

RE-MEMBERSHIP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



On Easter the same power that was in Christ when he rose from the dead rose up new members for us! One was raised up in the church, one married into it, one was invited to visit a year ago, one found us through internet worship seeking, one came in the views and joined us via Zoom. Along with these members, two children came "officially in", and have caused us to rejoice that we now need to split our one room Sunday School into two! YAY!

It is indeed unique – and a sign of this church's ability to move forward into the future, that we have received our first Zoom member. But once the novelty has worn off, we find that all our new members are remarkable in already living into their vows! They attend church EVERY Sunday. They support the church. And! And! Even before their vows were taken they were answering their calling as part of the body of Christ to FULL participation. Alex, although shut-in and in Staunton, participates in the Card Ministry and Bible Study. Morgan and Diana came forward as rotating Sunday School teachers – just at the time the Sunday School was expanding. Tim immediately became part of the Green Team, and Jeanne sings in the choir and serves as a liturgist. By their time, talent, and treasure, they are living into their

vows. This is not only their doing, but the model of the membership of Madison Presbyterian Church.



The Presbyterian Church USA has a high view of membership. In our time, the category of "inactive member" was removed on the theological principal that there is no such thing! There is only "do or do

not". This season of rebirth and resurrection is a good time to review our participation in the fellowship of believers. Our constitution at G-1.0304 helps us to embrace

#### this Priesthood of All Believers:

"Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be **involved responsibly in the ministry** of Christ's Church.

Such involvement includes:

proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social
relationships of life,
working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,



caring for God's creation,

participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful."

Your session has the charge to commend to you regularly the commitment to re-member your membership. In this season of growth, I hope that you will make sure your roots are deep and that your upward growth stretches for the Son.

Please let me know if you would like to process this further in conversation. It is my joy to walk with you!

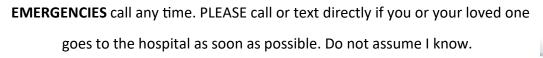
Blessings,

Pastor Karen

#### **Pastor Karen Contact Information**

My cell is 540-414-3193 Saturday through Thursday 9am-7pm.

My Sabbath is Friday. Emergencies only on Fridays, please.







Office hours M, W, Th from 9 to noon AND when you want to see me. I am HAPPY to make afternoon, evening or weekend appointments. My time will flex to accommodate you.

If you want to drop by to see me instead of making an appointment, I will always be glad to see you. Just know you may have to wait if someone else has scheduled time.



#### Donna Kulesza, Church Administrator

I am in the office 8:00am-1:00pm Monday through Thursday. Please leave me a message on the phone or send an email if there's anything I can help with. If you have changes to your Address, Phone, or Email please send updated information to office@madisonpresbyterian.com.



### Madison Presbyterian Church

PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James (<u>150298</u>) Synod: Mid-Atlantic (<u>150</u>)



Mulching Team: Heidi Sage, Allan and Mary Linda McClearen, Beth Kloker, Nick & Joyce Humphrey, Bob Bernard, Jeanne Bruton, George and Bobbié Carroll, Dana Edelman, Bill Pattie, Tim Woodward, Valerie and Jose Cruz, Mary and Frank Not pictured: King. Heidi Sage and Mary King



# 2023 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Recipients



#### Making Miracles Group Home Phase II Group Home

makingmiraclesgrouphome.org Tallahassee, Florida \$150,000

Making Miracles Group Home (MMGH) helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration and early motherhood—a repeating pattern that is difficult to break and overcome. Since its inception in 2010, MMGH has served over 100 women and their children by providing a one-year, live-in program designed to support young mothers and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children.

Current eligibility criteria require residents to be pregnant and/or have a single child up to age three, but mothers who have a single child older than age three or multiple children often seek help. With the Birthday Offering grant, MMGH will purchase a second group home to serve an additional five families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. With loving support and tools to establish stable, permanent housing, these families can look forward to a hopeful and successful future.

#### Berhane Yesus Elementary School Kindergarten School Construction

berhane-yesus.info Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia \$99,400

Berhane Yesus Elementary School, located in the western highlands of Ethiopia, seeks to change lives by sharing the "Light of Jesus" and by providing the best possible educational experience for the children of Dembi Dollo. Berhane Yesus provides children with the possibility of a better future by preparing them for a rigorous high school education and a life of Christian service. The school is the first entry point to education for children of subsistence farmers, migrant workers and displaced groups of people.

This K-8th grade school has been serving the community and been a part of the Presbyterian Church in this rural community since 1921. A kindergarten was added to the school in 2012, but with no available space for class, the children met in the chapel. Over the years the number of kindergarten students has increased and now space of their own is not only needed but is required by the government to remain open. Western Wollega Bethel Synod provided land for the classroom and the Birthday Offering grant will provide all necessary funding for its construction.

## It's Birthday Month for Presbyterian Women!

Are you a Presbyterian woman? If your answer was YES then you are correct; because if you are a woman and Presbyterian you are a member of the Presbyterian Women. May is the Birthday month of PW and the special offering that is taken helps groups in the United States and other countries. Nonprofits apply for aid and 2 are chosen each year. These have been spot-lighted in the bulletin insert. This offering will be collected during the month of May. Please make your checks to Madison PW and place in Sharon Weakley's mail box in the Fellowship Hall.



