



The Bethany Banner

Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
1454 Highway 161N Clover, SC 29710
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February 2018

A Word From the Pastor's Study

Our first several weeks in the book of Micah were full of words of judgment. As I noted in my sermon on January 14th the people of Israel and Judah did not like hearing about God's wrath on disobedient sinners any more than our culture does. A domesticated Jehovah who can be molded into a version of a deity they like is the natural mode of the human heart. Humanity excels at making idols that they can fashion into their own image, like crafters do in Isaiah 40 & Acts 17.

This is part of the wisdom of the Second Commandment, which forbids the making of idols of the Triune God; for it's natural to lift up these creatures of stone and wood rather than seek the revelation of the LORD in the Holy Scriptures. These things bring ideas of how most believe God should be into conflict with who God truly is.

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of leading the weekly lunch meeting over at Clover ARP Church. They are at present going through the Psalms and I presented a devotion on Psalm 9. In that psalm you see David praising the name of the LORD for the victory over his enemy, the Philistines. In this particular euphoric moment the king of Israel is able to speak in the way that he does because he knows God in a deep and humble way. He looks back at the LORD's providence in His life and sees how He was faithful to His promise and the means God had used for Him every step of the way.

Knowing God through Jesus Christ and by His Work on behalf of sinners is so much better than relying on false pictures of an eager imagination. True knowledge of His redeeming work has the power to give us peace and comfort in ways creature-made idols never can.



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Sunday Preaching Schedule

February 4	Micah 2:6-11
February 11	Micah 2:12-13
February 18	Micah 3:1-12
February 25	Micah 4:1-5

Bible Reading Plan for Month

January 28-Feb. 3	Matthew 21-28
February 4-10	1 Peter 1-5
February 11-17	2 Peter 1-3
February 18-24	Jude 1

Important Dates for February

Deacons Meeting	Feb. 4
The Lord's Supper	Feb. 4
Session Meeting	Feb. 8
Valentine's Day Youth Party	Feb. 10
Mugs and Muffins	Feb. 11

Rev. Glaser will be out of town Feb. 20th and February 26th - 27th for ARP Synod committee meetings in Greenville.

Larger Catechism Question

WLC Question #169

“How Has Christ Appointed Bread and Wine to Be Given and Received in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper?”

A. Christ hath appointed the ministers of his Word, in the administration of this sacrament of the Lord's supper, to set apart the bread and wine from common use, by the word of institution, thanksgiving, and prayer; to take and break the bread, and to give both the bread and the wine to the communicants: who are, by the same appointment, to take and eat the bread, and to drink the wine, in thankful remembrance that the body of Christ was broken and given, and his blood shed, for them.

Missionary of the Month

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a missionary church, seeking to grow the Kingdom by the means of grace. This month we would like to highlight the ministry of Rev. Drew Goodman and his family in Wales. They are currently engaged in labors in the city of Barry. Their ministry concentrates on planting a new congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales. Rev. Goodman particularly asks for prayer for the numerical and spiritual growth of the church in Wales.



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Youth Corner Announcements

- Our annual Valentine party will be on Saturday, **February 10th** from **10am-12pm**. This is for youth of all ages. A list for valentines has been distributed, but if you missed it, please see the table upstairs. Each child is asked to bring a valentine for everyone on the list.
- Happy 17th Birthday Catherine! (on the 27th)
- Operation Christmas Child shoebox items for month of Feb: **Individual Toothbrushes**. Please place the donations in the box upstairs beside the youth bulletin board.
- It is time to start planning for our 2018 Appalachia mission trip! Registration will be due to Mrs. Kelly Gordon by **March 4th**. Participants must be 14 years of age or in the 9th grade. Please see Kelly for a registration packet or if you have any questions.

Our verse for this month is:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” – Mark 12:30

Session Report

The session met Thursday Jan. 11th at 7:00pm for their regularly scheduled meeting. Items taken up included the Treasurer's Report, Deacon's Report, went over pastoral and prayer needs in the congregation, establishment of a new facebook page (since completed) and general community outreach ideas, and held discussion on a possible communicants class.

Deacon's Report

The Deacon's met January 7th before Sabbath School. They discussed work to be done on a new road sign, the pastor board in the sanctuary,

Christian Education Report

The Christian Education Committee met at the church on Jan. 9th at 7pm. Issues discussed including the approval of new co-directors for VBS (Sue Gordon and Brandy Glaser) as well as themes for this year plus dates for VBS (June 25-29).



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Wednesday Prayer Meeting

In February at 6:30pm we will continue using "The Bruised Reed", sermons by puritan author & pastor Richard Sibbes, as the starting point for our devotional.

We warmly welcome all to come!

Monthly Prayer Requests

This February we have many particular prayer needs before us. We will continue to be in prayer for a presbytery and nation that we will covenant to prayer for through this month. We are going to highlight Northeast Presbytery, and the nation and people of Wales.

Prayer Needs:

Chuck Walker, Dollie Douglas, Hayes Faulkner, Sarah Faulkner, Janice Patterson, Kelly Fowler, Winifred Callister, Peggy Wells, Theodore McClure, Crystal Costner, Geneva Smith, Bible Release Time, Good News Club, Andrew Brunson, Rev. Gentry McColm, Rev. George Bush, Lois Moody,

Alex (Grier's friend), John Bailey, and Samantha Johnson.

The President, end of abortion, our nation, our military, and the Persecuted Church.

Psalm of the Month

"Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings." -- Psalm 61:1-4

Communion Schedule for 2018

February 4th
April 1st
June 3rd
August 5th
October 7th
December 23rd