

MEADOWS MESSENGER

Meadows Presbyterian Church • March 2025

“FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS”

Lent 2025

The ancient Greeks had two concepts of time. “Chronos” is quantitative time, measured in years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, seconds. “Kairos” is qualitative time sometimes known as “Deep Time.” In the context of our faith, Kairos time moves us out of just tracking the hours and days, into a deeper awareness of God’s presence and His (eternal) timeline. When Jesus proclaims in Mark 1:15, “the time (*kairos*) has come, the kingdom is near, repent and believe the good news!” He is not saying, the Chronos clock has struck 2:00 pm, but rather a Kairos moment has arrived, God is on the move, wake up and pay attention!

A Kairos Moment for Meadows

Over the past several months, our elders have been prayerfully seeking to know what Kairos time we are in as a congregation. As you are aware, Session held a retreat last fall, facilitated by Leighton Ford Ministries (LFM), to reflect on and consider the Mission Study Report. This Lent, we are completing the visioning process of clarifying who God is calling us to be, what He is calling us to do, and developing a clear strategy to faithfully and boldly live out that calling.

This Year’s Lenten Season

Because this is a season of focused discernment, this year’s Lenten observance will look a little different. Our elders will be meeting with Rich Hurst, Executive Director of LFM, who brings decades of experience as a pastor and church leadership consultant, to help guide this process. Since these meetings will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday nights during Lent, we will be holding only Lenten Noontime Communion services at 12:15 pm during the 5 weeks of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Passion Week. Here is the schedule:

Lenten Schedule 2025

March 5	Ash Wednesday	12:15 pm and 6:30 pm 5:45 pm Simple Supper
March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9		12:15 pm Communion Services
April 17	Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm Special Music 7:00 pm Service

Please be in prayer for Meadows and the discernment of our leadership— This is a pivotal and exciting season in the life of our church as we seek God’s guidance—both in our visioning process and in our search for a Co-Pastor. We are grateful to God and eager to see what He has in store for the next chapter at Meadows!

With you in Christ,

Tom

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

MARCH 2025 DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Next Week at Meadows: Mondays at 5:00 pm
Newsletter articles: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

THE DOORS ARE WORKING! THE DOORS ARE WORKING!

Thanks to all of you who have responded with your codes. If you haven't requested a code and wish to do so, please contact us. Remember, families may share a code, or every family member may have their own. Please submit a 5–6 number code, no letters of the alphabet.

TO OPEN THE DOORS, SIMPLY ENTER YOUR PIN (CODE) AND PRESS # SIGN.

You will have 24/7 access to ALL exterior doors. The interior doors are not included in the keyless program. Outside groups using the church after hours have specific codes that allow limited access for the duration of their meetings.

Membership will still be on hand Sunday mornings at the Narthex and lower rear doors to greet you. We encourage you to try your code then—if there are any problems, someone will be available to open the door.

Thank you for your encouragement along the way. This is a precious congregation that gives love and understanding through all circumstances. We'll do our best to make this change as seamless and painless as possible—thank YOU for doing your part!

March 9th—2:00 am



MEADOWS MINISTRIES AT A GLANCE
Week of 3/2/2025

Sunday, 3/2

9:15 am Sunday School – Youth and Adult
10:30 am - Worship Service
4:00 pm - Youth Group
5:30 pm – Youth Family Dinner

Monday, 3/3

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Men’s Community Bible Study
6:45 pm – 9:00 pm – Women’s Community Bible Study

Tuesday, 3/4

10:00am – Joy Group

Wednesday, 3/5

12:15 pm – Ash Wednesday Service
1:15 pm – Meadows Team Meeting
5:45 pm – Simple Supper
(Reservation required \$3.00 per person/\$10.00 per family)
6:00 pm – Special Music
6:30 pm – Lenten Service w/Communion
7:15 pm – Handbell Practice

Thursday, 3/6

11:00 am – Mother’s Prayer Group
4:30 pm – Choir Practice
7:00 pm – Outreach Committee Meeting

Friday, 3/7

Meadows Business Office is Closed

11:00 am – 11:00 pm – Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary
Reserved

Meadows Youth

March 2025



Sunday School

We continue our trek through Genesis with lessons in March centered on Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Youth Group

Beginning on March 2nd we start off our Lenten journey with a discussion of Something Out/Something In. Each week thereafter we will look at various aspects of the Last Supper and how it connects to our celebration of Communion today.

