

The PERTH Press

March 2024

A Publication of New Perth Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Dear Members and Friends of New Perth.

I hope you all have had a good February, and have a blessed March. We always hope for blessings and prosperity, but we know that the Lord has trials planned for us, too, don't we? Let us receive both with faith, and see God's goodness even during our troubles, for that is when we need to rely on the strength he provides. What did Job say? (Job 2:10) *"Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?"* What did Paul say? *"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me"* (Php. 4:12-13). There are good things and hard things that we will face. In one breath, the New Testament urges us, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing..."* (1 Thess. 5:16-17)

Our Devotions in March

This month in our daily readings, we will be finishing Leviticus, reading through Numbers, finishing the Gospel of Mark, and beginning the Gospel of Luke. The Psalms cover 56 to 83. What are the keys to remember as we approach these books?

Leviticus: This book gives many of the regulations or ceremonial laws governing worship, the tabernacle, sacrifice, the priesthood, and the feasts for the Jewish calendar. Remember that all of these things pointed to Jesus and what he would do as our High Priest when he offered himself in sacrifice for us on the cross.

Numbers: This book recounts the 40 years of life in the wilderness, when they had been freed from Egypt but had not yet inherited the promised land. The New Testament typically compares Christians to the Israelites during this period, because we have been freed from Satan and the slavery of sin, but have not yet received the fulfillment of all God's promises and the kingdom of Christ. Pay attention to the ways that they were tested, and the ways they tested God!

Mark: This Gospel focuses on Jesus' authority and power. Notice how often it says, "immediately"! The name of the author John Mark means "Grace Hammer" and Jesus has that kind of power and authority and grace, doesn't he?

Luke: This Gospel focuses on Jesus' humanity. Luke was a doctor, well acquainted with the human condition and all its pain and suffering. That's his focus. Jesus is/was God but also a true man with a real human nature. Pay attention to Jesus' kindness, emotions, mercy, sympathy, and sufferings.

Psalms: Book One of the Psalms is Psalm 1-42, and it generally deals with personal trials and private worship, or "my problems" and "my relationship with God." Book Two of the Psalms begins at Psalm 42 and goes through Psalm 72. The general theme of this section is *personal trials and corporate worship*. We bring our personal burdens with us as we gather for worship, and look to the Lord for his help. It is "my trials" and "our worship." Book Three begins at Psalm 73 and goes through Psalm 89. The theme of this section is corporate trials and corporate worship. There are problems and trials that we all face in common or together, and when we gather for worship we bring those before God, too – "our trials" and "our worship."

In Christ,

Pastor Dan

Hymn of the Month

Thomas Ken was born in 1637 in Hertfordshire, England. While still a child, he was orphaned and subsequently raised by an older sister. In 1651, young Thomas became a scholar and student at Winchester College. He received both a B.A. degree and an M.A. degree. He served for a time as a tutor in his college. Ken was ordained a minister in 1662 and served on the Isle of Wight. In 1672, he returned to Winchester College, where he became a "Curate in one of the lowest districts." A curate is defined in the Anglican Church as someone charged with the care of souls of a parish.

Thomas Ken is remembered in history for several notable things. First, he loved to sing and write hymns. Second, though a man of small stature, he was known for exceeding faith, courage, and charity. Lastly, he was a powerful and compelling orator and teacher. He cared for the souls of the students at Winchester, so much so in fact, that he combined his love and talents to write *A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Scholars of Winchester College* in 1674. In it, he charged his readers to "be sure to sing the Morning and Evening Hymns in your chamber devoutly, remembering that the Psalmist, upon happy experience, assures you that it is a good thing to tell of the loving kindness of the Lord early in the morning and of his truth in the night season." Thomas Ken wrote a hymn for his students to sing each morning as they rose. The first verse reads as follows:

Awake, my Soul and with the Sun,
Thy daily Stage of duty run,
Shake off dull Sloath, and joyful rise,
to pay thy Morning Sacrifice.

All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept,
and hast refreshed me whilst I
slept, Grant, Lord, when I from Death shall wake,
I may endless Light partake.

He wrote another hymn for his students to sing as they ended their day and retired for the night. It reads as follows:

All praise to You, my God, this night,
for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath the shelter of Your wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for this I pray,
the wrong that I have done this day.
May peace with God and neighbor be,
before I sleep restored to me.

