

Pilgrim Perspective



A Newsletter of Pilgrim Presbyterian Church in America
601 Albert Street, Martinsburg, WV 25404
Rev. Jerry C. Mead, Pastor

March 2016

Up-Coming Easter Services

Maundy Thursday March 24th — 6 PM
Covered Dish Dinner followed by a
Communion Service at 7 PM

Each family is asked to bring a main dish as well as a side dish, salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. Pastoral Intern Greg Mead will be giving the message.



Easter Early Service & Breakfast
Sunday, March 28th at 7 AM

Each family is asked to bring a breakfast casserole to share. Donuts, fruit, and beverages will be provided. Ruling Elder Rick Wilburn will be giving the message.

God's Gift of Perseverance

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

Reformed theology speaks of the “perseverance of the saints” to refer to Christians being preserved by God and persevering in faith to the end. In our day, when so many people affirm a notion of eternal security that grounds assurance in the profession of faith and not the possession of faith, the language of perseverance is especially apt. Moreover, the concept of perseverance has the advantage of reflecting what the New Testament says about whether we can lose our salvation. To speak of “perseverance” reminds us that we have a part to play in remaining faithful to Christ. We are called to cling to Christ and to work out our salvation “with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). Perseverance involves action on our part; it does not simply mean that we should “let go and let God” do all the work for us.

In sum, there is a degree of synergism involved in our perseverance. The Lord is not the only one who acts; we work as well. Yet this raises a significant question. Is not our salvation monergistic, meaning that the Lord is the only one who acts in our salvation from first to last? The answer to this question is no.

Not every part of our salvation is monergistic. Regeneration is monergistic—the Holy Spirit alone brings us to new spiritual life (John 3:1-8). The judicial declaration we receive in justification is monergistic, because the only one who issues it is the Lord Himself. Yet sanctification and perseverance are synergistic. We cooperate with the Lord to grow in holiness and to remain in faith. As noted above, we work out our salvation in fear and trembling. However, we would be mistaken to conclude from this that we are the final effective agents in our Christian growth and perseverance. Even these synergistic works are established and guaranteed by the Lord. We work out our salvation, but God is at work in us to will and work. We work because He works, and if He works, and if he works in us, we will certainly persevere in faith. Our perseverance is ultimately the gracious gift of the Lord. Everyone whom our Father has chosen to save will persevere and receive the full inheritance of salvation. We have been sealed with the Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance. He remains with us to enable us to will and to work for His good pleasure. His presence ensures that we will never fall away from faith. Such is the greatness of God's grace.

TableTalk September 2015

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Send information, contributions, comments, and suggestions to the attention of Donna Hercules at the church's address.

Church Phone Number Office: (304) 263-5362

Regular Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

Pastor Rev. Jerry C. Mead

Youth Director Pastoral Intern Greg Mead

Church Secretary Donna Hercules

www.pilgrimpc.org Email— church@pilgrimpc.org

With Appreciation & Thanks

Jim and I would like to thank all of you who have supported us with cards, notes, food, phone calls, and overwhelming love. The past six weeks have been difficult and sad, but without your kindness, we could not have borne it all.

Love, Jim & Rita

Thank You!

The family of Eileen Fink acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

We want to thank you for the flowers, prayers, and thoughts we received during the passing of our mom.

James, Larry, Kelly Fink, and Linda French

We want to thank you for the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy in the days following the recent death of by beloved father. They have been a source of strength and encouragement as we walk this journey. Each one has helped to lighten the burden of grief. I would also like to thank you for your prayers and concern during my mother's recovery from her fractured hip and my dad's hospitalizations. It is all very much appreciated.

The Family of George Augustine

May God bless you! Denise and Jim Carrier & Family

"Bear one another's burdens, and there by fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Birthdays & Anniversaries



March

- 3 - Toad Brandt
3 - Caleb Auldrige
5 - Gabe Auldrige
5 - Mim Mead
7 - Elizabeth Hoffmaster
11 - Priscilla LeMaster
14 - Monte & Bonnie Cater
17 - Debbie Wilburn
17 - Rick & Debbie Wilburn
20 - Elsie Wilburn
21 - Howard & Judy Butts
22 - Sawyer Hubbard
24 - David Hoffmaster
28 - William Mead
29 - Jennifer Mann
31 - David & Susan Zych



April

- 1 - Jim & Shari Auldrige
2 - LeGarde Cook
2 - Mike Kisner
5 - Erin Mead
5 - Rick Wilburn
6 - Mary Rogers
8 - Garrett Cookus
10 - Dorothea Peterson
19 - Jim Brady
22 - Deanna Hercules
23 - Kathy Moore