

Pilgrim Perspective

May 2016

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



Up-Coming Summer Events

Pilgrim May-August 2016 Schedule

Sunday School – every Sunday at 9.15 AM
Worship – every Sunday at 10:30 AM
Lord’s Supper – first Sunday of each month
Fellowship Lunch – last Sunday of each month following
Worship
Backyard Fellowship – Sunday, May 15 at 6 PM
@ Greg & Mim Mead’s
Sunday, June 12 at 6 PM @ TBA
Sunday, July 10 at 6 PM @ Rick & Debbie Wilburn’s
Church Picnic – Sunday, Aug 14 at PM
@ War Memorial Park
Snapshot of Church History –
Sunday, May 22 at 6 PM @ church
Sunday, June 5 at 6 PM @ church
Sunday, July 24 at 6 PM @ church
Sunday, Aug 21 at 6 PM @ church
Men’s Bible Fellowship – last Sunday of each month
at 5:30 PM @ church
Youth Group – last Sunday of each month
at 5:30 PM @ church
Youth Special events Sat 6/4; Sat 7/2; Sat 8/20
Pittsburg Mission Trip Fri 7/15-Wed 7/20
Summer Camp Mon 7/25- Fri 7/29
Men’s Prayer Breakfast – Thursdays at 8 AM
@ Pownell’s Bistro
PCA General Assembly – June 20-24, Mobile, Alabama

Prayer

By Greg Mead

Philippians 4:6-7.....”do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

These verses are easy for me to recite. They might be easy verses for you to recite as well. They might make it onto our mirrors, bulletin boards, or refrigerators but I wonder if they have truly worked their way into our hearts. I wonder if these words that I know so well have moved past being a simple platitude to a truth that I lean on and cling to like my life depends on it. I want to plead with you and with my own heart that we not let these words be a superficial spiritual Band-Aid, but that we would trust God even more and look to these, His words, to be the spiritual medicine they are intended to be.

We live in a world in which anxiety seems to rule. Often we find ourselves caught up in hopeless uncertainty and our own weakness. We love to live by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) even though it weighs down our hearts with doubt and fear. We live amidst personal and interpersonal anxiety where we wonder about God’s will or plan. We live amidst national anxiety during a heated election season. We live amidst international anxiety as terrorism arises everywhere we look.

These verses before us encourage a prayer maximalism in the face of anxiety. Often our anxiety causes us to turn from God, praying less, and yet this verse commands the opposite. Go to God with much more, in fact, everything. Furthermore, our prayers should be wide in emotion and content, imitating the psalmist. Sinclair Ferguson writes “paralyzing anxiety cannot co-exist with prayer; the heart that has unburdened itself, and has been returned to a spirit of praise cannot remain permanently anxious.” (Let’s Study Phil., pg. 104)

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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

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Prayer is Paul's prescription to kill anxiety in us, replacing it with the peace of God. It is not a quick fix, but it is through constant doses of prayer that our lives are shaped towards a submission to God.

The peace of God describes confident trust in a powerful and sovereign. God is powerful to hear and respond. As the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" reminds us, we desperately need "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow." God's faithfulness to us is seen most clearly and brightly in Christ. The Lord is with us and prayer expresses our faith in Him. It is faith that pushes out anxiety and allows us to live before God in this life with the hope of eternal life.

So now go and pray. Redouble your effort in prayer out of gratitude for and confidence in Christ. Cast your anxieties on Him because He cares for you. (1 Pet 5:7) Take the anxieties of your heart both close and far away and place them before the Lord. Pray for each other, your neighbors, and our nation. Pray even and especially for our enemies. Pray confidently for God to work according to His perfect will. He always answers that prayer with a yes. Pray in public and in private. Express submission and confidence to God in prayer.

Brothers and Sisters, though we live in a world where anxiety seems to rule, as those in Christ, by grace, we know better. We live in a world over which our Savior rules. Because He rules, we can pray with confidence. Because He rules we can set aside our anxiety and replace it with peace. We can have hearts and minds sheltered from anxiety's bombardment because we have a Savior that has given us peace with God through His blood and continues to reconcile all things to Himself. Christ rules and He saves. We have every reason to pray because we have a powerful Savior who hears us. He who lives to intercede for us (Heb. 7:25) and answers our prayers giving us peace outside of our own power. Praise God for Christ who replaces our anxiety with the peace He provides!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 8 - Ryleigh Hubbard 12 - David Hubbard 12 - David Zych 15 - Dorothy Hudspith 21 - Tyler Dotson 28 - Kelly Dotson

- June 4 - Don Fowler 4 - Jim Price 5 - Brian & Sally Cookus 11 - Cathy Underwood 13 - Patsy Cookus 14 - David & Erin Hubbard 16 - Ben Jones 25 - Daniel Jones 25 - Randy & Cathy Underwood 28 - Bob & Becky Deweese

