

PULSE

*The heartbeat of
Flora Presbyterian Church*

April 2016



Session
Meeting
April 3rd
12:00PM



Oasis
SWIM PARTY
April 13!

APRIL

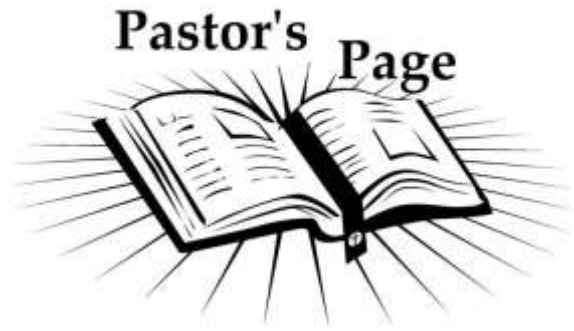
Showers bring May flowers



So neither the one
who plants nor the
one who waters is
anything, but only
God, who makes
things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:7, NIV

Love Someone Enough to Use the “F” Word



I am in a room with beautiful brilliant light from the morning sun that radiates rays of joy through the window pane. A sweet feeling sweeps over me as I stand in the warmth. Walking over to the window, I reach up for the plastic ring connected to the bottom of the roman shade and with great ease of motion, pull the shade down, knocking out those white hot rays of gleaming bright light. Unforgiveness pulls the shade down on the window of my heart. When I am hurt, my automatic reaction is to believe I have to live in the shame of the wound and allow unforgiveness to hurl ugly taunts in my face. In that moment of pain I can choose to open my heart to ingest the putrid pieces of this lie and allow it to fester inside my heart, or reject it and forgive. I am a Christian, but have at times become disillusioned with the term, especially as I see the way I respond those around me in light of what is written about me, as a Christian, in the bible.

Jesus could have been saving Himself at the same moment He saved the whole world. He chose to wrap Himself on a rugged cross with His own blood staining the wood after hours of cruel torture.

He didn't hold that horrendous injustice against a crowd of self-proclaimed judges. No doubt I am numbered among those self-righteous judges. But He chose to let me off the hook today, and forgive my many actions when He said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." I think we do know the kind of action we take against this perfect man, but have no idea the consequences of unleashing what is inside our hearts. Some of the manuscripts from Christian scribes or 'other ancient authorities' lack this sentence. How could this be?

Return in May for Part II

Blessings,

Pastor Andria Helm



"Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart."

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV

Christian Education

by Barb Mayfield

Sunday School

After a month-long hiatus due to flooding and Easter, we will be meeting again in April. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9AM. We have really been enjoying the "Believe" study and videos.



Oasis



Swim Party

On April 13th we will host our annual swim party at the Carroll High School pool. This fun event is our final event for this school year, marking the successful conclusion of 14 years of Oasis!

Thank You!!

We wish to thank everyone who has helped make our Oasis ministry possible through your prayers and generous support. We hope to support one or more children/youth to attend camp again at Geneva Center this summer as well as host our annual picnic and putt-putt golf event later in the summer. You may contribute to these special events by writing Oasis or Camp in the memo line of your check.

VBS 2016 – The Amazing Race

Save the date: **June 26-30**, 6 – 8:30PM.



Our theme this year is based on the popular TV show and on Hebrews 12:1-2:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the

author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Our race will take the children on a worldwide race across several continents, exploring a new country each night. If you have items from any of the countries listed below that you are willing to loan us for décor and educational purposes, please tell Barb Mayfield. We will collect them closer to VBS. Countries we will visit:

Brazil South Korea USA
Scotland Nigeria

Next VBS planning meeting:

April 10th, 4PM at FPC.

If you are interesting in helping, please join us.

April Library Corner

by Laraine MacLauchlan

Oasis library night is over for the year! We had a great time! I am hoping to make the children's and youth sections more enjoyable over the summer so that the new Oasis year will have lots of DVD's the kids want.



Presbyterian Women

by Jane Bishop



The Mary-Martha Circle will meet April 19 in the Fellowship Room at 7:00PM. The Hostess will be Donna Sholty; Year Book of Prayer, Jane Bishop; Horizons, Kathy King; Bible Study, Sally Schmidt. All women are welcome.

