MEADOWS MESSENGER

Meadows Presbyterian Church • October 2026

Worshipping at Meadows In October

October is one of the busiest months of the church year with Outreach opportunities, congregational meetings, discipleship offerings and fellowship times as well. Along the way on Sundays, we will be considering who we are as God's people, and what he calls us to be and to do. We belong to Christ, we belong to one another, and we are called to live in ways that bear witness to the amazing grace we have received and to return together to the essentials; the Gospel that grounds us, the Spirit who shapes us, and the life to which God continues to call us.

Please note we will also be gratefully welcoming back two familiar friends of our congregation to preach this fall: Rev. Albert Connette (10/4) and Rev. Tuck Knupp (10/25).

October 2026

October 4 **Worldwide Communion Sunday**
Luke 13:22-30, John 17:20-24, Revelation 7:9-17
Rev. Albert Connette

October 11 **The Life God Requires**
Micah 6:1-8 *Rev. Thomas Goodrich*
Congregational Meeting to follow Worship

October 18 **The Life God Produces**
Galatians 5:22-26 *Rev. Thomas Goodrich*

October 25 **Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing**
1 Corinthians 15:3-5 *Rev. David (Tuck) Knupp*
Fall Church Picnic



ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

OCTOBER 2026 DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Committee meeting minutes for Session due: Wednesday,

October 14th—3:00 pm

November 2026 Newsletter articles due: Thursday, October 22nd—8:30 am

A WORD FROM OFFICE

I'm very blessed to share that I will be on vacation in France the week of October 12th. We are in need of some members to sit in the office and answer phone calls, greet visitors with a smile, and keep Tom straight!! I will be back in the office on Monday, October 19th. My office hours are 8:30 am—3:30 pm, Monday—Thursday. We are open for any shift during that time. Please know that you're welcome to bring a book to read, your knitting, etc. and feel free to use our refrigerator for your lunch or a snack. Thank you in advance for your help and I look forward to hearing from you so that we can make sure you can gain entrance, etc.

A toute a l'heure!

Susan

MEADOWS MINISTRIES

There are a number of slots open for several ministries in the coming months. See below for dates available in each and if your heart is calling you, please stop by and sign up. Or you can call the office at 434.296.2791 or email Susan at office@meadowspc.org.

Fellowship Hour — November 8th

Flowers — October 18th and October 25th

-

Trunk-or-Treat at Meadows

Please join us on **Friday, October 30th, from 5:00–7:00 p.m.** as we provide a safe and fun **"Trunk-or-Treat"** experience for our Angus Road neighbors, as well as your children and grandchildren!

It's a fun twist on traditional trick-or-treating:
decorate your car,
fill your trunk with treats,
and enjoy an evening of fellowship
as we welcome children from our church family
and community.

Start planning now! If you have questions or would like to sign up to participate, please contact **Cindy Dellinger at 336-706-4277.**

We hope you'll join us for this fun evening of fellowship and community!



A Special Celebration of Gratitude

This Thanksgiving season gives us a wonderful opportunity to pause and give thanks—not only for God's blessings, but also for the people who have blessed our lives.

On Sunday, November 22nd, our Meadows church family will gather after worship for a Thanksgiving feast and a special time of gratitude as we celebrate Tom and his years of faithful ministry among us.

We invite you to help us honor Tom by sharing a personal note of thanks, appreciation, or encouragement. These notes will be gathered into a keepsake book and presented to Tom as a lasting reminder of the many lives he has touched. Please send your note to Sudie Althisar by November 8th using one of the following options:

Email: sudieincville@mac.com
Text: 804-432-1258
Drop off your note in Sudie's box in the church office.

We look forward to celebrating together and giving thanks for Tom and his ministry among us!

Stay tuned for more details!

Sudie



Sanctuary Renovation Update: Sunday, November 1, 2026

Please join the Sanctuary Improvement Team (SIT) on **Sunday, November 1st, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall for an update on the sanctuary renovation project. Light refreshments will be provided.

This project has been part of our life together for several years. It began with the Renovation Organizing Committee in 2018, continued through the pause brought on by COVID, and has been led by the SIT since 2021. Along the way, the project has changed shape more than once, and we know many members have questions about how we got here.