Lord, may I be at rest in You
and sweetly sleep the whole night thru,
Refresh my strength, for Your own sake,
so I may serve You when I wake.

This little man with the big heart, who cared so deeply for the devotion of his students and their relationship to their God, became known as one of the fathers of English hymnology. You may not know him for his morning and evening hymns, but you will surely know him for the last verse he added to both hymns. It is called "The Doxology," and is sung, like the Christian life of its author, with majesty the world over!

Praise God from whom all Blessings flow,
Praise him all Creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye Heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Credit to Rawson & Tonioli



The choirs gave a surprise birthday party for Music Director, Margaret Ranke on Wednesday, February 21st. She celebrated her birthday on the 25th.



Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!

Fidget Quilts Donated



Rebecca Bouranis

New Perth got a request for some Fidget Quilts from Amy Feimster at the Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County. They are in dire need of these quilts for patients that have Dementia or Alzheimer's. These are lap-size sensory quilts that provide something for busy hands to tinker and fidget with, which helps them to relax, practice motor skills and helps to reduce memory loss. Our church has donated 4 of these quilts to this ministry.



The Perth Press

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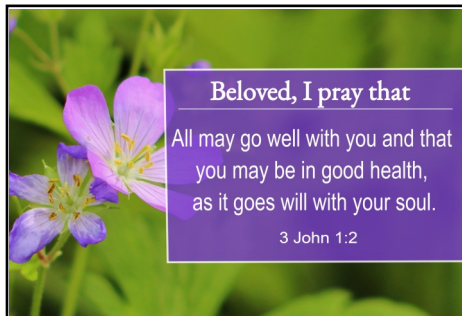
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Office Hours

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



Beloved, I pray that

All may go well with you and that
 you may be in good health,
 as it goes will with your soul.

3 John 1:2

Illnesses/Recoveries

Church Family: Ruth Calabrese, Patsy Smith, Rev. Bob Sherer, Lynn Sherer, Blane Sherer, Sue Brown, Harry & Pat Loftin, Glenda Murdock (cancer) Barbara Nesbit, Sue Meadows, Dot Shanklin, Delores Mills, Debbie

Harshbarger, Elva Reavis (Iredell Memorial rehab).

Others to Remember: Jeff Osborne, Mark & Susan McClamrock, Shirley Black (Parkinsons), Cindy Fox, Rodney McCurdy, Kevin & Lisa Smith, Clayton Mayberry, Floyd Hamilton, Madeline Jacobs (brittle diabetes), Jack Speaks, Melanie Day

Cancer patients: Marie & Jeff Loftin, Kay Bridgers & husband Henry, Pat Coussens, Isaac McCurdy, Teresa McCurdy, Jeff Kelly, Lynn Winecoff, Brandon Wooten, Donna Lamberth

Those who have lost loved ones

Pray for our pastor and family & our missionaries:

Shelia Osborne, Michael Cochran, Joel McCall

The success of Bible in Schools Iredell County

Our military men and women: Will Anderson is deployed

If you have someone you would like to have a card sent to by Circle of Friends, call the church office.



WOW!!! I can't believe we are already to the third month of the year. February was a busy month for us as we studied these superheroes of the Bible: Jesus, David, Daniel, and Esther. Our memory verse was Joshua 1:9

March is going to be exciting as we learn about the ultimate sacrifice Jesus paid just for us. Our Bible focus is on Easter and our Bible memory verse is Matthew 28:6.

We are also going to celebrate Dr. Seuss and Read Across America the first week of March. We will focus on specific books and have a special dress up day each day that week.

We are looking forward to the spring fling on March 25 with the church. We love being able to interact with the church members. We really appreciate Mrs. Margaret planning these events for us.

