

MEADOWS MESSENGER

Meadows Presbyterian Church • January 2026

Prayer for 2026

Gracious and faithful God,
As we step into a new year, we give you thanks.
Thank you for walking with us through the year behind us—
through moments of joy and celebration,
and through seasons of challenge and change.
In all things, you have been our refuge and our strength.

As we begin this new year, we place our trust in you.
Guide our families, our church, and our community.
Help us to grow in faith, hope, and love.
Teach us to listen for your voice,
to follow the way of Christ,
and to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bless our homes with patience and kindness.
Give us hearts that are generous,
words that bring healing,
and lives that reflect your grace.
When the path ahead feels uncertain, remind us that we do not walk alone,
for you go before us and remain with us always.

Make us instruments of your peace in the world—
seeking justice, loving mercy,
and walking humbly with you.
May this new year be shaped not by fear,
but by faith in your promises.

We offer this prayer with gratitude and hope,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Preaching Schedule for January 2026

January 4th 10:30 AM service: Tuck Knupp

January 11th 10:30 AM service: Skip Ryan

The Reverend Joseph F. "Skip" Ryan is the founder and Senior Minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Begun in 1976, the church has an attendance of 1400 today. Ryan holds a B.A. cum laude degree from Harvard University and a Master of Divinity degree from Westminster Seminary, where he was president of the student body. A popular speaker, he also serves on numerous boards and is a consultant in church growth . Ryan is known for his deep concern about worship and readily admits that it is the "glue that holds Trinity together. "In the following interview, Ryan talks about the meaning of worship and shares provocative insights about its importance.

January 18th 10:30 AM service: William Washington of The Bridge Ministry

January 25th - TBD



ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

The Meadows Team wants to thank everyone for your Christmas cards and Christmas goodies. We appreciate all of you. May this upcoming year be filled with good health, peace, and happiness.

JANUARY 2026 DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Committee meeting minutes: Wednesday, January 11th—4:00 pm

February 2026 Newsletter articles: Tuesday, January 24th

Annual Reports are coming soon.

Once all are complete, a congregational meeting will be scheduled.

Updates from Finance

Contribution envelopes are available to those who have pledged for 2026. Please see Jodi Gist on January 6th, 7th, or 8th between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, or see Angy Seago after church on Sunday, January 11th. If you have not sent in your pledge cards, please get in touch with Angi or Jodi.

Our online giving platform has changed! Please sign up for recurring gifts or one-time with Stripe through Planning Center. Click the link below for more info.

<https://meadows-presbyterian-church-510415.churchcenter.com/giving>

More of each contribution can be used toward the mission of Meadows church if ACH payments are chosen over credit.

Sunday Streaming

We are currently experiencing internet issues at the church so streaming on Sundays has been sporadic. Please know that we are working on it!!





Youth Events

Schedule

**JAN
4** | NO YOUTH
GROUP

**JAN
25** | RETURN FROM
YOUTH RETREAT
~2PM

**JAN
11** | PARENT
MEETING &
FAMILY DINNER
5PM-6:30PM

**FEB
1** | YOUTH GROUP
4PM-5:30PM

**JAN
18** | KICK OFF!!
INVITE FRIENDS!
4PM-5:30PM

**FEB
8** | YOUTH GROUP
4PM-5:30PM

Winter Cel 2026

Ready for fun? Sign up for Winter Retreat (winter celebration for High Schoolers) for learning, adventure, and unforgettable memories!

Fun Activities

Small & Large Group

Worship

Outdoor Games

 January 23-25

 Eagle Eyrie Conference Center,
Lynchburg

 Deadline to sign up: January 5



Sign up before Dec 16 for \$10 off

Dec 15 (\$150) **EARLY BIRD**

Dec 16 (\$160) **PRICE INCREASE**

January 2026 Calendar

Thursday, January 1st

Holiday – Office Closed

Friday, January 2nd

Office Closed

Saturday, January 3rd

No activities planned

Sunday, January 4th

9:15 am – 10:15 am – Youth and Adult Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

Monday, January 5th

5:15 pm – 9:30 pm – Men's Bible Study

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm – Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 6th

10:00 am – Joy Group

Wednesday, January 7th

7:00 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 8th

9:00 am – Elk Hill

Friday, January 9th

9:00 am – Elk Hill

Meadows Office Closed

Saturday, January 10th

8:30 am – Men's Breakfast

10:00 am – Nurture Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 11th

9:15 am – 10:15 am – Youth and Adult Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

