



The Presbyterian Light

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J Do You Still Have



The June 2019 issue of The Presbyterian Light was focused on Joy. Camp Joy was in session as I wrote, with special needs campers and buddies enjoying a week of great fellowship and praising God hosted by the Lake Placid Camp & Conference Center. No Camp Joy this year in Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, and so far in North Carolina. High school and middle school camps have been canceled. Same with VBS. There is more, but you get the idea.

But, do you still have JOY? The answer to that question points us toward our source of joy. I do find much joy in gathering together, eating, singing, in relationship. Those are wonderful aspects of life that we enjoy. But they are not the source of my joy.

A Charles Wesley hymn begins: *“Praise the Lord who reigns above / And keeps his court below; Praise the holy God of love / And all his greatness show”*.

The earth has been in chaos. Our nation is in new chaos. There is not a lot producing or sustaining joy going on right now. But the Scriptures repeatedly point us to the true and ultimate source of our joy!

On Resurrection Day, as we worshiped online, or listening to our broadcast on WWOJ, we considered **1 Peter 1:8-9**. *“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”* That hasn’t changed!

James 1:2-3 tells us that God is at work and has purpose in all of this: *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”* That hasn’t changed!

This summer we will be considering the wisdom of God in the book of Proverbs for this time and for all times. **Proverbs 10:28** states: *“The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.”* That hasn’t changed!

Psalms 94:19 points clearly to the source of our joy: *“When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.”* That hasn’t changed!

Church, our hope and our joy are in the Lord!

The Elders, Deacons and staff rejoice in God’s faithfulness to His Church, and we rejoice in your faithfulness as well! Thank you for faithful prayers, giving and service.

Grace Ministry has had food distributions three times. (They are praying for and welcoming new ministry partners! Please check with Jan Barney.) We are

preparing to resume pickleball and to hold basketball and soccer camps. Communicants’ Class will be held July 20-24. A community food distribution will take place on June 22. Public worship is being held in the Genesis Center. A congregational meal will be held on June 24, with opportunity to share God’s faithfulness and care through these weeks of struggle. Elders are prayerfully looking to continue to open up ministries and welcome your prayers for wisdom in so doing.

Continue to pray for our community, nation and world! As we read in **Hosea 13:6** last Lord’s Day: *“So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.”* The joy that is ours in Christ is also the hope of the world! May we be salt and light, actively and positively living out the Gospel. Because that hasn’t changed!

In the powerful and changeless love of God in Christ
– Pastor Ray

Y?

By Pastor Ray





Grace for Today and Tomorrow

By Barbara Thayer



Grace is one of those words we hear often in the Christian faith. It means undeserved favor, mercy or kindness towards another, and we think of this when we think of God. We are saved by His grace...not because we deserved God's love and forgiveness but because He chose us before the foundation of the world to be His own through Christ our Lord (Ephesians 1:4). This is a type of love that the world cannot comprehend.

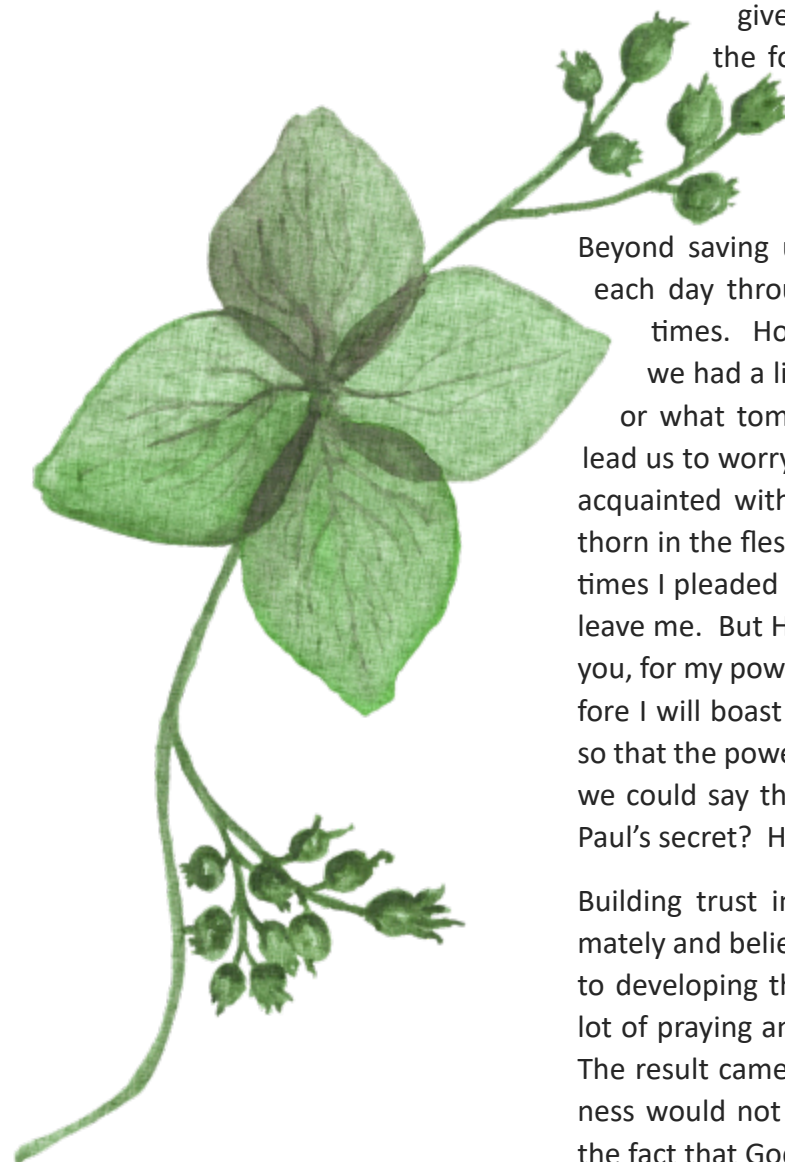
Beyond saving us, God provides grace for us to face each day through its hardships as well as the good times. However, there are times when we wish we had a little more information about the future or what tomorrow might bring our way. This can lead us to worry or anxiety. Even the Apostle Paul was acquainted with this concern when he dealt with his thorn in the flesh. 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 tells us: "Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Oh that we could say this when we fall into trials! So what is Paul's secret? He trusted God.