March Events

March 2nd Something Out/Something In - Youth Room 4:00 pm

March 2nd First Sunday Family Supper - Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm

March 5th Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm

March 16th Youth to see *Last Supper* at Stonefield 4 pm

FEBRUARY 2025 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session at their Retreat last year began a visioning process to supplement the wonderful work that was done by the Mission Study Team. Session will complete the Visioning process before momentum is lost with a series of meetings in March and April, but these facilitated meetings would conflict with our traditional evening Lenten Worship series. Therefore, only midday Lenten worship services will be held except for two Ash Wednesday services. Continue to watch announcements regarding worship times.

The occupancy of our church by Saint Andre Bessette Schola continues to be a blessing. The school is expanding its student body and requires additional space. Building and Grounds is negotiating a new rental agreement with them.

Liz and Winston Harmon have created a one hour abridged (from 4 seasons of episodes) of the life of Christ, "The Chosen." We look forward to showing this on Saturday April 12. This will be an excellent opportunity for an evangelism outreach to our neighborhood.

Elder Julie Joyce demonstrated a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance "clean up bucket" used for post-natural disaster cleanup. The congregation will have a short time to assemble their own buckets to be sent to the Hurricane Helene and Milton disaster areas. The Charlottesville Area Presbyterians are sponsoring two Mission Trips to the affected areas May 17-24 and May 24 – 31 to reconstruct damaged homes.

Walt Weaver
Clerk

WALKING TOGETHER THROUGH GRIEF

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult experiences we will face in life. Grief can be an isolating, lonely, and confusing time. It is a universal experience, yet it's one that is deeply personal with no person's grief journey being exactly like anyone else's. When navigating the complex emotions that come with loss, many people find solace and strength in sharing experiences with others who have lost loved ones. Brené Brown says the two most healing words in the English language are "Me, too." A grief group provides a safe space for sharing experiences, expressing feelings, and learning coping strategies. The Nurture Committee invites those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to register for the grief group, *Walking Together Through Grief*. Beginning on Thursday, April 3, the group will run for six weeks, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Dogwood Room, facilitated by Sudie Althisar, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Spiritual Director. For more information, please contact Janet Anastasi at anastase@comcast.net or Phone 434-202-2415.

**MEADOWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
For the Year 2025**

	Budget 2025	January	Year to Date	Remaining	12.00%
REVENUE					
Pledges, Envelopes	\$405,000.00	\$20,816.74	\$20,816.74	\$384,183.26	5.14%
Loose Plate	60,000.00	\$1,929.00	1,929.00	58,071.00	3.22%
Building Use	31,000.00	\$2,900.00	2,900.00	28,100.00	9.35%
Interest Income	5,000.00	\$1,689.70	1,689.70	3,310.30	33.79%
Gains & Losses on Investments	42,000.00	\$0.00	0.00	42,000.00	n/a
TOTAL REVENUE	\$543,000.00	\$27,335.44	\$27,335.44	\$515,664.56	5.03%
EXPENSES					
CHRISTIAN OUT-REACH	\$105,350.00	\$160.18	\$160.18	\$105,189.82	0.15%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	19,250.00	\$0.00	0.00	19,250.00	0.00%
WORSHIP	8,500.00	\$200.00	200.00	8,300.00	2.35%
FELLOWSHIP	4,500.00	\$0.00	0.00	4,500.00	0.00%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	85,500.00	\$8,467.69	8,467.69	77,032.31	9.90%
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION	47,700.00	\$3,125.96	3,125.96	44,574.04	6.55%
NURTURE	3,950.00	\$50.00	50.00	3,900.00	1.27%
CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP	1,300.00	\$0.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.00%
PERSONNEL	378,673.77	\$24,230.65	24,230.65	354,443.12	6.40%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$654,723.77	\$36,234.48	\$36,234.48	\$618,489.29	5.53%
TOTAL REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(\$111,723.77)	(\$8,899.04)	(\$8,899.04)	(\$102,824.73)	

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is planning an event to share the Gospel with our church family as well as our Meadows neighbors. Our new members, Winston and Lin Harmon, have used their technology to condense **The Chosen** series to a 1 hour DVD, emphasizing those scenes from Jesus' ministry. The event is to be held on Saturday, April 12th, 10:30 am to noon. Children are welcome. A box lunch meal will follow the video at no charge to those attending. They are working on a showing on April 6th as well, but are still in the planning stages. Stay tuned for more information.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

