

August 2025



KINGDOM STORIES

For the balance of the summer, we will be spending our Sundays looking at different stories — or parables — that Jesus tells in Luke's Gospel. They give us a winsome window into the Kingdom of God which Jesus has inaugurated and how our lives are to be different, deeper and richer under God's reign.

August 3	Luke 14:15-24	Radical Welcome	Rev. Tom Goodrich
August 10	Luke 15:1-32	Relentless Grace	Rev. Tom Goodrich
August 17	Luke 16:1-13	Wise Investment	Rev. Tom Goodrich
August 24	Luke 16:19-31	Seeing the Invisible	Rev. Tom Goodrich





Meadows Youth



August 2025 Events

Sunday, August 17th – Lunch at Cook Out after worship

On the Horizon . . .

Youth Fall Kickoff Event

WHO: All 6th-12th grade youth at Meadows, including our incoming 6th graders joining the youth group!

WHAT: Annual Youth Fall Kickoff Event

WHY: To come together as a community of young believers and enjoy games, food, fellowship, and welcoming our rising 6th graders!

DETAILS: More details to come. Stay tuned



Hearts of Gratitude



...for ALL of your thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls following the tragic death of my brother.

Joyce Hastings



Dear Meadows Church Family,

There are no words that feel big enough to hold the gratitude we have in our hearts for each of you.

Over this past year, as we walked through the valley of our daughter Eliza's leukemia diagnosis and treatment, you became the hands and feet of Christ to our family. Through every meal delivered, every quilt lovingly stitched, every card sent, and every gift thoughtfully chosen, you reminded us that we were not alone. In moments of exhaustion and fear, your kindness broke through like light in the darkness. You carried us when we couldn't carry ourselves.

And now, by the grace of God, we're overjoyed to share a beautiful update: Eliza is in the maintenance phase of her treatment. It's a complete 180 from where we were last year. She is laughing again. Playing. Dancing. Riding her bike like any carefree six-year-old should. After so much time in isolation and pain, she has reclaimed her childhood, and we know without a doubt that your love, prayers, and faithfulness helped make that possible.



Eliza continues to take daily oral chemotherapy and goes to clinic monthly for checkups and bloodwork. Every three months, she receives intrathecal chemotherapy and a short course of steroids. Her port will remain in place until she completes treatment, and we are prayerfully looking ahead to May 17, 2026, when she is expected to ring the bell and close this chapter of her journey.

Even after that day, she'll continue to be closely monitored with monthly lab work to ensure the cancer doesn't return. If all continues on track, she'll be considered a survivor at age 12, with the hope of a full and healthy life ahead.

We believe in a God who heals, who provides, and who works through His people, and you, dear Meadows family, have been a living testimony of that truth. You kept our hearts lifted, our hope alive, and our family wrapped in God's peace during the hardest days of our lives.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for walking this road with us.

With love and deepest gratitude,

The Milligans

Kurt, Barbra, Ollie, Eliza and PuppaSaur





ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025 DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Ministries at Meadows (mid-month publication) event entries:

Monday, August 11th at 8:00 am

In-house monitors—entries due by Tuesday for the upcoming Sunday

Newsletter articles: Wednesday, August 20th at 8:00 am

Committee Minutes Due the Thursday morning before the Session Meeting

FALL 2025 CHOIR PRACTICE

For those of you in the Meadows Choir and for those thinking about joining, practice sessions have not been finalized as of this writing. Practice has been narrowed down to either Wednesday or Thursday at 4:30 pm. They will start the week of August 10th. Once completely finalized, an email will be sent out to all. Thank you for your patience.





Charles' Corner"

By Dr. Charles Pickell
"For the Living of These Days"
General Assemblies

The story is told of a baseball umpire who called a low, outside pitch a strike. The catcher turned to him in amazement and said, "I thought that pitch was low and outside." "It was," the umpire replied. "Then why was it a strike?" the catcher asked. "Because I said it was a strike," the umpire said.

That ended that!

Over the years I've known people who felt that the church, or at least its General Assemblies, were about as arbitrary and as wrong as that umpire.

Sometimes it may seem that the feelings of the "grass roots" aren't heard, that their concerns don't factor into the thinking of the higher governing bodies of the church. Sometimes governing bodies do make unpopular decisions.

And sometimes they err.

That shouldn't surprise us. The Westminster Confession of Faith, for over 350 years and one of the primary doctrinal standards of Presbyterians, states, "All synods or councils since the Apostles' time, whether general or particular, may err, and may have erred; therefore, they are not to be made the rule of faith and practice, but to be used as a help in both."

There you have it.

The positions and pronouncements of General Assemblies should be considered and weighed and their decisions provide guidance, but they are not the "rule of faith and practice."

Some systems of church government vest power in a hierarchy whose pronouncements must be followed, or in congregations whose judgment may be ill-informed. The Presbyterian way, like that of the American government, is representative, providing a balance between authority and freedom.