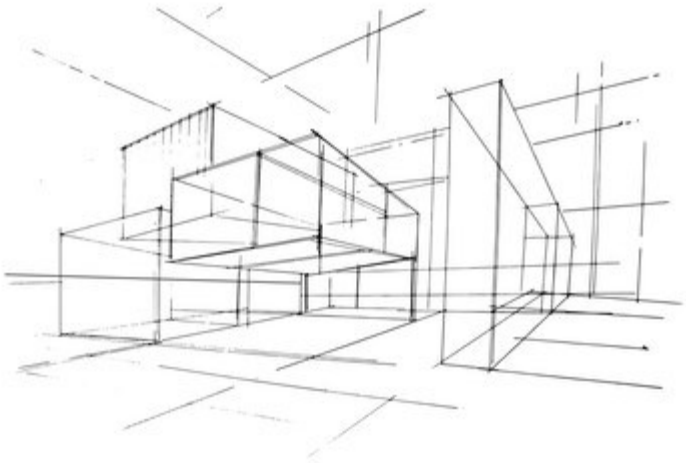
The update will cover three things:

1. Where we've been: a short history of the project and the decisions that shaped it.
2. Where we are: the current design, scope, and the team working with us.
3. Where we're going: next steps, how the project will move forward, and how you can be involved.

Pastor Tom Goodrich and members of the SIT will share the presentation, and there will be time for questions.

Over the next few weeks, watch for additional materials to help you learn more before November 1st, including a project brief, drawings and graphics, and answers to frequently asked questions. These will be shared in the newsletter, on the website, and at church.

If you have a question you'd like us to address, please send it to Ben Thompson at benjamin.james.thompson@gmail.com by **Wednesday, October 28th.**



Faith, Food, and Friends

We heard YOU. **Faith, Food, and Friends** met again on Thursday, September 17th. The food (baked potato bar, salads, and apple pie) was awesome and we had 3 teams of folks for trivia, as you can see below. Congrats to "The Travelers" trivia team (Majorie, Maggie, Cindy, Cathy, and Rick) for their win!! Stay tuned for info on our next event!!!

Peace,

Cindy Dellinger and Susan Coiner-Pollard







Youth Events 2026



Lock-in



September recap

Meadows youth

Sunday school fun



UPCOMING EVENTS

MEADOWS YOUTH

OCT 4

FAMILY DINNER

5-6:30PM

OCT 11

YOUTH GROUP

4-5:30PM

OCT 18

CROP WALK & CANES

12PM

OCT 25

BONFIRE

6-8PM

A Word from Session, Meadows Committees and Groups…

From the desk of Clerk Cathy Teague—a congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th after worship to elect 3 new elders and a new trustee. A transitional pastor search committee has been formed from active elders to expedite the process of engaging a pastor to fill the gap between Tom's departure and the arrival of a new permanent pastor.

B&G Committee—A New Face at the Schola When visiting the church during Schola hours, you may notice a new face around the grounds. Please extend a warm welcome to Jonathan, the school's new security guard.

As part of their commitment to providing a safe learning environment, Schola parents have enlisted the services of a local security company that has served the community for more than 30 years. Jonathan brings extensive experience in security and safety training, along with a warm, approachable personality that offers added peace of mind to parents and staff alike.

Although his duties are primarily inside the building, Jonathan is ready to assist wherever needed. He is easy to spot in his uniform, so please take a moment to introduce yourself and say hello. If you have any questions, please direct them to Jim Johnston or Barbara Crispens of B&G.

From the desk of Linda Powell—GET READY! GET SET! GO SHOPPING!!! Yes, it's that time again. We are getting ready to start another season of Operation Christmas Child. Watch out for those familiar red and green boxes waiting to be filled. They are scheduled to be delivered by October 11th. More info to come!!



The Nominating Committee…

Dear Church Family,

The Nominating Committee is grateful to share the following slate of nominees, each of whom has prayerfully agreed to serve at Meadows in the upcoming term.
As previously announced, a congregational meeting will be held Sunday, October 11th in the sanctuary, immediately following our worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive and act upon the Nominating Committee's report and to elect individuals to the roles listed below.

Elder Nominations
Class of 2029: Raleigh Althisar, Winston Harmon, Barbara Crispens
Trustee Nominations
Class of 2029: Barbara Crispens

Please continue to pray for these nominees and for Meadows as we seek to serve Christ faithfully together.

