

A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS' OFFICE

No Shutdown to the Blessings of the Lord

Pastor Danny Myers

It is October of 2020. We are 10 months into what most will call an unforgettable and even historic year. This year has now become the tag line of many jokes, multiple challenges, and disordered lives. However, when things seem chaotic God is ever clear. The work of God is undoubtedly revealed. Consider what great things the Lord has done in the midst of global hardships. To be more specific, Smyrna Presbyterian Church has been the recipient of many of these great things. Consider for a moment the blessings of God in the past 12 months of our church.

Beginning with the nursery and children's ministry we have seen an exponential growth in children attending. This has been most clearly seen as King's Kids, which ranges from children 4 to 11 years old, has been split into 2 different groups because of the increase. Our nursery, likewise, continues to grow by God's grace as many in our congregation have had children, and more on the way (praise the Lord!). The youth ministry has also increased drastically. We went from having 12-14 youth students to looking at a range from 20-25. This increase in youth (and volunteers to work with them) have given the opportunity to split the youth ministry into middle and high school groups. Grace upon grace has been shown to us by the Lord.

Our "Women of the Word" Women's Bible Study was at max capacity last year before the shutdown. While the in-person attendance for bible study is down as they resume this fall, the shutdown experience opened up a virtual option to be used, giving the new opportunity for more women to be involved in the study this fall than before. Like the women, the Men's Ministry has resumed the once-a-month large group gathering and small groups meetings throughout the month with greater participation than before and increased fervor to gather together and study.

What has been demonstrated again and again is that when we focus not on the problems of the world but on the provision of the Lord, his work is evident. In the midst of a shutdown and concerns for those meeting for corporate worship, God has demonstrated grace in that we have had no outbreaks here and no significant challenges to attending worship. Our greatest challenge of late is where to place all the attenders in a socially distanced seating arrangement (what a blessed problem to have!). Not only are we able to meet in person, but we are having a New Member's Class which has an average of 16 people that want to know more about the church and explore church membership.

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All of this and more continues to be the experience of Smyrna Presbyterian Church during a time in which the world is experiencing loss. In some ways it reminds us of how Paul considers what he counted loss versus what he counted as gain. Paul said the things of this world, the accomplishments, the awards, the prestige of the world was loss but to have Christ and Him alone was gain. That is a powerful reminder to us that when we hold onto Christ, or better yet as Christ holds onto us, we experience gain. The church my, brothers and sisters, is growing in the midst of chaos and some might say persecution.

We should not be surprised for this has been the pattern since the early church. Luke records for us that at the time of great persecution the church was scattered. One would expect to find that the church suffered a great loss in membership and even momentum. However, that is not what Luke records. Rather the church grew because those who were scattered went about preaching the Word. The principle that we see is that the persecution of the church leads to her growth not her loss. It's the principle that Jesus taught us when He says, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." It is the same promise that David records for us in Psalm 23 "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." The choice we have as a church is whether or not we trust in the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Sovereign God or do we trust in man. May I encourage us all with the great reminder that there is no place and there is no circumstance in which our God is not enthroned as King. It allows for us to take comfort and confidence that wherever God is so shall His promises be found to be true. May God continue to bless us as a church as we seek to be faithful to the call He has placed upon us in the worship and work of the ministry of the gospel of grace.

Wednesday Night In Person & Online Devotion & Prayer

Smyrna Pres is continuing it's Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Time on-line & in person. Pastor Joel is hosting weekly meetings at the church and Zoom calls in an effort to connect the church body while we are apart. Join us in the choir room or at home online **Wednesday nights from 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm**. All meeting details and reminders for this gathering are sent by email. If you would like to be added to the list, please email info@smyrnapres.org. We'd love to have you join!



CHURCH NEWS

Lord's Day Service

Smyrna Pres continues to offer in person and virtual worship on the Lord's day at 11:00a.m. Please remember there are measures in place to limit person-to-person contact. You can find more in-depth information on our web-site. If you plan to worship by watching the live-stream or through the Listen Line (712-432-3410, church code 04410). You can also find the service on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Sermon Audio. Links to all of them can be found on our website's Live-stream Page <https://www.smyrnapres.org/live-stream>.

Appreciation

Mark and Pat Jackson want to thank you for your support of their daughter Molly and her wedding on September 28th. The Jacksons look forward to an opportunity to celebrate together with you at a later time.

Men's Fall Fellowship

The next Men's Fall Fellowship Gathering & Retreat is scheduled for Friday, October 23rd at the Thelen's Lake House, 5225 Dawn Drive, Acworth, GA. Special guest Dr. David Hall will be speaking at 7:30p.m. Joint us for this great night out with our brothers in Christ.

King's Kids Children's Ministry

King's Kids will meet Wednesday, October 7th from 5:45 to 7:30p.m. for food, fellowship & fun!! Please RSVP by Monday, October 5th.



Rev. Jean Jacob Paul

Thank you Smyrna Pres for partnering with Reformation Hope to assist Rev. Jean Jacob Paul's family. Your support of \$7,545 enabled Reformation Hope to assume the costs of all funeral expenses in Haiti and in United States, repatriation of Jean's remains, and ongoing support for Jean's widow, Jocelyne.

Operation Christmas Child

We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again. OCC is also known as the "shoebox ministry" Children around the world receive these shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items along with materials that introduce the Gospel message. There are two ways that you can choose to participate. You should choose the method that you believe is safe for you.