PACEM 2025 The Outreach Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all who participated to help make the PACEM ladies' stay at Meadows a terrific success! We housed anywhere from six to sixteen ladies each night; served thirteen delicious meals; offered friendship and caring to all who entered our doors; washed MANY towels and wash cloths; and kept our church home clean and open during the entire two weeks. Our hearts and hands were open to all, whether to the PACEM staff, who helped make the program run smoothly, to each person who stayed in our warm inviting church. We even had a few challenges due to snow, but many people stepped up to make sure our guests were not turned out in the cold. In all, we had over 75 volunteers which included several students from a UVA service fraternity.

Housing PACEM guests required many hearts and hands coming together to ensure the safety and comfort of women who have no homes in which they can find the comforts most of us find within our own homes. We, who helped with this mission, have become richer through our service. As we all know, we are serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when we allow our hearts to encourage us to help others.

CROP WALK UPDATE We are happy to bring you the final report of our 2024 CROP Walk. In our area, we raised \$26,743 with 25% of that going to support the Emergency Food Network and Meals on Wheels. Seventy-five per cent of the money raised help support Church World Service (CWS) with partner agencies in more than 35 countries. Monies are used for basic hunger relief; agricultural tools, plants, seeds, and all other necessary materials for those in need to raise their own crops. CWS also helps provide clean drinking water in areas of need. Many thanks to all who participated! Please continue supporting the CROP Walk by praying for all recipients of these funds. Again, thank you as we look forward to our 54th Crop Walk in October 2025!!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY It's time to get building!! Habitat is announcing a special build in March!! We will gather at the Southwood area, off 5th Street Ext. in Charlottesville, on March 8th, which happens to be **International Women's Day**, to help families in our community build safe, affordable homes. On this day, we will celebrate women; however all able-bodied men are welcome and needed as well, since this is our regularly scheduled Faith Build, on the second Saturday of each month. Please contact Julie Joyce at blue-bird1528@hotmail.com or 434-960-6807 by Monday March 3rd for times and details. We're looking forward to a big crowd coming together to lend a helping hand! All skill levels are encouraged and welcome.

"Charles' Corner"



"The Promise of Spring" By Dr. Charles Pickell "For the Living of These Days"

The older I get, the less I enjoy winter. I don't mind the cold, but the snow gets to me. Beautiful as new fallen snow is, it requires shoveling, it ties up traffic, it paralyzes us. Winter last year seemed to go on forever and my only consolation is that I no longer live in New England as I once did, for New England winters last even longer.

But comparison doesn't help.

**We had more than our share of cold bleak days, and snow—so much snow?
And I began to wonder if spring would ever come!**

It did!

**I knew it would, but there were times when it seemed so far away!! The days did get warmer, daylight lasted longer, trees turned green, the dogwood and azaleas bloomed, splendor abounded!
How could I have doubted? I didn't really, but I was like the man whom Jesus told to have faith who replied, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief?" I do that too! I believe, but I doubt. I fret, I worry and wish things were different.**

**The spring comes! I questioned God's design, but deep within, I heard a voice,
"Let only faith be thine."**

It reminds me of a poem I learned long ago:

"In winter's desolation, I questioned God's design, but deep within I heard a voice, 'Let only faith be thine.' This thing that seems to be, my child, has come to pass, not stay. Remember that when winter comes, the spring is on the way."

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Rebekah Saunders	2nd	Penny Keiter	11th
Audrey Jones	2nd	Drene DeGood	18th
Keith Curtin	3rd	Jim Corbett	20th
Kris Bonham	4th	Ted Parlette III	21st
Emily Cohen	4th	Anna Bonham	22nd
Lauren Mawyer	4th	Douglas Corbett	22nd
Brooks Pritchard	4th	Amy Pritchard	22nd
Laura Woodworth	4th	Janet Anastasi	23rd
Doug DeGood	5th	Nina Johnston	24th
Timothy Veliky	6th	Stuart Fears	29th



A MINISTRY COMMITTED TO PASSION FOR CHRIST, COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER, AND GOD'S WORD FOR ALL

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