Building trust in God comes from knowing Him intimately and believing that He is good. Prayer is one key to developing that relationship. Obviously, Paul did a lot of praying and crying out to God over his affliction. The result came when the Lord answered him. His illness would not go away, but he found reassurance in the fact that God's power would be made perfect in his

weakness. Paul could go on knowing that the grace of God would be sufficient for him.

In addition to prayer, we can drive out our doubts and worries by knowing the Word of God. Do we read it every day? We should because it reveals to us God's character and all that we need to know to lead a godly life. Jesus said in John 15:15: "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." Jesus knew the Father's innermost thoughts. Through the pages of the Bible we are given the revelation of God. It gives us our bearings and the Spirit gives us the power to obey. This is how we develop the trust that drives fear away.

God's grace is not just for today but for the future just like His provision of manna in the wilderness which He provided for the Children of Israel. They never went hungry because the Lord provided their food daily. Their clothes never wore out during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness. In the same manner, God's grace is sufficient for whatever we are called to face, and we know there are hard times as well as times of rejoicing. God will give us the grace just when we need it and not before. Therefore, we need not worry or fret. Instead start each day with a prayer: "Lord, help me and give me your grace today." Then, say thank you and rest in Him! He won't disappoint! Selah!





Music Ministry



The story is told of several blind men who attempted to describe an elephant to each other. The first grasped the tail, the second a leg, a third the trunk, and the fourth put his hand on the elephant’s flank. “An elephant is like a rope!” the first declared. “No!” protested the second, “It is like a tree.” The third declared the elephant to be a like a snake, and then the fourth man spoke, “You are all wrong,” he declared, “An elephant is like a wall!” Of course, the truth of the matter was that the elephant was far too complex an animal for any one of these comparisons to describe, even if they were all quite accurate. The answers to questions like, “Why is music so powerful? Why does it play such an important role in human life?” are similarly complex and multi-faceted. This month’s newsletter article is planned as the first of a series that will attempt to explore elements of the power of music

in our lives and how they relate to our experience of it both at home and in the church.

It should be acknowledged at the outset that not all people are affected by music in the same way or to the same degree. You may occasionally even hear people say that they hate music altogether (although this seems to be much rarer today than formerly). However, this same observation may be made with regard to taste or touch or the other senses. People may say that they really don’t care about food or that they dislike being touched, yet eating and touching are intrinsically bound up in their human experience.

The Bible should always serve as our starting point in any discussion, and it is important to note that Scripture discerns both levels of skill and quality in

music (Psalm 33:3, I Chronicles 25:7, II Chronicles 34:12) and the effect of music on human emotions, as in the story of David’s playing for Saul in I Samuel 16:14-23. Today, we see something remarkably similar in the work of music therapists, particularly in working with those who struggle with mental anxiety, illness, or dementia. From these examples, it would seem fairly logical to assert that Scripture views musical art as exerting influence and power over people’s emotions and thoughts.

Musical song also has a unique ability to be a vehicle for preaching, declaring the word and truth of God as an enhanced and enriched form of speaking. We see this in Scripture in Matthew 21:16, where Jesus applies Psalm 8:2 to the children’s songs in His praise, “Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies You have prepared praise?’” The Psalm continues that God uses this praise to silence “the enemy and the avenger.”

