

# MEADOWS MESSENGER

Meadows Presbyterian Church • July 2026

Dear Meadows Family,

One of my favorite patriotic songs is "America the Beautiful." It is a profoundly biblical anthem. It begins by thanking God for His gift of creation; "spacious skies," "amber waves of grain," and "purple mountain majesties." I hear in that the echo of Psalm 24:1 "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it." The second stanza honors "heroes proved in liberating strife," pointing to the sacrifice and courage and self-giving love of those who have gone before us. "Greater love has no one than this," John 15:13. The final verse looks toward a nation whose "alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears," pulling imagery of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 and 22, where justice, peace, and God's presence heal every sorrow, wipe away every tear.

Katharine Lee Bates wrote this as a poem in 1895 as she was taking in the vista from Pike's Peak. Her vision went far beyond that natural beauty, though. She points us to a land where national greatness depends not on wealth or military power, but on character, on mercy being stronger than might, on liberty joined with law, and on prosperity refined by justice. As we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's founding, may we sing this prayerful hymn with joy, rejoicing in the amazing grace God has shed on us, as we seek to live into the spacious, gracious vision it gives us.

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!**

With you in Christ

Tom





## **ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS**

### **JULY 2026 DEADLINE SCHEDULE**

Committee meeting minutes for Session: No Session this month

August 2026 Newsletter articles due: Thursday, July 23rd —8:00 am

### **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](mailto:office@meadowspc.org).

#### **Flowers**

August 30th

#### **Fellowship Hour**

July 19th

#### **Blessings Box**

August 7th—August 22nd

August 23rd—September 5th

#### **Salvation Army Dinner Volunteers (2)**

July 28th

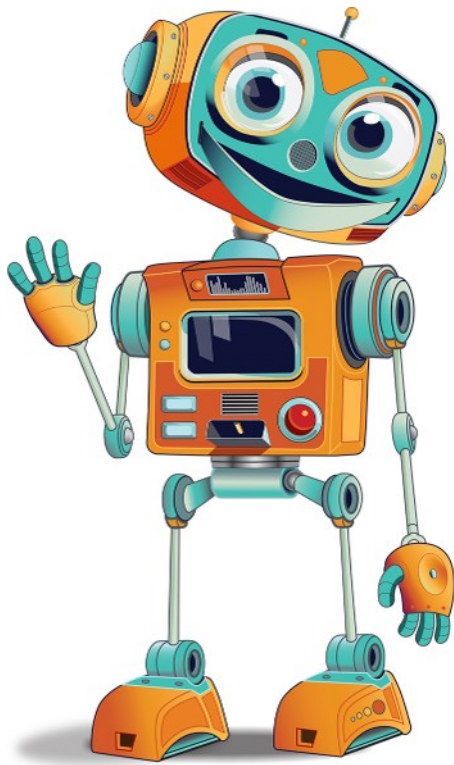


VBS – July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> 4–12 year olds

Meet Gizmo!! He's waiting for you to sign up your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or neighbor!!!

Scan QR code below and scroll down to the signup form!! If you wish to volunteer for this event, please get in touch with Cindy Dellinger at 336.706.4277 or email her at

[cdrenan25@gmail.com](mailto:cdrenan25@gmail.com).





## **Feeding the Flock**

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

### **Spinach Salad Supreme**

1 lb. fresh spinach	1 T bacon drippings
6 strips of bacon	1 c mayonnaise
1 t prepared mustard	1/4 c salad oil
1/2 t sugar	1/4 c vinegar
1 small onion—grated	1/4 c Parmesan cheese

Wash and dry spinach. Dry, tear and chill for several hours. Fry bacon, reserving drippings. Make dressing by beating together mustard, sugar, onion, bacon drippings, mayonnaise, salad oil, vinegar, and Parmesan cheese. When serving, toss spinach with dressing. Top with crumbled bacon and additional cheese.

NOTE: Dressing keeps well. All of the dressing may not be necessary for one salad.

Deanie Rucker



*“When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.”  
Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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## **June 20026 Session Highlights**

Two Elders attended the recent Presbytery of the James virtual meeting. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

- Sadly, Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Richmond was dissolved with various motions of how to manage the ministry.
- Two candidates were approved for ordination, and two people were approved to become candidates for the ministry.
- The Board of Pensions reported on various changes for pastor benefits packages.
- The presbytery sponsored a team mission trip to Guatemala July 13-20, 2026.

Please consider nominees for Elder and report to the Planning and Nominating Committee. They hope to have a slate by the end of August.

Buildings and Grounds reports that the new roof is complete! Sanctuary floor repairs are underway.

Vacation Bible School is at the end of July. Please volunteer to assist in the valuable ministry.

Cathy Teague, Clerk of Session

## **Reflections from the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee**

### **Why Perseverance Matters**

Serving on the Co- Pastor Nominating Committee has not been just an administrative duty—it has been a sacred trust. We were entrusted by the congregation to seek God’s will for the future of the church.

### **What We Have Learned**

- **It is a spiritual journey:** Every meeting, every interview, every prayer is part of discerning God’s plan.
- **It is a test of unity:** Differences in opinion have arisen, but perseverance means staying committed to one another and to the mission.
- **It is an act of love:** We have been committed to faithfully care for the spiritual health of the entire congregation.

