



The View

Madison Presbyterian Church

April 2024

Free Will is a Thing, Right?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over Lent my computer went the way of all flesh. Oh, I had been having problems with it for some time, but I didn't think they were problems with the computer (i DIDnT tHiNK tHeY weRE pRoBlemS WiTh tHe COmPuTer).

I thought they were problems with a program, or a bug, or a new device I was trying to use. You know what it was? As Taylor Swift sings, "It's me. Hi. I'm the problem, it's me."

See, I had forgotten how long I had that computer. I had the memory replaced recently and I guess I thought it'd get another 100,000 miles. Recently? No, Karen. I had the memory replaced *about 5 years ago*. And the computer itself? Probably had it at least 8 years, maybe 10. Now you can pontificate on "built in obsolescence," but the fact is I needed to be MORE AWARE of what was happening day to day. There were clues of the "downward spiral" of that old work horse.

More ridiculous, I felt absolutely at a loss to do the things I normally do because I have grown used to "thinking through my fingers". Planning worship, writing sermons, answering email.

I took the old computer to a shop, where the single technician/owner was named Gabriel, and he wore a ball cap that said "My lifeguard walks on water." (I swear I am not making this up.) He got me into a new computer, with our office manager Heidi on him like white on rice to get it done!

It made me think, how many of our "I cant's" with God are simply about what we're used to? How much of our anxiety is misplaced on technology? And our dependence? These are good questions. I think it is good to take a break from technology once in a while. But I want to do it on my terms, God!

Always wrestling with the free will, right? Always looking for something else to blame than the possibility that our computer...ideas...practice...no longer works. Time has moved on, and nothing is where we left it 8 years ago.

More Awareness. More turning to God first. More willingness to understand sometimes there just has to be a new thing. As scripture says, "Now it springs forth, do we not perceive it?" All those Bible folk had to learn to do new things. And many of them said, "I can't". Some of them said, "I don't want to." And those that said, "I won't" or "that's not necessary" got caught in frogs and locusts or a big ole' flood, respectively.

Do I think God made my computer die? Like sending frogs to Pharoah? No, I don't. I know from scripture it rains on the just and the unjust. I know from scripture that everything is subject to decay. But I do think that if I had "practiced the pause" and simply took a breath to see the big picture, I might not have gotten caught at Lent without my keyboard!

Where are your frustrations right now? What are you overlooking in your eagerness to keep on keeping on? Where is God in all that? Pause and think about your big picture. God is good, and while you may not get a Gabriel to solve your problems, you might end up entertaining angels unaware as you make your way through to the new thing God is doing.

Your sister in the journey,

Pastor Karen



Advice from Odie

A note from the Associate Pastor

"If it falls on the floor, eat it. I do it all the time and I'm fine. I'm just trying to be an Earth Care Congregation Helper and not let anything go to waste. See you Sunday!"

Pastor Karen Contact Information



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

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



EMERGENCIES call any time. PLEASE call or text directly if you or your loved one goes to the hospital, as soon as possible. Do not assume I know.



2024			
January	February	March	April
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30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31

In the Office 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



Heidi Piper, 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.



*2024 Flower Calendars
are posted in the Narthex.
Send flower dedications for the
bulletin to
office@madisonpresbyterian.com
or call the office at (540)948-6972.*



Madison Presbyterian Church

PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James ([150298](#)) Synod: Mid-Atlantic ([150](#))

Pastor Bear's Page

Pastor Bear sits very quietly in Pastor Karen's office, but does anyone know his humble beginnings? We start with where PB started. He met Pastor Karen in upper New York, but after a while they decided it was just too, too cold. So they moved to Georgia for some time in the warmth, but maybe too, too warm south. Next was a move to Staunton, VA, which was nice, but not perfect. Then came the call to Madison, VA, which is just about right, because it's on the sunny side of the mountains.

Now, as I said, PB sits very quietly on the shelf in PK's office, but wanted to do more things. Not that he doesn't appreciate the visitors in the office, but he wants to know what his friends are doing and learn more about what's going on here in our Church. He may go walk about occasionally, so watch for him, and maybe help him learn something about the Church. He has lots of questions, so I hope when you see him you'll help answer his questions.

