



The Lighthouse

April 2021

What's Going On?

April is a busy month at First Presbyterian Church. Here is a rundown of coming events...

Obviously, we start out with Easter on the first Sunday of the month. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! A year ago we were unable to meet in person on Easter Sunday because of the quarantine. It will be great to be able to celebrate Easter Sunday in person this year!

Due to Easter being on the first Sunday of the month, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of the month, April 11th.

On Saturday, April 17th at 4:30, we will gather in the sanctuary for another Hymn and Psalm sing. We have invited First Presbyterian in Gulfport and the core group from Hope Presbyterian church plant to join us. After the singing, we will have ice cream on the front lawn. This is a great opportunity to warm your heart for worship the next morning.

On Sunday, April 18th we will be recognizing our accompanist Melba Sipriano during and after our worship service. Melba began working at the church 35 years ago! What a faithful, cheerful servant she has been through all these years; and is still going strong! We are taking the opportunity to return some of the love she has shown so faithfully to us through these decades!

On Thursday, April 22nd from 9am-12noon, our ladies are invited to the Grace Women's Ministry South Regional Gathering for Grace Presbytery at First Presbyterian Gulfport. This is a great opportunity to connect with ladies in other PCA churches in south Mississippi.

On Saturday, April 24th we will be hosting a free concert, open to our congregation and the community, at 6pm. Stephen Redfield (violin) and Joanna Burnside (piano) will perform Beethoven's Sonatas No.'s 7 and 8, lasting about 1 hour. This professional performance is family friendly if children can enjoy an hour of music quietly.

Officer Examinations are ongoing. The training portion finished recently and now our candidates are doing their written exams and the session is beginning to orally examine and interview the candidates. According to the Book of Church Order, the session has to give the congregation a 30-day notice of officer elections with a slate of approved candidates. Look for that announcement some time towards the end of the month.

We have completed the big cleanup of the church. We are now moving into the next phase and if you look closely, you will see some painting going on around the building along with a few other improvements.

And finally, the month of May will mark the 130th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi! We will be celebrating that on the 16th, giving thanks to the Lord for preserving us all years!

Grace & Peace,

Tim

Consummation Ministries Prayer Band

March 11, 2021

Dear Prayer Partners,

Where do we begin to thank the Lord for all his gracious mercies? We are thankful for all the skilled medical practitioners and personnel who have been so very helpful during these weeks, but ultimately and always, all praise and thanks go to our Heavenly Father himself.

Items for praise and thanks:

1. In the Lord's good providence we were able to get a highly recommended rectal surgeon in Charlotte to examine Palmer and give a second opinion. He completely confirmed the conclusion reached by Dr. Hiller here in Winston-Salem, so that gave Palmer much peace at going ahead with the major surgery.
2. Palmer's surgery yesterday could not have gone better. Dr. Hiller was able to do the surgery robotically. That does not mean that a Dr. Who or Star Wars type robot was doing the cutting! It means that instead of doing a traditional surgery with a large incision cutting through layers of skin, flesh, muscle etc in order to get to the site of the cancer, the surgeon was able to make a series of small incisions in Palmer's abdomen, and then with the aid of a tiny camera he was able to control the motions of the robotic knife to do the entire surgery with minimum invasion. He removed a whole section of Palmer's rectum with some margin on either side of the cancer, and then attached both sides of the now-reduced rectum together. The whole procedure took about 5 hours, but Palmer is recovering amazingly well. His color is good, his appetite is good, he is walking up and down the hall doing several laps of the whole 3rd floor.
3. When Dr. Hiller came in to talk to Palmer this morning he noticed on the table the mug from our church: Redeemer Presbyterian church in Winston Salem. He was thrilled – his children go Redeemer's day school and his family worship at Salem Presbyterian where we often go on Sunday evenings! So Palmer's surgery was not only performed by a highly skilled and capable surgeon, but by a brother in the Lord!
4. The biopsy from the removed cancer has returned from the lab. We rejoice that it confirms that there is no cancer remaining, and no need for follow-up chemotherapy.
5. Palmer worked feverishly for several weeks before his surgery, and on Tuesday afternoon he e-mailed off the completed manuscript of his first volume to several readers recommended by the publisher. They will hopefully provide some necessary feedback to aid in fine-tuning the manuscript before it goes to print. Always in the past Palmer has taught his material multiple times before it is published. The student feedback is invaluable, so these readers will provide much-needed reaction.

6. For at least two years Palmer has been thinking of his 3-volume work under the title *The Christ of the Consummation*. If the Lord allows, he is hoping to write Volume 1 on the Gospels, Volume 2 on Acts and Paul, and Volume 3 on the General Epistles and Revelation. Literally at the 11th hour, just a week before sending off Volume 1, a friend from church casually asked the question: What exactly is *The Christ of the Consummation* all about. And a light bulb went off in Palmer's head. The title wasn't communicating. So now the new proposed title of the series is *New Testament Biblical Theology: A Redemptive-Historical Perspective in Three Volumes*. A bit of a mouthful, but at least it really does explain what the books are about! Volume 1: *The Consummating Christ has Come: The Testimony of the Four Gospels*.

7. The Lord provided several wonderful speakers for Independent Presbyterian Church's Missions Conference in Savannah, despite Palmer having to step down at short notice.

Items for prayer:

1. Please pray that the Lord will enable Palmer to recover well after the surgery, and gain his full strength back. He will have to wear an ileostomy bag for about 3 months, to give the connection site in his rectum plenty of time to heal. Then he will have to return for another hospital stay to reverse the ileostomy. But that is a smaller operation.
2. Pray that the readers will be able to read Palmer's manuscript and return it in timely fashion so that he can get working on revisions.
3. When Palmer rests his body, his mind gets to whirring. Pray that Joanna will have energy to keep up with him!!

With much love in Christ,

Palmer, Joanna, Murray (21), Elliot (20) and Daniel (18) Robertson

Bless the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103: 1-5

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Elizabeth Moseley 3rd, Carol Roch 4th

Norman Bagby 9th, Virginia Horn 12th

Kay Pringle 15th

Janet Selig 16th, Rosemary Bailey 17th

Joan Gauthier 17th, Marilyn Kooienga 17th

Ken Pennell 29th

Dates to Remember for April

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| April 1 | Maundy Service at 6:00pm |
| April 2 | Church Office will be closed for Good Friday |
| April 3 | Men's Breakfast will be at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall |
| April 4 | Easter Sunday |
| April 11 | Communion |
| April 17 | Ladies Circle Meeting will be at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall |
| April 17 | Hymn/Song Sing at 4:30pm with an Ice Cream Social afterwards on the front lawn |
| April 18 | Celebration for Melba's 35 year of service |
| April 22 | Ladies Grace South Regional Meeting at 9:00am to 12 noon at First Pres Gulfport |
| April 24 | Free Violin Concerto at 6:00pm at the church |