In His Love,

The Nominating Committee
Rebecca Less, Chair
Roni Fernandez
Audrey Goldsmith
Gloria Stackhouse
Karen Zimmerman

Thomas A. Goodrich
Senior Pastor

Discipleship Committee…The next Discipleship lunch/class/conversation/ prayer time will be after church on Sunday, November 8th in the Conference Room, starting at noon. Our topic will be "Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World" by Max Lucado. Peggy Beattie will be the leader.

Does fear or anxiety keep you from a full life in Christ? Learning to trust in God's sovereignty and in His care for us is a lifelong lesson. But as we begin to trust, we are strengthened to follow and to serve with greater confidence.

Books are available on the side table in the Conference Room. Please sign-up using slips in weekly bulletins so we can get a rough count for lunch. You are welcome to come even if you haven't signed up.

Our teaching and conversation will focus on Philippians 4:4-7.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen!

Outreach Committee...Our Neighbors on Holiday Drive

For those who are interested, please see the summary of the meeting that was held on 9/17/26 to address issues/concerns about the homeless shelter now open on Holiday Drive. In attendance:

Sam Roman & Misty Graves, City of Charlottesville
Jen Fleisher-City Council
Richard Southee-CASS Project Manager for Holiday Drive
Tara Farley-PACEM Board
Representatives from many local congregations (Cathy Teague from Meadows)

Kathryn Crosby is the new program director at PACEM. PACEM has had to adjust to some resignations at the upper level along with loss of some documentation, procedures & the like. Kathryn is committed to getting things in order & online & welcomes questions & suggestions.

- There are gaps in the hosting schedule. They are Women-Nov. 2-9 & Men, March 16-29 & March 30-April 12.
- The Holiday Drive Shelter is an option that some may choose, others prefer the PACEM plan of staying in churches.
- The hope is to cut down the need for emergency hotel rooms needed during severe weather.
- The Holiday Drive, with a 70-80 bed capacity is full. Hoping to have a 120 bed max.
- Richard explained the need for the Holiday Dr. shelter alongside PACEM. In an emergency, these 2 options provide 190-210 beds. Holiday Dr. has a staff 24 hours a day every day.
- In January, Vista 29 will come on-line with 80 apartment style units. This will include case management support & will have subsidized rent.
- Two meals each day are offered each day at Holiday Dr.
- There is a community room with a TV.
- Staff strive to serve client needs as they arise. Needs such as filing for disability claims, working through eviction notices, getting IDs and similar issues.
- There is a constant need for **bottled water & hygiene products.**
- Need gift cards from **Hydraulic Rd. Laundromat.**
- For a video tour of the shelter, go to: https://youtube.be/eyf7ilAj4Fc?si=GSmNf3zoAPY7RnAW

- Phone number at the Holiday Dr. Shelter is 434-970-3100.
- Intake hours 11-3 every day.
- Connect Charlottesville has a homelessness page-https://www.charlottesville.gov/1937/Housing-Resources.
- City is working to provide improved transportation.
- CASS website set to go live Oct. 1.
- FAQ packets available at libraries.
- No change for the Haven this year.
- City is hiring 1 Outreach Supervisor & 2 Outreach Specialists to help direct other homeless to needed services.
- PACEM emphasized **There will always be a need for congregations to be involved.**
- After the winter season, all players will have a meeting to share lessons learned for future planning.
- Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 8 at the Belmont Baptist Church at 5:00 pm. Julie Joyce will attend.

Seek and You Will Find...

The Co-Pastor Search Committee has relaunched under a new name—the Pastor Nominating Committee—and has hit the ground running. After a brief respite, the team reconvened to approve the revised Ministry Discernment Profile and has already begun conducting interviews. “God’s plan and God’s timing” remains our mantra, and we are hopeful that He will soon bring us together with the shepherd He has appointed.

Meanwhile, the Transitional Pastor Search Team has developed a plan and begun the process of identifying someone to lead Meadows until a new Head Pastor is installed. The Presbytery’s pulpit supply network is providing most of the candidates; however, the committee also welcomes recommendations from members of the congregation.

Please continue to offer your heartfelt prayers for the success of both important searches. We draw strength from the promise found in Matthew 7:7: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

With humble gratitude,

The Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee and Transitional Pastor Search Committee



Join the Meadows Team for the 2026 CROP Walk on Sunday October 18!