Thrift Shop Schedule for April

Thurs. April 7.....Sally SSort & Mark
Thurs. April 14.....Libby SSort & Mark
Sat. April 23Kathy K.Sort & Mark
Sat. April 28.....Jane Kearns....Sort & Mark

Clerk of Session

by Laraine MacLaughlan

The next session meeting will be Sunday, April 3rd, following church.

Additional Thoughts.....

The real meaning of the cross

“At the cross we understand what God means when he talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that he will not do, no sacrifice he will not make, no suffering that he will shirk, if only he can help us. ‘He loved me,’ said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, ‘I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet he loved me and he gave himself for me.’ And with that [Paul’s] heart broke, and the old life was gone.”

—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip, in a 1926 sermon titled “What Happens at Calvary”

A love explosion

“Mommy, if Jesus comes to live inside my heart, will I explode?” One of missionary Katie Davis’ adopted daughters surprised her with that question as they headed to the Nile River for some baptisms.

Although Davis immediately replied, “No!” she later realized: “That is exactly what we should do if Jesus comes to live inside our hearts. We will explode with love, with compassion, with hurt for those who are hurting, and with joy for those who rejoice. We will explode with a desire to be more, to be better, to be close to the One who made us.”

—adapted from *Kisses From Katie*

Avoiding temptation

Our 10-year-old loves playing on his father’s tablet but may use only the touchscreen because he’s misused the keyboard and stylus. One day, after receiving permission to play, he detached and handed over the forbidden objects. His dad said, “Just leave them there,” but our son replied, “No, I might be tempted to use them.”

We routinely pray, “Lead us not into temptation,” hoping God will almost magically keep us out of trouble even as we stray close to enticements: We buy high-calorie treats while intending to “eat healthy.” We visit big-box stores and spend money we don’t have. We gather with gossipy friends, fully aware that such talk is sinful and harmful.

Perhaps we should be more proactive about removing temptations. Perhaps “Lead me not into temptation” means “God, help me keep *myself* away from that which tempts me toward poor choices.” Amen!

—Heidi Mann

Hey, Death! You lose!

The Master said it affirmatively: “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19, NRSV). William Sloane Coffin said, “We are on the road to heaven now if we walk with the Lord.”

Do you believe it? If you fully accept Christ’s resurrection, you can be assured that you, as a child of God and a follower of Christ, will live eternally.

If you were a gifted sculptor, would you, after working a number of years, grab a hammer and smash your masterpiece to pieces? Of course not! Just so, God wouldn’t allow death to triumph over us ... unless we arrogantly chose otherwise.

St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “[I]f Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:14, NRSV). But then he affirmed: “In fact Christ has been raised from the dead” (verse 20). That will be true for all who call Christ Savior.

Choir Practice 9:30; Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced

Flora Presbyterian Church

April 2016

B=Birthday N=Nursery SR=Scripture Readers U=Ushers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Session Mtg 12PM 9AM Adult Sunday School N=Barbara Wilkinson SR=Kent King SR=Mark Good U=Mark & Denise Good	4	5	6 6:00 PM Oasis Library items due	7	8	9 B=Chuck Compton
10 VBS Planning Mtg 4PM 9AM Adult Sunday School N=Barbara Wilkinson SR=Kathy King SR=Ann Brown U=Bill Kearns, Jay McMillin	11 B=Marty Catron	12 B=Susan Hollis	13 6:00 PM Oasis Swim Party B=Bob Scholl	14	15	16
17 9AM Adult Sunday School N=Barbara Wilkinson SR=Barb Mayfield SR=Bill Kearns U= Bill Kearns, Janis Beck	18 7:00PM Crafters at Cutler Presbyterian B=Erika Hollis	19 7:00PM Mary- Martha Circle	20	21	22  Earth Day	23 B=Joe Mayfield
24 9AM Adult Sunday School N=Barbara Wilkinson SR=Sally Schmidt SR=Kathy King U= Marty & Julie Catron B=Rachael Catron	25	26	27	28 B=Steve Catron	29	30