Option 1: The boxes, envelopes, and a general information sheet will be available for pick up beginning on Sunday, October 11th on a table in the foyer. Completed boxes should be returned to the church on Sunday, November 15th after the morning worship service.

Option 2: The second option is to purchase your box, items for the box and shipping for the box all online through the Samaritan's Purse website. The shopping and shipping is handled for you. You just pay the charge. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pat Jackson at ptjackson@bellsouth.net.

Grocery Shopping Help

If you or a member of our church community that you know is more at risk of sickness and needs someone to shop & deliver groceries for them we'd like to help. We can connect you with a volunteer shopper. Call Caroline Wesley at 205-601-8818 or email caroline.n.wesley@gmail.com. Please have cash or check available to reimburse your volunteer shopper.

October 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	1
4 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	5	6 Women of the Word In Person 10 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7 to 8:00 p.m.	7 King's Kids & Youth Meeting 5:45pm-7:30pm Devotion & Prayer 6:45pm- 7:30pm	8	9	10
11 PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	12	13 Women of the Word In Person 10 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7 to 8:00 p.m.	14 In Person Youth Ministry 6:15pm Devotion & Prayer 6:45 pm- 7:30pm	15	16	17
18 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship Service	19	20 Women of the Word In Person 10:00 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	21 In Person Youth Ministry 6:15pm Devotion & Prayer 6:45 pm- 7:30pm	22	23 SPC Men's Gathering & Retreat - Thelen's Lake House, Acworth, GA	24
25 11:00 a.m. In Person & Livestream Worship	26	27 Women of the Word In Person 10 to 11:30 am & Zoom Virtual 7 to 8:00 p.m.	28 In Person Youth Ministry 6:15pm Devotion & Prayer 6:45 pm- 7:30pm	29	30	31

NOTE: Many events & activities outside of the 11 a.m. worship will be canceled/postponed until further notice. Some may be offered virtually.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

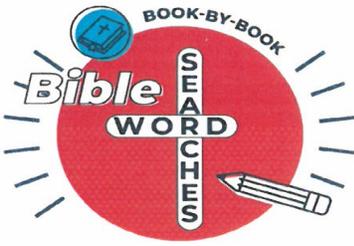
- 1 Tansy Ridings
- 2 Stefanie Smit
- 2 Walter Williamson
- 3 Thomas Hester
- 3 Livi Powell
- 4 Mary Hamby
- 4 Karen Kee
- 7 Eryn Ridings
- 7 James Wesley
- 9 Bonnie Haynes
- 9 Adam Stiles
- 10 Josh Fogarty
- 10 Peter Smit
- 11 Stella Fogarty
- 12 Keller Lee
- 12 Madison Smith
- 13 Ken DeHaas
- 14 Howard Campbell
- 16 Brenda Wilkes
- 18 Harper Myers
- 21 Buddy Kelly
- 21 Caroline Wesley
- 22 Amelia Becker
- 22 Mark Jackson
- 24 Virginia Johnston
- 24 David Owen
- 26 Leslie Boyd
- 27 Meredith Myers
- 28 Katelyn Kelly
- 30 Henry Katrek
- 30 Walker Stiles

Monthly Scripture



Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:25-27, 33



PHILIPPIANS



ORDER IN THE BIBLE
NT: #11



WRITTEN BY:
Apostle Paul



TIME PERIOD COVERED:
60 AD to 62 AD

OVERVIEW

This book begins with Apostle Paul describing his imprisonment and situation in Rome. He wrote his letter to the Philippians, and three other epistles, while under house arrest.

Paul did not write the Philippians to address a crisis, as he did with other letters. He wrote to express his appreciation for the believers in the church of Philippi, which some scholars believe was his most supportive church.



Circle the **BOLD** words in the puzzle.

Paul's **PRAYER** is that the love in the church of Philippi would **ABOUND** (1:9)

Although some **PREACH** Christ with bad motives, there are those that preach with **GOODWILL** (1:15)

Paul counsels us to be **LIKEMINDED** having the same love, spirit, and mind (2:2)

At the name of Jesus Christ, every knee shall bend in **HEAVEN**, on earth, and under the **EARTH** (2:10)

Work out your salvation in fear and **TREMBLING** (2:12)

Through prayer, present your **REQUESTS** to God (4:6)

PEACE will keep your **HEARTS** and **MINDS** in Christ Jesus (4:7)

Paul presses on toward the **PRIZE** which God has in Heaven (3:14)

S	G	D	A	R	E	Q	U	E	S	T	S
C	S	U	G	L	O	R	Y	O	G	H	P
S	L	H	P	E	A	C	E	S	L	U	A
T	I	E	M	I	N	D	S	L	C	R	G
R	K	A	R	Q	I	H	I	E	E	N	V
E	E	R	V	G	T	W	Z	Y	I	Z	A
N	M	T	H	R	D	I	A	L	K	N	B
G	I	S	A	O	R	R	B	A	E	F	O
T	N	E	O	P	P	M	J	V	H	C	U
H	D	G	Y	Y	E	I	A	P	G	U	N
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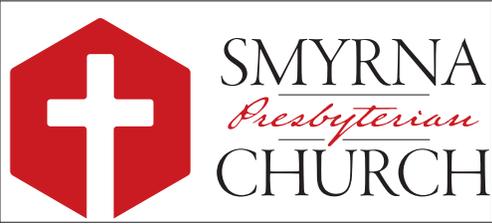
I can do all things through Christ who gives me **STRENGTH** (4:13)

God will meet all your needs according to His riches and **GLORY** (4:19)

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Find us on social media!





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED