

MEADOWS MESSENGER

Meadows Presbyterian Church • August 2026

AN IMPORTANT WORD FROM THE CO-PASTOR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Odyssey

Like Odysseus in *The Odyssey*, the Co-Pastor Nominating Committee's journey has been marked by challenges, unexpected detours, and moments that have tested our resolve. We have faced setbacks that at times slowed our progress, requiring patience, perseverance, and faith as we continue our search for the pastor God has prepared for our congregation.

Such a setback has just occurred as a candidate, in whom we had great hopes, elected to serve another church. This had been his home church while growing up and close family members still attend. We can only thank God for blessing him and his new congregation by bringing a son home to lead the flock and pray for their success in the Kingdom work.

Yet every challenge has reminded us that we do not travel this path alone. Throughout this journey, we have witnessed God's sustaining presence and guidance. While the process has not always unfolded according to our timetable, we remain confident that God is working faithfully behind the scenes, leading us step by step toward His purpose.

As we continue this voyage, we do so with hope and trust. Just as Odysseus never lost sight of Ithaca, we remain focused on the calling before us. We trust that the God who has guided our church thus far will continue to be faithful, providing wisdom, unity, and strength until the day He brings us our next pastor.

Please continue to pray that God would encourage and strengthen us when the journey seems long, grant us discernment in every decision, and keep us united in purpose and spirit. Your prayers are a source of support and blessing, helping us remain steadfast as we seek to faithfully complete the task God has entrusted to us.

In His Strength,

Raleigh Althisar

Peggy Beattie

Barbara Crispens

Julie Joyce

Susan Mathis

Ben Stallard

Andy Theobald

Daniel Wood

Wendell Bonham, Chair, Co-Pastor Nominating Committee

Whatsoever Things are True

Following our recent series on Paul's call to dwell on "whatever is true" (Philippians 4:8), we will spend a few weeks exploring the truth the Church has joyfully proclaimed through the centuries: the Father who created us, the Son who redeemed us, the Spirit who lives within us, and the hope that awaits us. Whether these words are deeply familiar or entirely new, we invite you to discover how this ancient confession continues to offer strength, clarity, and hope for everyday life.

August 9	God the Father Almighty Maker of Heaven and Earth	Rev. Tom Goodrich
August 16	Jesus Christ , His Only Son How He Changed Everything	Bill Zimmerman
August 23	Jesus Christ, His Only Son Life, Death, Resurrection	Rev. Tom Goodrich
August 30	God the Holy Ghost The Spirit, The Church	Rev. Tom Goodrich
September 6	Now and Forever Hope Life Everlasting	Rev. Tom Goodrich

SOME THOUGHTS ON ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

We gather at Meadows to worship God because we believe this is the reason for which we were created! As we are reminded in the first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, "What is the chief end of man?" (or in other words "what is our purpose as human beings?"). The answer rings back, "to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." It is our calling, our purpose, and our challenge and privilege to respond in worship and thanksgiving to God.

Every so often, it seems good to consider the different elements of our worship services. The design of those services is meant to include enriching elements of worship representative of differing styles.

Gathering Songs: we open with songs of gathering which seek to “tune our hearts to sing thy grace.” This time calls us from the busyness and reactivity of our lives to a deeper awareness of God’s presence. Often, the songs will be focused on invitation to one another to acknowledge God’s presence and then will move toward a spoken **Call to Worship** and **Opening Praise**. We are led in worship and singing by both our choir and our praise team together and individually. This year the choir will be taking the month of August off, however.

Singing God’s praise helps to heighten our awareness of His presence and so it is right to follow praise with **Prayers of Confession**. The closer we come to God, the more our awareness grows of our need for forgiveness and mercy. Our prayers of forgiveness come from a rich variety of sources. They come from scripture or from ancient and historical writers, helping us to see that we are part of the church throughout all generations. In our **Assurance of Pardon**, we hear again the great reality that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and we are invited to sing joyfully in response!