Pastor Bear will be sending you a news page every month with puzzles, jokes, and cool stuff he's learned. Also he may have pictures of where he's been and who he's met.

Why couldn't they play cards on the Ark?

Did you know???

The top five ice cream flavors are:

- Vanilla
- Chocolate
- Cookies & Cream
- Mint Chocolate Chip
- Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

I'm noticing a trend here!



Answer: Because Noah was
standing on the deck!



Stewardship Team Meeting

April 2nd at 6pm

Cheerful Giver

As you have heard, this is the theme for Stewardship for 2024.

As 2 Corinthians 9:7 says: "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

May we all be cheerful givers; to our church, community and world.

The Stewardship Team is having a meeting **April 2nd at 6pm**. We will be working on the plans for the Stewardship Team Picnic on May 19th right after worship. There will be a sign up sheet for what you want to bring and how many are planning to attend. At our meeting on April 2nd we will work on any other plans for the picnic. Also, we will be discussing other plans for the year.

The purpose of the Stewardship Team is to educate the congregation of the meaning of Stewardship. That stewardship is not only financial contributions to the church; that it is also giving of your time and talents to the church, community and world. One of the ways we have been utilizing is A Minute for Stewardship given by members of the church.

All are invited to attend our meeting on April 2nd. You do not have to be a member of the team and you will not be committed to join the team (even though we would love to have you). We are looking forward to ideas. If you cannot attend the meeting we would still be grateful for your ideas for 2024. Any ideas can be put in the Stewardship Team box or emailed to the church or any member of the team.

Thank you!

Team: Sharon Weakley (leader), Bill Pattie, Mary King



Breakfast Buzzzzzzzzzz



The March 15th Breakfast Buzz was very successful. Guest speaker, John Seymour, RPh, gave us a lot of information to think about as we ponder our role in our own medical treatment and drugs. We had the largest attendance so far with 30 members and friends.



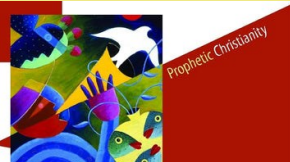
Friday April 19th at 9:00 a.m. - ONLINE SAFETY



Valerie McLearn, Graduate of Virginia Tech and passionate about all things computer, will present a discussion of many of the most common threats faced online today and how to best protect ourselves from those threats. Join us to learn how and what you can do to stay out of trouble on our computers.

Join us for a pot luck breakfast and stay for a time of learning.

Brown Bag Book Study



Shalom and the Community of Creation

An Indigenous Vision

Randy S. Woodley

We meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11 am in the Tack Room. Our current book is *Shalom and the Community of Creation (An Indigenous Vision)* by Randy S. Woodley. (We began discussions on February 21 and will continue through June.)

We welcome any and all who would like to join us!

Contact Bobbie Carroll if you have any questions. 540-948-9922

Kids Just Want To Have Fun!

Pictured: Abigail, Logan, Paisley, Eliza, Elizabeth (*behind Logan*), Jack, Hudson, William, and Owen.



A Beautiful Day to play outdoors!



Many thanks to Bobbie Carroll, Joyce Humphrey, and Elizabeth Ann Storey for the new Holy Week banner!

The Madison Choral Society
presents



A Symphonic Choral Suite Based on Familiar Traditional Hymns

Ethan Wagner, Director

Friday, April 12, 2024

7:30 P.M.

Orange Baptist Church
Orange, VA

Sunday, April 14, 2024

4:30 P.M.

Mt. Carmel Church
Haywood, VA

Free Admission

SAVE THE DATE



A festival
OF HYMNS

THE HARTLAND COLLEGE CHOIR IN CONCERT

Joined by Madison Choral Society
for select pieces

Friday, May 17, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Madison County High School
68 Mountaineer Lane Madison, Virginia

Benefit: Literacy Council of Madison County &
Madison Free Clinic

Free admission - Donations gratefully accepted

Attention Women of the Church!



Join the Presbyterian Women for the 2023-2024 bible study, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. The bible study this year is titled Sacred Encounters - The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts. The study books are on the table outside the church office in the Fellowship Hall. Please pick up your book and either check your name off of the list or add your name to the list. This lets us know who to contact in case of any day or time changes. All are welcome, whether or not you have participated before!! Any questions contact Sharon Weakley.

