

A three-layered dish, typically. In order to make each casserole as culturally relevant as possible, use the following guidelines. Consult local restaurants for ideas, when in doubt.

#### **Starch**

*East Coast:* pasta or rice pilaf

*Midwest:* rice, potatoes, noodles, or more rice

*South:* grits

*Southwest:* black, red, or pinto beans

*West Coast:* tofu

#### **Meat**

*East Coast:* sausage or pheasant

*Midwest:* ground beef—in a pinch, SPAM® luncheon meat

*South:* crawdad or marlin

*Southwest:* pulled pork

*West Coast:* tofu

#### **Cereal**

*East Coast:* corn flakes

*Midwest:* corn flakes

*South:* corn flakes

*Southwest:* corn flakes

*West Coast:* tofu flakes (*does anyone else see a pattern here?*)

**Note:** The starch and meat may be mixed with a cream-based soup. The cereal must always be placed on top of the casserole.

#### **The Dessert**

The most highly valued dish at a potluck, this can be the simplest and most fun to make. There are two key ingredients:

1. Flour
2. Fudge

Regional influences can be quite profound. The following are examples of typical

desserts around the country. Consult your church's seniors for the nuances of your region.

*Cleveland:* fudge brownies with fudge frosting

*Kansas City:* triple-fudge with fudge sauce and a side of fudge

*Los Angeles:* tofu fudge

*Miami:* fudge

*New York City:* cheesecake with fudge drizzle

#### **Be Aware**

- Use caution when preparing a dish. Adding local ingredients to any meat, salad, or dessert can increase the fellowship factor of your potluck exponentially.
- Always follow safe food-handling guidelines.
- Any combination of flavored gelatin, shredded carrots, mini-marshmallows, and canned pears is an acceptable “utility” dish, should you be unable to prepare one from the above categories.\*

\*The Presbyterian Handbook, 2006 Geneva Press, pgs. 50-52





## **THE ANATOMY OF A BAPTISM**

Baptism is a sacrament of the church that takes place during a worship service on the Lord's day. It marks the entrance into God's covenant family. The promises of God are received by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the water of baptism.

### **Adult and Older Children**

- Persons who desire to be baptized are approved by the session and presented to the congregation by a session member.
- The person expresses the desire to be baptized and confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, promising to be his faithful disciple.
- The person is baptized with water "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."
- The person is recognized as a member of the church.



The Presbyterian Handbook, 2006, Geneva Press, pgs. 35-36

### **Welcome New Members**

We welcome new members, Sally Jefferson and Wyatt Plaster. Sally and Wyatt were baptized into the church June 30, 2019. *(A special thank-you to Lynda Renegar for the photos!)*

When I see you through my eyes,  
I think that we are different.



When I see you through my heart,  
I know we are the same.

~Doe Zantamata

## PASTOR'S WORD

On July 12 and 13 I had the opportunity to attend the "Wild Goose Festival" in Hot Springs, NC. This annual event brings together Christian authors, speakers, leaders and musicians from all over the country. These people are on the front lines of confronting the biggest problems and issues of our times. There were over 200 different sessions from which to choose. I was able to benefit from 10.

I heard the Rev. Dr. William Barber who among other things is Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. He also is a Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary, Charlotte campus. He spoke powerfully about the poverty that afflicts our nation.

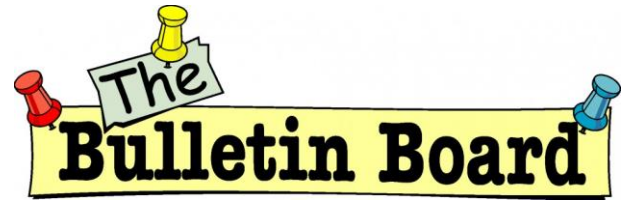
Shane Claiborne addressed the issue of gun violence. Wherever he speaks he invites folks to donate their guns that are then literally beaten into plowshares by a blacksmith. The plowshare is then given to someone who has experienced violence. The Rev. Sharon Washington, sister and aunt of three of the Charleston Emmanuel AME Church victims received the plowshare from Shane after he spoke. It was very moving and powerful to witness.

Every session was just as informative, moving and energizing as these two. (You will hear more about the others in the future!) But the one thing with which I came away was the challenge to the Christian community to not let fear and despair overwhelm us.

Time and again we were reminded to work for the changes we want to see happen. Sitting back in despair is not a faithful response; it isn't Christian. Equally strong was the call to pray for and love those who hurt us and yes those who use hate speech and try to divide rather than unite our nation. That does not mean we do not call them to account but we must not waste time blaming others while we do nothing.

Love our enemies. Pray for those who persecute. Jesus never said, sit back, moan and complain about the folks at the top who seem to hold the key to change. We are the ones called to work for justice and mercy. We must practice hospitality. Above all, we must trust our Sovereign God who has always been about redeeming and renewing life.

*Beth Ann*



## PRAISE IN THE PARK

Once again our friends at Dulatown Presbyterian Church have invited us to their "Praise in the Park" on Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 11:00AM at Catawba Meadows Park in Morganton.

*"We will all receive a blessing as we share and delight in worship, food, and fellowship together. Coming together as sister churches is a time and event that the members of DPC welcome and look forward to sharing. Pack your lunches and your enthusiasm, and let's all come together for a joyful and blessed Sunday of "Praise in the Park." May the love of God and our love for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ fill us as we share in this special day!"*  
Dulatown Presbyterian Church, USA

## Mission Opportunity

Once again we have the opportunity to help Carol Ann and Donna and their students at Davenport Elementary get off to a good start for the new school year. Please help by contributing from this list: pencils, cap erasers, colored pencils, printing paper, Kleenex, paper towels, and Clorox wipes. All students need ear buds and we always have those that don't have any. Bring your donations to the church office or to worship. Thank you for your willingness to minister in this way!



## CALENDAR EVENTS

- 4 – Communion  
11 – Congregational meeting and covered dish lunch  
18 – Praise in the Park  
25 – 5-CENTS-A-MEAL collection.  
25- Ice Cream Social



## WORD IN SONG

I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say, Give me Jesus.

### Refrain

Give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, You may have all this world, Give me Jesus

In the mornin when I rise, In the mornin when I rise, In the morni when I rise, Give me Jesus.

### Refrain

Oh, when I come to die, Oh, when I come to die, Oh, when I come to die, Give me Jesus.

### Refrain

*Negro spiritual*



- (20) Nancy Scroggs  
(26) Ginny Herman  
(27) James C. Harper, Jr.  
(29) Paul Murray



## Our Prayer List

- Jim Cerswell (Lynda Reneger's brother)  
Vera Clark (Brian Clark's mother)  
Sherrill German (Monteen's husband)  
Lee Carol Giduz's father  
Diane Graeber and family  
Dotty Groom and family  
Tom Haas  
Kelly Heafner (CJ Hartsell's niece)  
Ginny Herman and family  
Anna Lee Potter  
Bob and Susan Powers  
Meredith Powers West (Bob & Susan Powers' daughter)  
Leo Schmidt (Carol Ann's grandson)  
Judy Scroggs  
Ann and Steve Sime  
Nancy Stevens  
Barry Story  
Douglas Tilley (Dianne's brother)  
Anthony Uva  
Anne White (Lynda Renegar's sister)  
Joanne Triplette

Call Joanne if you have other prayer requests (828-757-8364).