God has worked in this way throughout history. St. Augustine was brought to conversion by hearing a child “chanting, and oft repeating,” the words, *Take up and read*. Augustine opened the Bible to the book of Romans and found both conviction of sin and salvation in Christ alone.

Another example may be given from the twentieth century. For generations, the bells in Moscow’s Red Square had played the hymn *Kol slaven nash* every day at noon. The bells were refitted after the Revolution to play the Communist anthem, and the government set about vigorously suppressing any vestige of Christianity it could find. The authorities harnessed the power of some of the world’s largest media and educational systems to broadcast the message, “There is no God.” Yet, throughout the world, Russian exiles continued to sing *Kol slaven*

nash in defiance: “How glorious is our Lord in Zion,/ Glorious beyond descriptive phrase!/His Heavenly throne is filled with His greatness/And all creation sings His matchless praise!” In Russia today, the bells no longer play the Communist anthem, and *Kol slaven* is heard again at military funerals and state functions, often being sung or played over the very graves of those who forbade its use. For 73 years, the hymn of the exiles rebuked the atheism of “the enemy and the avenger,” ultimately triumphing over it in a manner reminiscent of Psalm 20:7-8, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.”

Music is powerful—as Martin Luther wrote, “a fair and glorious gift of God.” (For the curious, his *Tabletalk* has a whole chapter devoted to “The Power of Music.”) I hope that this short introduction has whetted your appetite for more as we study the intriguing subject of music’s power and God’s design for it in our lives and the world. “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen and Amen!” (Psalm 72:18-19).

Psalm 72: 18-19





June Anniversaries

Mike and Cindy Buyea	June 02, 1985	Years Married: 35
George and Denny Patterson	June 02, 1956	Years Married: 64
Lex and Karen Cauffield	June 05, 1971	Years Married: 49
Lawrence and Terri Kibler	June 08, 1974	Years Married: 46
Robert and Peggy Alexander	June 10, 1956	Years Married: 64
Daniel and Amanda Klatt	June 13, 2015	Years Married: 5
Ray and Clanell Cameron	June 17, 1978	Years Married: 42
Drew and Pam Severance	June 18, 1988	Years Married: 32
Ken and Brenda Zastrow	June 22, 2002	Years Married: 18
Brad and Kassie Perry	June 23, 2018	Years Married: 10
Malcolm and Vivian Johnson	June 27, 1965	Years Married: 55
Ken and Amy Stewart	June 30, 1999	Years Married: 21

Home Missions



Manna Ministries, Lake Placid, Florida

Meeting from Manna Ministries,
As we continue to work through these trying months, I am so thankful to know the God that is caring for us. We are so thankful for the support that "First Pres" faithfully gives us.

We have been very busy these last couple of months. As most of you know our volunteers are of the vulnerable population, so it has been a challenge keeping Manna staffed.

The clothing room is closed for now, it has been emptied, cleaned and will be painted. We have not set a date to open it back up.

Food distribution has continued throughout these months, we have had to limit our days and hours of operation, and our currently doing drive up food distribution. Our numbers continue to be

steady, we have also been able to supply the schools with food for families that contact them.

The community has been so faithful with donations, we have been able to provide a great deal of food for our families. If you know of a family in need please have them call Manna and we will see they get food. It has been challenging but interesting to navigate this ministry at this time.

God bless you for your faithfulness to our ministry. Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

Anita Hurley
Director Manna Ministries



Foreign Missions



Foreign Missions
Child Beyond International
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Mandy Fugate Site Director

Good morning! I hope that everyone is doing great in your neck of the woods!

We have received new orders from the president here in Guatemala—last night at 7:30 pm he closed the country until Monday. Then he will readdress the nation to either relax or tighten restrictions. Once again, we are under curfew-which has not lifted since the beginning of March. My staff were not permitted to come to work today. The country’s numbers are climbing and some of the hospitals cannot handle the load and the system is in the process of collapse...some hospitals are no longer

receiving new patients. Malnutrition is escalating exponentially—right now it is three times the amount since January. We already knew the numbers were staggering—

We are doing our best to keep our staff and their families fed and taken care of. Encouraged and focused on Jesus. Praise God that we are ALL healthy at this time. Our children are doing well and our staff are receiving much needed rest when we can cover for them. We try to rest when we can. Shane and I will be cooking for the children and nannies this weekend because my staff were unable to come to work.

We are well stocked with materials for the children and food. Medications as well. Praise God for His goodness.



Shane, Ava, and I send our love and hugs! We miss you! We pray that you are healthy and doing well. We thank you for your love, support, and prayers. God is faithful. His plan is sovereign. He has created us all for this time, these trials, this life.

We ask for prayers of protection, provision, direction, and discernment. Prayers against fear and lies from the deceiver. Continued health—physical, mental, and spiritual.

We love you. We thank God for you. Much love and many hugs.

Mandy Fugate