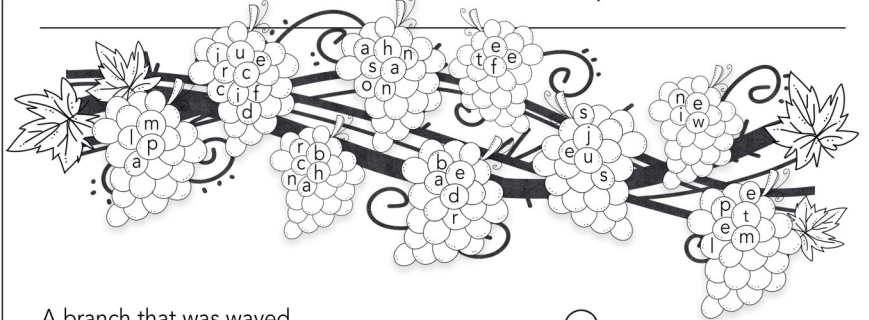
Go ahead and put April 26 on you calendars. This will be our annual Port-a-pit fundraiser. We appreciate your support and we know you will not want to miss this yummy event.

PUZZLE

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _ _ _ ○
- How Jesus was put to death _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- A stick attached to the vine _ _ _ _ _ ○
- People shouted this to Jesus _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus washed these _ _ _ _ _ ○
- This was broken and eaten _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- The Messiah _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- A drink from grapes _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
 apart from me you can do nothing." *John 15:5, NIV*

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit

Fun in February!



MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10am Sun. School 11am Worship & Communion 12pm Fellowship	4 4:30pm Girl Scouts	5	6 5:15pm Bells 6pm Choir	7 7pm Session Meeting	8	9
10 10am Sun. School 11am Worship 12pm Fellowship	11	12 Meeting of First Presbytery	13 5:15pm Bells 6pm Choir	14	15	16
17 10am Sun. School 11am Worship 12pm Fellowship	18 Lunch Box Lail/Wilson 4:30pm Girl Scouts	19	20 Lunch Box Hinson/Poole 5:15pm Bells 6pm Choir	21	22 Lunch Box Lunsfords	23
24 Palm Sunday 10am Sun. School 11am Worship 12pm Fellowship	25 Spring Fling for 9:15am Preschool & 2:30 pm ASC	26 1pm Library Committee Meeting	27 5:15pm Bells 6pm Choir	28 9:30am Keenagers Trip 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 2:30 pm Good Friday Service	30
31 Easter 10am Sun. School 11am Worship 12pm Fellowship						



- 3 – Susan Dahl
- 8 – Rebecca Bouranis
- 9 – Tram Matta

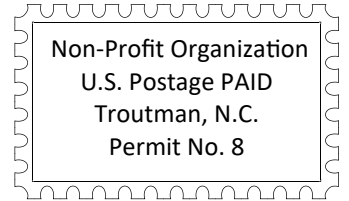
- 12 – Bruce Bustle
- 13 – Charlotte Smith
- 14 – Debbie Mundhenke
- 16 – Vickie Crouch
- 17 – Robert Sherer
- 18 – Pat Loftin
- 19 – Delores Mills
- 31 – April Drescher



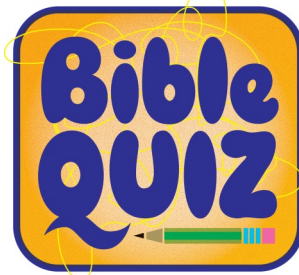
- 6—Phil & Margaret Ranke
- 17—Chris & Jennifer Crouch
- 30—Ronnie & Vickie Crouch



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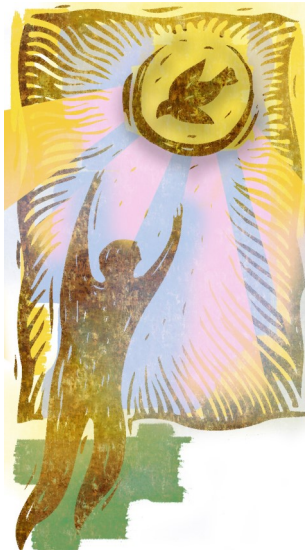


As we continue our study of the New Testament, we find that Jesus can get rid of demons and heal the sick. And how sad it was that he was thrown out of his hometown; thankfully, not thrown off the steep cliff! Then he met with tax collectors and cured people of leprosy! Then we jumped ahead, so we could get a better understanding of what happened the week before Jesus was crucified. We read of Judas' betrayal and when Jesus washed the disciple's feet. And then, we read in detail, about the Last Supper.



part of that worship?

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as



- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth

Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10)