### **Addressing the Challenge**

It’s natural to feel tired or discouraged when the search takes longer than expected, but God often works in seasons of waiting. The Israelites wandered for forty years before reaching the Promised Land. The disciples waited in the upper room before the Spirit came. In the same way, our waiting has not been wasted time, it has been preparation.

### **Our Promise to The Meadows Family**

We will not give up until we have faithfully completed the task God has given us.

### **Trust God’s Timing**

Hopefully we are nearing the end of our long search, and we ask for your encouragement to press on with patience, with prayer, and with hope. For in due time, we will see the fruit of our labor, and the joy of welcoming the pastor God has chosen will be all the sweeter because we walked this road together.

***From him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen Romans 11:36.***

In Gratitude,

*Members of the CPNC*



## CHARLES' CORNER

“For the Living of These Days”

### My Country

Americans are a strange lot. Other nations bask in patriotism and extol their country's virtues—even if its glory days are past. Americans often criticize and critique their nation.

It's true that some focus only on the good, and that's bad, while others focus on the bad, and that's worse!

Our record as a nation is mixed—there have been noble moments, and there have been times of which we are rightly ashamed.

We have been grabbing, materialistic, racist and status conscious. We have done wrong and tried to justify our wrongdoing. We have been insensitive to human hurt and need among our own citizens. We have thought of ourselves as self-made, arrogantly forgetting the God who led our forebears and still sustains us.

But that's only half of the story—not even half!

We have also been generous, idealistic, open and accepting of people from many lands. We have been compassionate and caring. We have been self-sacrificing and giving. We have recognized our good fortune and thanked God.

Real patriots love America with all its flaws. They give thanks for God's blessings and strive to help the nation fulfill the vision of its founders.

Clarence Macartney expressed it well:

“For this dear land, so broad and fair,  
Where oceans speak a mighty voice,  
And mountains lift their heads in air,  
Let all the people now rejoice.

Our fathers saw a realm of God,  
Where all through love of God grow free;  
Where none shall kiss a tyrant's rod,  
And all to all shall family be.

To them God gave a mighty name,  
Not so with any people dealt;  
The Pilgrim band a host became;  
For fear of them their foes did melt.



**My Country** continued...

Famine nor plague could hurt their life;  
No foreign foe could break their will,  
And civil war's most bloody strife  
But left the nation stronger still.

From hunger, want and woe in flight,  
They crossed the seas in holy quest;  
From lands afar they hailed her light,  
In her all nations have been blessed.

O God, let not this vision die  
Because Thy goodness we forget;  
Still let Thy wrath in slumber lie,  
And save this people even yet."





**Thank all of you for making  
our All American Cookout a  
success!**





**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES**  
**For the Year 2026**

	Budget 2026	May	Year to Date	Remaining	41.66%
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Pledges, Envelopes	\$405,000.00	\$16,808.00	\$244,932.56	\$160,067.44	60.48%
Loose Plate	\$60,000.00	\$3,963.39	\$109,513.16	(\$49,513.16)	182.52%
Building Use	\$31,000.00	\$6,831.00	\$28,943.00	\$2,057.00	93.36%
Interest Income	\$42,000.00	\$13,057.64	\$18,292.11	\$23,707.89	43.55%
Unrealized Gains & Losses on Investments	\$0.00	(\$136.75)	(\$136.75)	\$136.75	n/a
Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,011.25	(\$3,011.25)	n/a
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$538,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,523.28</b>	<b>\$408,623.26</b>	<b>\$129,376.74</b>	<b>75.95%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
CHRISTIAN OUT-REACH	\$105,400.00	\$13,389.34	\$17,211.89	\$88,188.11	16.33%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	22,150.00	\$695.78	3,677.73	18,472.27	16.60%
WORSHIP	8,850.00	\$397.00	2,856.90	5,993.10	32.28%
FELLOWSHIP	4,635.00	\$683.99	1,114.17	3,520.83	24.04%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	103,600.00	\$5,851.86	49,198.25	54,401.75	47.49%
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	43,850.00	\$2,732.94	15,893.17	27,956.83	36.24%
NURTURE	5,450.00	\$0.00	40.53	5,409.47	0.74%
CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP	1,300.00	\$0.00	150.00	1,150.00	11.54%
PERSONNEL	497,567.00	\$40,192.73	153,737.34	343,829.66	30.90%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$792,802.00</b>	<b>\$63,943.64</b>	<b>\$243,879.98</b>	<b>\$548,922.02</b>	<b>30.76%</b>
<b>FRADULENT EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,694.49</b>	<b>(\$4,694.49)</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$792,802.00</b>	<b>\$63,943.64</b>	<b>\$248,574.47</b>	<b>\$544,227.53</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$254,802.00)</b>	<b>(\$23,420.36)</b>	<b>\$160,048.79</b>	<b>(\$414,850.79)</b>	



# JULY BIRTHDAYS

Ronald Richey	July 1st	Bill Huntley	July 15th
Helen Ladd	July 3rd	Bobbie Cohen	July 17th
Callie Wood	July 5th	Joe Teague	July 20th
Josh Taylor	July 5th	Cathy Teague	July 22nd
Meg Barclay	July 8th	Nancy Fischer	July 22nd
Jane McChesney	July 9th	Andrew Greller	July 22nd
Jesse Pritchard	July 13th	Sally Mulrey	July 24th



*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](mailto:office@meadowspc.org)/[www.meadowspc.org](http://www.meadowspc.org)