Thank you!!

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.



Counters April 2023 - May 2024

April	May	June
Dana Edelman	Nick Humphrey	Joan Corbin
Art Pearson	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 meet Fridays (April 5, 12, and 26) in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

The Brown Bag Book Study meets the 1st (4/3) and 3rd (4/17) Wednesdays at 11AM. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Carroll at 540-948-9922.

Choir Practice meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Elizabeth Anne Storey with any questions.

Breakfast Buzz meets on the third Friday, April 19th, at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Women meet the 2nd Wednesday (4/10) each month at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Men meet each Tuesday at 9am in the Tack Room. All men welcome!

Bible Study TBD

April Communion Servers and Pew Guides

Sue Strahan	Dana Edelman
Jean Pearson	Frank King
Mike Willis	



On Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, **the outside ring is Wine, the inside is Juice.**

April Liturgists and Greeters

April 7	John Quinley	Harvey & Corrine Stanley
April 14	Beth Kloker	Linda Sadler
April 21	Jean Pearson	John & Christine Haines
April 28	George Carroll	John & Jill Quinley



Social Services Needs for Families for April

Needs of the Month: Toiletries & Cleaning Supplies



Dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, cleanser, deodorant, bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, and/or feminine hygiene products.

**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.**



April Birthdays

Bland Sadler 4/06
 Chris Dooley 4/07
 Judith Willis 4/07
 Mary Linda McLearn 4/17
 Diana Woodward 4/17
 Joseph Titman 4/18
 Mike Willis 4/24
 Art Pearson 4/29



April Anniversaries

Bob & Mary Haight 04/09 46 years
 Billy & Sandra Powell 04/20
 John & Christine Haines 04/24

The First Sunday of each month we collect a special offering for

5¢ a Meal.

Please consider contributing to this worthy cause in the effort to end hunger.



Breakfast Buzzzzzzzzzz

Join the Christian Education team for a pot luck Breakfast and Fellowship on Friday, April 19 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, as they welcome our own Valerie McLearn who will be discussing Online Safety. (See page 6 of this Newsletter for more information.)

All are Welcome and encouraged to attend.



Presbyterian Men's Group meets each Tuesday at 9:00am in the Tack Room. Bring your breakfast and enjoy some coffee and conversation.


All men are welcome!

Have something you would like to contribute to the Monthly Newsletter?

Send your articles, pictures, or information to Heidi in the church office at:

office@madisonpresbyterian.com



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APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>March 31, 2024 Worship 10am</p> <p>AA 5:30pm</p> <p><i>Easter Sunday</i></p> 	<p>April 1</p> <p>Pastor Karen on Vacation Heidi on Vacation (<i>office closed</i>)</p>	<p>2 Pres Men's Group 9am Stewardship 6pm</p>	<p>3 Readiness Team 10am Book Club 11am Choir 7pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Card Group 10am</p>	<p>6 Private Baby Shower 11a - 5p</p>
<p>7 Communion Worship 10am</p> <p>AA 5:30pm</p>	<p>8 Quilt Guild 6:30pm</p>	<p>9 Pres Men's Group 9am Session 6:30pm</p>	<p>10 Pres Women 10am Choir 7pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Card Group 10am</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Worship 10am</p> <p>AA 5:30pm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Pres Men's Group 9am</p>	<p>17 Book Club 11am Choir 7pm Woman's Club</p>	<p>18 Garden Club 11a</p>	<p>19 Breakfast Buzz 9am</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Worship 10am</p> <p>AA 5:30pm</p>	<p>22 Quilt Guild 6:30pm</p>	<p>23 Pres Men's Group 9am</p>	<p>24 Choir 7pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Card Group 10am</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Worship 10am</p> <p>AA 5:30pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Pres Men's Group 9am</p>	<p>May 1 Book Club 11am Choir 7pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Card Group 10am</p>	<p>4 Madison Quilt Guild 9a-3p</p>

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter : Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48

April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 8:26–40; Psalms 22:25–31; 1 John 4:7–21; John 15:1–8