The Emergency Food Network and Meals on Wheels will receive 25% of the Charlottesville area donations.

Sign up to be a walker or to give a donation on-line here:

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/meadows-presbyterian-church

or by scanning this QR code:

See Cathy Teague for details

Rise Against Hunger –Volunteers Needed

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

We are excited to announce our seventh Rise Against Hunger event at Meadows. The event is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 3rd. We will be packing over 12,500 meals again this year. Meadows has packed over 75,000 meals since the first meal packing event in 2019. In our previous events, between 60 and 70 Meadows members and friends were able to join in Christian fellowship serving God's kingdom by providing meals for those who as a result of their circumstances struggle to provide for themselves and their families.

We would ask that you check your calendars and prayerfully consider signing up for this year's event. We would also encourage you to invite your friends as we will be packing a lot of meals. Sign-up for this year's event will be similar to last year as we will not be having two distinct one (1) hour shifts as we have in the past. However, we do want to accommodate members who may only be able to participate for one (1) hour. That said, we will be encouraging members and friends to sign up for the full two (2) hours but will leave open the possibility of time slots of either 10:00 – 11:00 or 11:00 to 12:00.

The meals that we pack are distributed to countries all over the world with each packet providing a nutritious meal for a family of four (4). We would be excited to have you join us as we seek to serve God's kingdom during this year's fun-filled event. Jobs are available for people who prefer to be seated, and if you are able to be on your feet for a while, we have jobs for you as well. If you can help with the initial setup, we would greatly appreciate your help in that way as well. Set up will begin around 8:30 AM.

We look forward to seeing you on **Saturday, October 3rd**!!!

Please contact Wendell Bonham at (434) 973-9283 or lucemest@netscape.net to sign-up or request more details about the event.

Wendell Bonham

Feeding the Flock

I hope you enjoy the recipe below from Feeding the Flock—2005!!

Speedy Bean and Ham Soup

1/4 C chopped onions

1 t oil

2 cans great northern beans

1 C cooked ham

1 C water

1/2 t garlic powder

1/4 t black pepper

In a large saucepan, saute onions in oil. Add beans, ham, water, garlic powder, and pepper. Heat until bubbly. Yield 3 servings.

Susan Mathis

‘



CHARLES' CORNER

"For the Living of These Days"

Be Yourself

Be yourself!

No need to pretend, to pose, to try to impress others. Just be yourself.

Sounds good!

I've heard that kind of advice often, but many people don't really mean it when they say it. They have expectations: Be yourself, they say, but what they don't say is implied. Be yourself! (but don't disappoint me!). Be yourself! (but meet my expectations!). Be yourself! (but don't neglect your duty!).

How liberating it is when we can really be ourselves!

There are a few people with whom I feel free to be myself, people with whom I can let my hair down (or what's left of it!), people with whom I can reveal my most intimate thoughts, people in whom I can confide, people I know will accept me no matter what and be my friend.

I often feel inhibited, not because I want to play games, but because people tend to put clergy on a pedestal, and being myself, revealing my deepest thoughts, exercising my ambitions, showing my feelings, being vulnerable can be risky.

But if I'm always guarded, cautious, safe, others can never really know me and I live behind a mask.

God made each person unique, to be free, yet bound to him, to be free, yet in relationships with others.

Many of the Bible's greatest heroes questioned God, argued with God, second guessed God, but they were themselves and God loved and blessed them.

When I read the Bible I find that I can be myself, the person God created me to be.

As Paul told the Galatians,

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Peggy Beattie	1st	Cheryl Pearson	18th
Roni Fernandez	3rd	Alice Ray	19th
Maggie Gangloff	3rd	Diane Burrus	19th
Linda Powell	7th	Karen Zimmerman	20th
Connie Pond	8th	Joseph Burris	21st
Whitley Rotgin	12th	Dianne Parlette	22nd
Caroline Fernandez	14th	Cindy Frazier-Mina	25th
Owen Saunders	14th	Ann Laing	29th
Polly Talbott	14th	Nancy Richey	29th
Bill Stackhouse	14th	Kaye Lauffenburger	30th
Linda Weaver	18th	Patricia Sandberg	31st
		Dick Swisher	31st



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

2200 Angus Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Phone: 434-296-2791
office@meadowspc.org/www.meadowspc.org