When Assemblies take a position or make a pronouncement, consider them prayerfully, but they are the opinion of that Assembly, and in most cases don't have the power of law, though history proves that in most cases they get it right.

So if you are sometimes disturbed by the action of a General Assembly, remember that while each General Assembly is aware of and considers the positions of past Assemblies, when it speaks, it speaks for itself alone. The church is too diverse, too inclusive, for any individual or any Assembly to speak for every Presbyterian.

As the Westminster Standards also declare, "God alone is Lord of the conscience." That principle is a primary reason I am and remain a Presbyterian—even though at times I find myself in the role of "His Majesty's loyal opposition."



MEADOWS MINISTRIES AT A GLANCE

August 2025

Friday, August 1st

Meadows Office Closed

Saturday, August 2nd

11:00 am – Dr. Charles Pickell's Service of Witness to the Resurrection

Sunday, August 3rd

10:30 am — Worship Service

12:00 noon - Special Session Meeting

Monday, August 4th

1:00 pm – Fellowship Hall Reserved

Tuesday, August 5th

No events planned

Wednesday, August 6th

12:00 pm – Men's Bible Study via Zoom

5:30 pm – Piedmont Master Gardeners Meeting

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm – College and Young Adult Bible Study

7:00 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 7th

12:00 noon – Pray in Place

Friday, August 8th

Meadows Office Closed

Saturday, August 9th

7:45 am – 2:30 pm - Faith Build – Habitat for Humanity

Sunday, August 10th

10:30 am — Worship Service

Monday, August 11th

5:00 pm – B&G Committee Meeting

7:00 pm – Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 12th

11:45 am – MS Society Meeting

5:30 pm – Membership Committee Meeting

6:30 pm – CE Committee Meeting



Wednesday, August 13th

11:00 am – Prayer Shawl Group Meeting
12:00 Noon – Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm – Finance Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 14th

12:00 Noon – “Pray In Place”
7:00 pm – Outreach Committee Meeting

Friday, August 15th

Office Closed

Saturday, August 16th

No activities scheduled

Sunday, August 17th

9:00 am – 10:00 am – Choir Practice
10:30 am – Worship Service

Monday, August 18th

7:15 pm – Session

Tuesday, August 19th

6:00 pm – Hope Circle

Wednesday, August 20th

12:00 pm – Men's Bible Study via Zoom
7:00 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 21st

12:00 Noon – “Pray In Place”

Friday, August 22nd

5:00 pm Meadows Office Closed

Saturday, August 23rd

No events planned

Sunday, August 24th

9:00 am – 10:00 am – Choir Practice
10:30 am – Worship Service
12:30 pm – 3:00 pm – Young Life Banquet (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, August 25th

3:00 pm – Care Partners Meeting

Tuesday, August 26th

5:00 pm – Salvation Army Dinner

Wednesday, August 27th

12:00 pm – Men's Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, August 28th

9:00 am – Elk Hill
12:00 Noon – “Pray In Place”
6:00 pm – Fellowship Hall Reserved



