
FIRST WORD



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

No. 9 of 2019, A.D.

September, 2019

WORD FROM THE SCRIPTURE

James 1:22-27 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[a] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

it is **not only** for
what we do that
we are held
responsible, but
also for what
we do not do.

Moliere

WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

HANDBOOK TIPS

HOW TO WORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR AND OPPRESSED

Knowing that good works are the result—not the cause—of salvation, Presbyterians have a long and extraordinary record of working for economic justice and relief around the world. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, for example, ranks among the nation's most active aid organizations, working nationally and internationally with other religious aid groups.

Presbyterian congregations around the globe also set justice as one of their highest priorities, giving time and money both locally and globally. As followers of Jesus Christ each individual Christian is linked to Jesus' compassion for people who are poor and called to work tirelessly on their behalf, as he did.

1) **Include people who are poor and oppressed in your daily prayers.**

Keep the needs of others in mind, especially people who suffer as a result of economic inequality, political oppression, or natural disaster. Name specific situations in your prayers, and use specific place names and people's names whenever possible. Keep the newspaper on you lap as you pray, if necessary.

2) **Include people who are poor and oppressed in your personal or household budget.**

Dedicate some of your personal giving to economic-aid organizations. This should include your congregation. If you already tithe (give 10 percent of your income to

your church), consider earmarking a percentage of that money to go directly to relief organizations through our church's budget.

3) **Pay close attention economic and political conditions in other nations.**

You can't help if you don't know what's really going on. Resolve to be a well-informed person who tests the worldview in the news against the worldview in the Bible. Utilize the Internet to locate independent and alternative news sources with unique, on-the-spot perspectives.

4) **Get to know organizations that work for justice locally.**

Your congregation probably already organizes to do justice work in your neighborhood. If not, consider taking responsibility to organize a ministry team in your church.

5) **Make working for justice part of your weekly or monthly routine.**

Devote a portion of your time regularly to a specific activity that personally connects you to people who are poor and disenfranchised. There is no substitute for personal contact.

6) **Vote your conscience.**

If you are of voting age, remember that nations will be judged by the way they treat people who are disadvantaged. Keep this in mind when you go to your polling place.

7) **Advocate for a cause in which you believe, one that has meaning for you personally.**

PRAISE IN THE PARK



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



Thanks to Ann Sime for the great photos!

PASTOR'S WORD

Before long, we will feel the cool air of autumn and see the leaves change into bold color. Fall is upon us, even though we are currently feeling the last hot days of summer. We have many things coming up and I encourage you to be involved in the opportunities to celebrate, study and serve.

On Sunday, September 29th, the installation service for me as your pastor will take place at 3:00 in the afternoon. Bobbi White, General Presbyter and Melvin Meares, former moderator of the presbytery will participate. I think everyone will be happy to hear that Moffett Swaim Churn will be preaching at this service! Not only did she serve FPC, Lenoir as associate pastor she has been a dear friend and mentor to me.

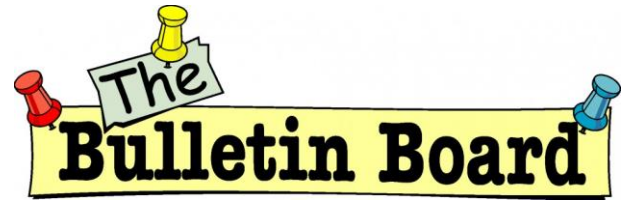
I am thrilled she can be with us. I am also very happy and honored to say that my daughter Sara Grace who is an elder from FPC, Morganton will be part of the commission. Elders from our church will also participate. This is a day of celebration for all of us so I hope you will make a special effort to attend.

I also hope you will take advantage of our new study beginning Sunday, September 8 at 5:00. We will be studying the book, The Meaning of Jesus, by Marcus Borg and N. T. Wright. A copy can be purchased from Amazon. This is a great opportunity for discussions and questions. It will not be a lecture! Those who have participated in the past have enjoyed both growing in faith and the fellowship of fellow seekers.

Of course, I hope all of you will be part of our special weekend, October 12 and 13 when the Rev. Dr. Brian Blount will be here to give the second in our lecture series. He is an outstanding speaker. You will enjoy having time with Dr. Blount who is a very warm and engaging person as well as a scholar and professor. He is also the President of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, a place dear to my heart! Dr. Blount will be preaching at our worship service on Sunday, October 13. Mark your calendars and spread the word about this wonderful event.

A lot is happening. Our church is moving forward as we grow in and share the love of Jesus Christ. I am excited about the way we are reaching out to the community. I hope you will make these events a priority. You will be glad you did!

Beth Ann



Mission Opportunity

Have you helped yet? You still 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!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 8 – Begin a new Sunday night Bible Study, The Meaning of Jesus., at 5:00.

September 15 – Congregational Meeting to elect elders and a new nominating committee.

September 29 – Installation Service for Beth Ann at 3:00.

October 12, 13 – 2nd Speaker's Forum on Christian Issues – Rev. Dr. Brian Blount on "The History of Racism in the Reformed Tradition"

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 1 – Communion
 - 2 – Labor Day
 - 15 – Congregation meeting
 - 16 – Session meets
 - 29 – 5-CENTS-A-MEAL collection.
- 29 – Installation service for Beth Ann



WORD IN SONG

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled, as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal live.

Hymn No. 753. Text: Anon., c. 1912; adapted, Sebastian Temple, 1967. MUSIC: Sebastian Temple, 1963

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912.



- (1) Maggie Sime Murray
- (12) Ann Sime
- (16) Lucy McCarl
- (23) Tom Haas



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
Will Neely (son of Bill and Wanda Neely)
Anna Lee Potter
Bob and Susan Powers
Family of 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).