Monday, January 12th

10:30 am – Outreach Committee Meeting

12:15 pm – Faith Circle

5:00 pm – B&G Committee Meeting

5:15 pm – 9:30 pm – Men's Bible Study

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm – Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm – Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th

11:45 am – MS Society

Wednesday, January 14th

11:00 am – Prayer Shawl Group

6:30 pm – CE Committee Meeting

7:00 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 15th

No activities planned

Friday, January 16th

Meadows Office Closed

Saturday, January 17th

No activities planned

Sunday, January 18th

9:15 am – Choir Rehearsal

9:15 am – 10:15 am – Youth and Adult Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

Monday, January 19th

5:15 pm – 9:30 pm – Men’s Bible Study

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm – Women’s Bible Study

7:15 pm - Session

Tuesday, January 20th

6:00 pm – Hope Circle

Wednesday, January 21st

7:00 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 22nd

6:00 pm – Fellowship Hall Reserved

4:30 pm – Choir Practice

Friday, January 23rd

Meadows Office Closed

Saturday, January 24th

No activities planned

Sunday, January 25th

9:15 am – Choir Rehearsal

9:15 am – 10:15 am – Youth and Adult Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

Monday, January 26th

1:30 pm – Garden Club Meeting

5:15 pm – 9:30 pm – Men’s Bible Study

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm – Women’s Bible Study

Tuesday, January 27th

5:00 pm – Salvation Army

Wednesday, January 28th

7:00 pm – Nominating Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 29th

4:30 pm – Choir Practice

Friday, January 30th

No activities planned

Saturday, January 31st

No activities planned

COMMITTEE UPDATES

A Message from the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee—Approaching the Final Act of Our Odyssey

The Co-Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that we have identified an outstanding candidate for the Co-Pastor position. Our in-person interactions with the candidate and his family prior to the Christmas holiday affirmed our conviction that this individual is well-suited to serve as a shepherd for the Meadows congregation—both in the Co-Pastor role and, in time, as Head Pastor. We believe there is a strong alignment, and an offer is currently being prepared. We respectfully request your prayers for continued wisdom as we proceed, and for the negotiation process to yield a mutually beneficial outcome. We are grateful and humbled by God's timing and guidance, and by your prayerful support, throughout this journey.

The Flower Committee

The Flower Committee is so grateful to all who honor the memory of a loved one or celebrate special occasions by placing flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday morning services. The 2026 flower sign-up calendar is now posted in the Fellowship Hall. The Dogwood Tree is our primary florist. You can find their information on line or in the Fellowship Hall on the sign up sheet.

Outreach Committee

Outreach is hosting special community guest speakers in January. Come during the Sunday school hour to hear how these non-profits are spreading the love of Christ. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am on the dates noted below.

January 4, 2026-Bailey Harrison with Young Life.

January 11, 2026- Joseph Varaksa with Hope is Everything (formerly of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry).

January 18, 2026-Katie Kishore with the Kindness Café.

January 24, 2026-Sheila Russ with Rise Against Hunger.

"Charles' Corner"

“For the Living of These Days”

I Hope...

I hope...

Sometimes I hope against hope! My hopes get dashed, and seem impossible.

But I hope.

Hope is indispensable to life—like oxygen. Remove hope and you suffocate!

I hope...

Because I trust in God—who understands me when no one else does, who knows where I’m coming from, and where I’ve been, who identifies with the secrets of my heart, who cares for me, and wants the best for me, who loves me, and weaves the threads of life together in a beautiful tapestry.

So I hope...

I’m in good company. More than one hundred times in scripture the theme is sounded:

“Hope in God”

“Rejoice in hope”

“Hope to the end”

“We are saved by hope,”

“Hope does not disappoint us,”

We are “born again to a living hope.”

What I most long for may seem impossible, but scripture is clear:

“The things that are impossible with humans are possible with God.”

So I hope...

...on good days and bad...because I know God will work it out. I trust God will for the present and the future, for this life and the life to come.

I hope...

And my hope is secure for “I know whom I have believed....”

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jonah Veliky	3rd	Stephanie Bickers	12th
Lever Belcher	3rd	Alan Hamilton	16th
Mark White	4th	Mary Emma Thompson	22nd
Audrey Goldsmith	5th	Julie Joyce	29th
LuAnn Oldman	7th	Kristen Crittenden	31st
Cooper Pritchard	9th	Kirsten Theobald	31st
Alex Rucker	11th	Jennie Wilson	31st



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