Affirmation of Faith: In joining our voices in our affirmation of faith (often the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed); we stand with all who have gone before us, the “communion of saints,” in unity of belief and we declare what we hold to be true. At times, we may also use portions from our denomination’s Book of Confessions.

Welcome, Prayer and Passing the Peace

We have come to Meadows as family. So, we hear from one another about upcoming events in the life of our family. We hear from one another about the joys and concerns that have been brought into worship on that day. We **pray** with, and for, each other and for the needs of our community and the world. So too we exchange a **sign of peace** with one another which recognizes that we have all been recipients of God’s grace and we are to be reconciled to one another, as we extend the peace of Christ.

Children and Worship: We hope to bless our children and nourish them in their faith and understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So each month, there may be a Children’s Moment, when kids are invited forward to receive a brief message. On the 2nd Sunday of each month, the kids help gather our **Five Cents a Meal** offering which goes to our Presbytery’s hunger relief efforts.

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and alternates between being distributed by elders and by intinction, when worshippers come forward to receive the Bread and Cup.

Of course, there is more **preaching, responding to God's Word with our giving, being sent forth and receiving the "good word" of a benediction.** Throughout every element of worship, we pray that our times together will be filled by God's Spirit, "quickening our consciences by His holiness, nourishing our minds by His truth, purifying our imaginations by His beauty, and opening our hearts to His love as we submit our wills to His purpose".
(William Temple , Archbishop of Canterbury d.1944)

To God be the Glory,

Tom



You Will Be Missed, Caroline!!!!



Dear Meadows Family,

As many of you know, Sunday, Aug. 2 is my last day as choir director/organist at Meadows. I have held this position for two years, and it has been a joy and privilege to work with the vocal and bell choirs, youth and children, staff, and congregation at large. Thank you to the entire congregation for your love and support, both for the traditional music ministry here at Meadows and for me personally. A special thanks to the vocal choir members, who have shown up virtually every Sunday of the year to learn new music for our corporate worship. The choir has taught me so much, and its members are enthusiastic, faithful reminders of God's grace and call to community.

I decided to return to Charlottesville for law school more than five years ago, back in spring 2021 (some of you know I deferred my studies for two years to work in South Korea). At that time, I didn't expect Meadows to play such an important role in my life while I was here. But that's God for you—His plans have a way of coming together! I trust that God has wonderful plans for the next phase of music at Meadows, and I encourage all to pray for and actively support the music ministry here. Maybe that looks like joining the choir for a week (or longer!) or bringing your talents in a solo Christmas or Easter piece. It can also mean helping spread the word about our open choir director position—and, after someone is hired, making a point to welcome them the same way you did me!

I love the Meadows family deeply and will miss you all in Wyoming and beyond. Keep making joyful noise!

Caroline

Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!"

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

AUGUST 2026 DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Committee meeting minutes for Session: Wednesday, August 12th

September 2026 Newsletter articles due: Thursday, August 20th—8:00 am

FROM MEADOWS OFFICE

The office will be closed on Thursday, August 13th, open Friday, August 14th, and closed on Monday, August 17th. If you are interested in sitting in the office answering the phone, greeting guests, etc., please let Susan know asap. We welcome anyone who would like to take a shift on Thursday or Monday, 9:00 am—4:00 pm regardless of how small or large that works for you.

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

August 9th

August 16th

September 6th

September 13th

Blessings Box

August 23rd—September 5th

Flowers

August 30th

September 20th

"Taste and see that the Lord is good."
— **Psalm 34:8**



*You are cordially invited to a
Faith, Food, and Friends luncheon on
Wednesday, August 12th at Noon.
Be prepared to stay a bit after lunch for
some fun and games, etc.
Please RSVP to Susan Pollard at
office@meadowspc.org or
Cindy Dellinger at cdrenan25@gmail.com
by Monday, August 10th. If you have any
food allergies or restrictions, please let us
know so that we can hopefully accommodate.
Cindy and Susan*

BUILDING & GROUNDS SUMMER UPDATE

This summer has been a remarkably busy and productive season for Building & Grounds. Because our best window of opportunity for major projects comes when school is not in session, much of this work has had to happen quickly and all at once. If it has seemed like we have been working in a whirlwind, we have!