Friday, August 29th

9:00 am – Elk Hill

Meadows Office Closed

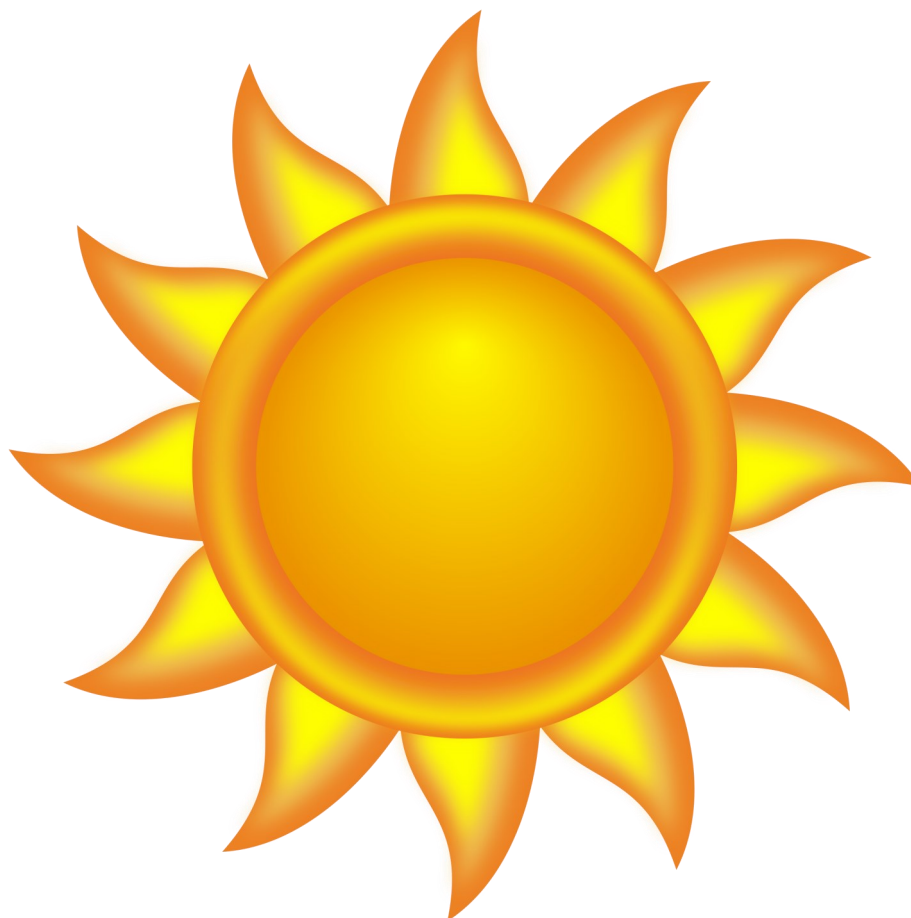
Saturday, August 30th

No activities planned

Sunday, August 31st

9:00 am – 10:00 am – Choir Practice

10:30 am – Worship Service

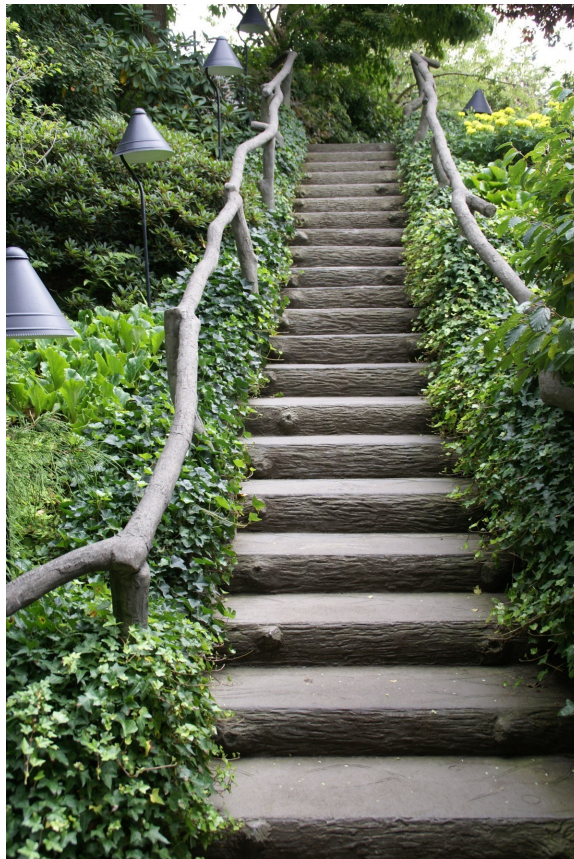




Co-Pastor Nominating Committee News...

The Co-Pastor Nominating Committee (CPNC) is pleased to announce that the search is underway! Several months of prayerful and thoughtful planning have gone into the creation of a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The MDP has been posted in the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) which is the nationwide PC(USA) system for matching pastoral candidates with churches. In addition, the position will be posted more locally on the MPC website as well as those of several neighboring Presbyteries. As we move through the process, we will be providing regular updates through newsletter articles and through announcements from the pulpit. Now, and for the duration of the search, we ask you to join in faithful prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving to God who enables this endeavor. We trust that He is preparing a shepherd to embrace and lead our church in the years to come and that it will be by His grace that we are joined. Likewise, thanks be to God for sustaining Tom through a long season of carrying the weight alone. The objective of the CPNC is to find for him a spiritual and capable partner with the ability to rise to leadership when the time comes. Your understanding and support are invaluable. We welcome your inquiries and pledge to you that we will act with wisdom and discernment, humbly asking God to lead our

steps.





A note from Betsey Vinton.....

Our fair on July 12 was a huge success. We made over \$20,000 for Outreach - \$500.00 from our puzzles. The puzzles were truly a cooperative effort: Melvin Village Community Church with Meadows! We had a good day weather wise - so good turn out. Hope all is well with all of you at Meadows. Peace, Betsey.





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

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Bruce Barclay	8/2	Gus Hamre	8/15
Mary Beattie	8/3	Mason Lees	8/15
Rick Gangloff	8/4	Vicki Schwab	8/17
Helen Landel	8/4	Mike Weiglein	8/21
Matthew Goodrich	8/8	Cynthia Swift	8/23
Sarah White	8/10	Michael Burris	8/24
Campbell Morgan	8/10	Harris Kindrick III	8/26
Anne Smith	8/12	Mark Loeffler	8/26
Tommy Wilson	8/12	Gaines Talbott	8/30
Kristopher Kubow	8/14		