## **Easter Sunday 2023**













#### **Counters May-June 2023**

#### May 2023 June 2023

Nick Humphrey Joan Corbin

Joyce Humphrey Eli Johnson

**The Card Group** makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound, and for other occasions. They will meet Friday, May 5th, May 12th, and May 26th in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

The Brown Bag Book Study meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Tack Room at 11:00am for lively discussions and follow with our brown bag (or whatever color you like) lunch. They are reading Low Anthropology by David Zahl. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bobbie Carroll 540-948-9922.

**CHOIR** practices every Wednesday at 7PM

**Presbyterian Women** meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10AM

**Breakfast Buzz** meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 9AM

**Bible Study** 10am Thursdays in the Tack Room studying the Book of Matthew. Let Pastor Karen know if you'd like a Zoom link.



#### **Communion Servers and Pew Guide**

| May 7th        | June 4th     |
|----------------|--------------|
| Cindy Pattie   | Jean Pearson |
| Dudley Pattie  | Frank King   |
| Allan McLearen | Art Pearson  |



#### **Social Services Needs**

#### May Needs of the Month

Single serving size canned vegetables, fruits, meats or soups with pop-up lids, packs of pudding or Jello cups, crackers, small jars of peanut butter & jelly or packs of raisins.

Please place your donations in the red container in the Fellowship Hall.

Items will be taken to Madison Social Services to help neighbors in need.

# Madison Presbyterian Church Outreach Team will be set up at the Madison Business Expo



#### MADISON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Presents: The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual MADISON BUSINESS EXPO

Thursday, MAY 19, 2022 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Madison Volunteer Fire Co. North Main Street

#### May 6, 2023 MADISON DAY

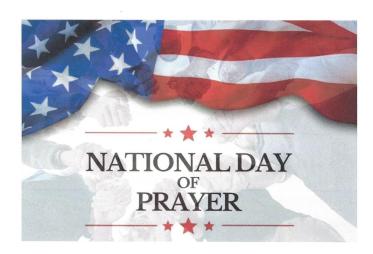
Matthew 25.75 40

Putting love into action through service



#### Child's Life

Instrumental in Housing and Feeding Ukrainian children in their Romanian facility. Details to follow in the next Focus and Bulletin



WORSHIP \* FELLOWSHIP \* MINISTRY EXPO \*\*Free food & drink\*\*

#### **MADISON LIBRARY LAWN**

THURSDAY, MAY 4TH
NOON TO LATE AFTERNOON

FEATURING WORSHIP LED BY
THE FREEDOM WORSHIP BAND

Come join in the picnic atmosphere as we turn our hearts and minds to God in prayer, worship, and love.

For more information you may contact Susanapel1997@gmail.com

Breakfast Buzz Friday May 19th 9:00 a.m.

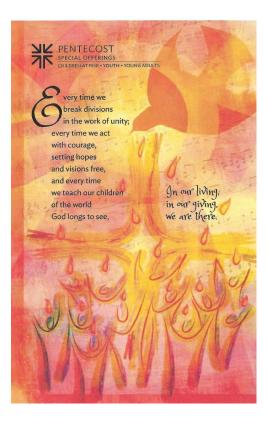


#### What is happening at Montpelier?

Mary Minkoff, Assistant Director of Archeology and Curator of Archaeological Collections at Montpelier will speak to us. History is being unveiled and we are here to see it. Whether you paid attention in history class or not this is an excellent opportunity to find out more about our very own area history.

Join us for a morning of fellowship and history.





Five churches in Presbytery of the James have been certified as Earth Care Congregations by the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2024. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

The congregations are:

- Westminster Church, Charlottesville
- Madison Church, Madison
- Bon Air Church, Richmond
- Second Church, Richmond
- The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg

This status speaks to the serious commitment that these congregations have made to care for God's earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, congregations affirm an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care

Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

#### Earth Care Pledge



Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

- 1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
- 2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
- 3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
- 4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.



Giving Statements for the 1st Quarter of 2023 are in the Narthex. Please contact Donna if you have any questions regarding your statement.

#### **May Anniversaries**

Frank & Mary King May 25 Sam & Susan Strahan May 31

# CAMP HANCYER

There are brochures in the Fellowship Hall with more information on Camp Hanover summer camps. Or visit their website at www.camphanover.org. The Presbytery of the James is offering \$30 towards tuition.

#### **Camperships Available from Madison Presbyterian Women**

Attention all prospective church campers:

As you or your parents may have read in The Focus for April, our Presbytery will provide \$30 toward the cost of attending Camp Hanover this summer. Our Presbyterian Women (PW) also have funds available. We maintain The Edelman Campership Fund, which was initiated years ago through the generosity of Dana and the late Carol Edelman, to help Madison Presbyterian families with the cost of attending a church camp. Information about Camp Hanover is available on the table in the fellowship hall. If you would like to request a campership, PW can offer up to \$100 per camper as needed. Please contact Sharon Weakley, PW treasurer, <a href="mailto:syweakley@gmail.com">syweakley@gmail.com</a>.



Madison Presbyterian Church 1236 Fishback Road Madison, VA 22727 540.948.6972 www.madisonpresbyterian.com Church Administrator: Donna Kulesza

office@madisonpresbyterian.com

Pastor: Karen Allamon

pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 – 1:00



Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 7 Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14 Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 14 Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21 Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 21 Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11 Day of Pentecost—May 28 Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21 John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39