Thanks to careful planning, hard work, and generous support, several important improvements have already been completed around the church and school. These include a new church roof, repairs to the boiler line, a stamped concrete terrace, and fresh paint and new flooring in two classrooms. Each of these projects helps ensure that our facilities remain welcoming, functional, and well cared for.

We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of SABS, whose members have painted the old medical room and craft room and are installing new shelves in the youth room for everyone to use. These gifts of time, talent, and energy make a meaningful difference in how our rooms serve children, families, volunteers, and the church community.

Additionally, generous donors have helped provide a new dog waste station, install new light fixtures in the hallway, plant flowers, and repair asphalt, adding both beauty and practical care to our grounds. These contributions remind us that stewardship happens in many ways, from major building projects to small but important improvements that make daily life easier and more pleasant for all who come through our doors. We'd like to acknowledge that while the major projects have been church funded through your generosity, many have come through individual Memorial and designated gifts. Regardless of the source of funding, our committee plans diligently to make responsible, prudent financial decisions.

There is still more work ahead. We are continuing to plan for the replacement of very old electrical panel boxes, repairs to a hanging gutter, and painting eaves that are in need of attention. Individual team members have taken on the responsibility of researching, planning, and preparing the information needed to make these projects possible.

We share this information in a spirit of transparency and good stewardship. A sound church depends on the faithful care of both its property and the funds entrusted to it, and we want the membership to know that B&G takes this responsibility seriously. If you ever have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak with any B&G members. We welcome your inquiries. And if you have a heart for tending to our buildings and grounds, we invite you to join us in this important and rewarding work.

On behalf of our entire team, Ernie Anastasi, Winston Harmon, Jim Johnston, Mark Ragland, Whitley Rotgin, and Gaines Talbott, thanks for your support and your willingness to step around the occasional messes!

In His Service,

Barbara Crispens, Co-Chair B&G

WOMEN'S CORNER

Attention all women at Meadows!! Fall is just around the corner, and our coordinating team will begin planning activities for the coming year. We will be meeting soon to discuss some events that we hope will be of interest to all our women; young and young at heart, members and non-members alike. If there is something that is of special interest to you that you would like to see our women participate in, please feel free to contact any member of our coordinating team:

Linda Powell, Interim moderator

Janet Anastasi

Jean Campagna

Nina Johnston

Cheryl Pearson

Kathy Teague

If you notice, Linda Powell's name is followed by **"INTERIM"** moderator. That means when no one stepped forward two years ago to be moderator, she agreed to take it on an interim (temporary) basis. She would greatly appreciate someone coming forward and accepting that position. It is not hard and it is only as time consuming as the person doing the job lets it be. She will gladly work with you or even co-moderate. There are two former moderators that I'm sure would also help to answer any questions or concerns you may have. If you are interested, please contact Linda by text, phone or email at 434-996-5996, mrsbap@aol.com or any member of the coordinating team.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!!!!

Would you believe that the deadline for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is only a little over three months away!!! Now is a great time to begin buying or shopping for gifts for our annual collection. School supplies are a real bargain right now and stores are stocked with items for back to school. School supplies are some of the most popular items for Operation Christmas Child collection and this is a great time to get them at bargain prices. Get a jump start on your holiday shopping!!

You will be getting much more information in the following weeks highlighting Operation Christmas Child, so stay tuned and check your email regularly for interesting facts about this wonderful ministry and how you might help it grow.

Speaking of helping, we are looking for someone who would like to help with OCC this year. If you are interested in helping with promoting and advertising this mission at Meadows, please call, email, or text Linda Powell at 434-996-5996, or mrsbap@aol.com.



Mark your calendar for the **Sunday School**
Kickoff Breakfast on Sunday, September 13th
at
9:15 am. More info to come!!



Outreach at Rivanna River Encampments

PACEM has been working intensively with other groups to develop a response plan to offer support to the residents of the river encampment. The City has set September 1 as the encampment closure date. PACEM has developed a Needs Assessment survey to learn the housing, shelter, and health needs of the encampment residents. **Our team, along with clinicians from UVa Heath, will be surveying residents M-F, July 20—31.** We'll be out there in the mornings and evenings, accompanied by City staff and volunteers who will operate kiosks/help desk tents to bolster support. Our goals:

- ☐ Provide accurate information to residents about the City's plan and ensure residents can connect with City staff if they have questions
- ☐ Build rapport with residents and establish connection with the homeless service system and its providers
- ☐ Learn the housing, shelter, and health needs of the residents, as well as their views on utilizing PACEM and The Haven's shelter services
- ☐ Meet any immediate needs of residents, such as food, medical care, or transportation to reconnect with family
- ☐ Connect residents to ongoing support to help them resolve their homelessness as soon as possible
- ☐ Gather encampment data to inform any long-term strategies for encampment resolution throughout the Charlottesville region.

PACEM will deliver the results of the survey to the decision-makers to inform them about the shelter and housing needs of unhoused residents, so that they can target resources towards appropriate and supportive shelter and housing interventions.

Additionally, the Department of Human Services will continue to engage with residents throughout August to help them problem-solve and connect with services before September 1. The City is also considering opening a temporary shelter to assist residents. We won't know if that will be available before we begin our efforts, but we should know by the end of the month.

We are grateful to have so many partners and supporters to bring this community plan together. Blue Ridge Health District is supplying hygiene items. The City is offering water and toiletry bags. First Presbyterian is supplying gift cards. We are still in need of a few items, such as bug spray, anti-itch cream, and ponchos. If you'd like to donate supplies or volunteer at the help desk kiosk, please email me at cindy@pacemshelter.org to learn specifics. If you'd like to contribute towards the effort, please donate here— <https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/8ddbfb89-d201-4aea-b8c3-a859c5fab58>

Cindy Preuett Chambers, Deputy Director
PACEM

Charlottesville Community Bible Study Held at Meadows Presbyterian Church

Held both locally and all around the world, Community Bible Study (CBS) works to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ through caring, in-depth Bible study available to all. Participants receive a lesson book with weekly home study questions and each week participate in small-group discussions and hear a large-group teaching lecture.

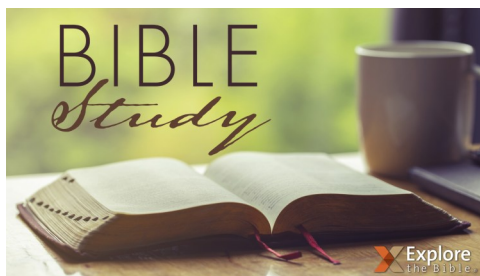
Women's Class

There are several different options for women's classes in our area; one of them meets at Meadows on Monday evenings from 6:45 – 8:15 pm during the school year. All women's classes will study *Daniel* (12 weeks); *Job* (6 weeks); and *Christian Living*, which includes *Philemon*, 1, 2, 3 *John*, and *Jude* (12 weeks) for a total of 30 weeks. The Monday evening class is almost full currently, so if you are interested in registering, please visit

<https://charlottesvillewomen.cbsclass.org/> as soon as possible and select "Register Now" in the upper right-hand corner. You can also speak with CBS core group leader, Karen Zimmerman, for more information.

Men's Class

The men's group also meets at Meadows on Monday evenings from 6:45 to 8:15 pm. during the school year. The study begins in September with a six-week study of *James* and then continues with *Genesis*. The men's class also offers an online option. If you are interested in registering, please visit our website—<https://charlottesvillleeve.cbsclass.org/>—and select "Register Now" in the upper right-hand corner. For more information about the men's class you can also speak with CBS teaching director Ron Sykes at 434-987-8261.



Feeding the Flock

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

Peanut Butter Fudge

3 C sugar	1 1/2 C peanut butter
2/3 C milk	1 7oz jar marshmallow crème
3/4 C margarine	1 t vanilla

Mix sugar, milk and margarine. Bring to a rolling boil. Boil for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add peanut butter, marshmallow crème and vanilla. Beat until well blended. Pour into a buttered 9 x 13 x 2-inch pan and cool.

Sharlet Massie

,

CHARLES' CORNER

"For the Living of These Days"

I Hope...

I hope...

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

But I hope.

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

I hope...

Because I trust in God 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 my life together as 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 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..."



Now You Know!!

August is the eighth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and one of seven months containing 31 days. In the Southern Hemisphere August is equivalent to February in the Northern Hemisphere.

The month received its name in honor of Augustus, founder of the Roman Empire and its first Emperor, ruling from 27 BC until his death in 14 AD. August was originally given the Latin name Sextilis because it was the sixth month in the original ten-month Roman calendar.

Under this calendar March was the first month of the year. About 700 BC it fell to its present eighth place when King Numa Pompilius added the months of January and February and gave August 29 days. About 45 BC Julius Caesar, who gave us the Julian calendar, added two additional days to August giving it its present length of 31 days.

The birth flowers of August are gladiolus and poppy which symbolizes beauty, love, strength of character, marriage, and family. The birthstones of the month of August are peridot, sardonyx, and spinel.

**MEADOWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES
For the Year 2026**

	Budget 2026	June	Year to Date	Remaining	50.00%
REVENUE					
Pledges, Enve-	\$405,000.00	\$21,470.75	\$266,403.31	\$138,596.69	65.78%
Loose Plate	\$60,000.00	\$8,551.72	\$118,064.88	(\$58,064.88)	196.77%
Building Use	\$31,000.00	\$0.00	\$28,943.00	\$2,057.00	93.36%
Interest Income	\$42,000.00	\$1,996.94	\$20,289.05	\$21,710.95	48.31%
Unrealized Gains & Losses on Invest-	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$136.75)	\$136.75	n/a
Gains & Losses on Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,067.93	(\$4,067.93)	n/a
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,011.25	(\$3,011.25)	n/a
TOTAL REVENUE	\$538,000.00	\$32,019.41	\$440,642.67	\$97,357.33	81.90%
EXPENSES					
CHRISTIAN OUT-	\$105,400.00	\$11,558.49	\$28,757.96	\$76,642.04	27.28%
CHRISTIAN EDU-	22,150.00	\$1,264.28	4,942.01	17,207.99	22.31%
WORSHIP	8,850.00	\$496.66	3,353.56	5,496.44	37.89%
FELLOWSHIP	4,635.00	\$178.90	1,293.07	3,341.93	27.90%
BUILDINGS &	103,600.00	\$43,880.81	93,079.06	10,520.94	89.84%
OFFICE ADMIN-	43,850.00	\$1,975.66	17,868.83	25,981.17	40.75%
NURTURE	5,450.00	\$0.00	40.53	5,409.47	0.74%
CONGREGATION-	1,300.00	\$0.00	150.00	1,150.00	11.54%
PERSONNEL	497,567.00	\$25,431.54	179,168.88	318,398.12	36.01%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$792,802.00	\$84,786.34	\$328,653.90	\$464,148.10	41.45%
FRADULENT EX-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,694.49	(\$4,694.49)	
TOTAL EXPENS-	\$792,802.00	\$84,786.34	\$333,348.39	\$459,453.61	
TOTAL REVENUE	(\$254,802.00)	(\$52,766.93)	\$107,294.28	(\$362,096.28)	

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Barclay	August 2nd	Vicki Schwab	August 17th
Helen Landel	August 4th	Heather Lindsay	August 18th
Rick Gangloff	August 4th	Charles Weiglein	August 21st
Matthew Goodrich	August 8th	Cynthia Swift	August 23rd
Winston Harmon	August 8th	Joseph Burrus	August 24th
Sarah White	August 10th	Harris Kindrick III	August 26th
Thomas Wilson	August 12th	Gaines Talbott	August 30th
Gus Hamre	August 15th		
Mason Lees	August 15th		



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

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