



Dear Friends and Members of Union Presbyterian Church,

In the book, “5 Puritan Women: Portraits of Faith and Love,” Jenny-Lyn de Klerk uses diaries and historical documents to tell the true stories of 5 Puritan Women. The first woman’s life she writes about, Agnes Beaumont, sounds like a story ripped right out of a movie. In the space of a few weeks, Agnes Beaumont was kicked out of her home, lost her father, was falsely accused of murder, and put on trial. What was the catalyst for all of Beaumont’s troubles? It all happened because she got a ride to church.

As de Klerk tells the story, Beaumont, a young unmarried woman in her early 20’s, was a recent Puritan convert who lived in Edworth, Bedfordshire, with her father. Beaumont really wanted to go to church on Sunday. They were celebrating the Lord’s Supper that day and John Bunyan was going to continue as guest preacher. Beaumont was actually the first new convert that Bunyan brought into this church. When Beaumont’s ride failed to show up to pick her up, and since her brother couldn’t take her (he was already taking his wife to the church and horses only fit 2), she convinced her brother to flag down and ask the next person coming up the lane if they would take her. And the next person up the lane just happened to Rev. John Bunyan himself.



Now, it was not inappropriate at the time for unmarried men and women to ride on horseback together (otherwise Beaumont’s brother never would have asked). The problem was that John Bunyan was a controversial pastor and Beaumont’s father was not happy with his daughter’s new Christian zeal. So, when Beaumont got home late that night (she couldn’t get a ride home and had to walk), her father would not let her in the house unless she promised to never go to that church again. Beaumont refused. She ended up sleeping in the barn that very cold night.

The next day, Beaumont’s father still would not relent. Beaumont tried to make him dinner to soften him up. She tried reasoning with him saying, “Father . . . I will serve you in anything that lies in me to do for you as long as you live and I live. . . . Father . . . I desire time to go nowhere but to hear God’s word, if you will but let me go on Sabbath days to the meeting; and I desire no more. . . . Father . . . you can’t answer for my sins, nor stand in my stead before God; I must look to the salvation of my soul, or I am undone forever.” But still her father would not relent. So, Beaumont finally caved in and agreed to no longer go to church.

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July Elders

Jason Morrison
Glenn Sparrow
Carol Beasley

Communion

July 14

Stated Session

July 21

[Continued from page]

She immediately regretted her decision. But during the next two days, while spending time together, she was able to reconcile and come to an understanding with her Father. Beaumont's father changed his mind about church. Unfortunately, the very next evening, Beaumont's Father died from a heart attack. And a lawyer in town, Mr. Ferry, used this death for revenge. Mr. Ferry had planned for Beaumont and his son to marry and had gone to great lengths to make sure her Father's will would favor Beaumont. But now that Beaumont was an over-the-top Christian, Mr. Ferry saw all his work going up into smoke. So, he accused Beaumont of using poison she acquired from John Bunyan to murder her father. The accusations swiftly led to trial... but it was Mr. Ferry who ended up looking like a fool. But the whole thing ruined Beaumont's reputation in the town. Beaumont would end up not marrying until middle age.

Why tell this story? Beaumont's diary gives us great insight on how to deal with the trials of living a life of faith. As de Klerk writes, "Puritan women frequently wrote about aspects of daily life, thus revealing to us what their relationships with God, family, church, and society were really like—the good, the bad, the ugly, and also the beautiful." In their accounts you can see clearly how a committed Christian can use basic Christian practices, to get through the daily challenges of living a life faithfully.

For Beaumont, three Christian practices helped her through all her ordeals.

(1) Passion for the Lords' Supper: Beaumont wrote that the Communion Service she attended before her troubles really escalated was deeply important. "Oh, it was a feast of fat things to me! My soul was filled with consolation. . . . Oh, I had such a sight of Jesus Christ that it broke my heart to pieces. . . . A sense of my sins, and of his dying love, made me love him, and long to be with him.' In fact, this particular service, she would later recall, was a special mercy to her because Jesus knew the trials she was about to endure and gave her "new manifestations of his love" at just the right time. Does your heart yearn for the Lord's Supper like this?

(2) Personal Confession: Beaumont did not do anything wrong by getting a ride to church and she did not commit murder. But she didn't allow that to get to her. Throughout her ordeal she remained humble and quick to repent. She writes about needing forgiveness from God after she began to feel pride riding on the same horse as John Bunyan. And she quickly went to work to repent and fix her mistake after she failed to stand firm and promised her father that she would stop going to church. Her humility is partly what ultimately helped Beaumont reconcile with her father, speak before the jury, and keep her head up after rumors about her began to spread. How quick are you ready to repent?

(3) But probably what helped Beaumont most through her troubles was the Memorization of Scripture: Beaumont didn't even have access to a Bible while she was locked out of her home. And yet in her diary, over and over and over again, Scripture Beaumont had memorized would come to her as she was figuring out what to do next, what to say to her father, what to say at her trial, and just go about her day. In fact, Beaumont's account shows us how our knowledge of Scripture can be used as a way to have an ongoing conversation with God. Every decision that comes before us should bring us back to Scripture. We can "hear" God speaking to us through the Bible all day long.

Beaumont's account serves as an incredible reminder how easy/everyday acts of faith like (a) having a heart for the Lord's Supper, (b) daily repentance, (c) and Scripture knowledge can get us through any trial that comes our way. What a powerful reminder.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor James



PRAYER WALK & 3 "C" Prayer

A big thank you for everyone who participated the Prayer Walk and 3 "C" Prayer event in June! Our next Prayer Walk and 3 "C" Prayer Event will be scheduled for August! We hope that you will be able to join us as we pray for our neighborhoods, church, community, and city!

WORSHIP IN JULY

Did you know that hidden in the word “therefore” are the words “here” and “for?” During the month of July we will be using the lectionary selections from the book of Ephesians, to explore some of the main themes of this letter from Paul. One way you can look at this book is by checking out the “here for-s” and “therefore-s” of the letter. Christ came **here** (to earth) **for** some important reasons. Which should lead us to respond with some very important **therefore-s!** This July, may we all be challenged to respond anew to the amazing gifts we’ve received from Christ!

Lectionary Sermon Series: Therefore/ Here For

July 14- Ephesians 1: 3-14, “Here for Glory... Therefore Praise Him”

-Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

July 21- Ephesians 2: 11-22, “Here for Reconciliation... Therefore Experience Peace”

July 28- Ephesians 3: 14-21, “Here for Indwelling... Therefore Love”

August 4- Ephesians 4:1-16, “Here for Grace Given... Therefore Live Worthily”

-Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

THEREFORE

FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP

There are still a few **Frontier Fellowship Journals** available for you to pick up at the entrances of the Sanctuary. Witness & Service hopes that in the same way many of us read the Upper Room each day, that you might also read some of the work of Frontier Fellowship each day and pray about what they are doing throughout the world.

The June issue of **Monthly Prayer Update** from Frontier Fellowship is also available which includes specific things that can be prayed for during the month. Please keep an eye out for when the July Prayer Update becomes available! Will you more regularly pray for the work being done to make disciples where people know Jesus least?



THANK YOU!!!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped ensure our 2024 VBS was STELLAR! We had a blast singing songs, dancing, eating delicious galactic snacks, playing some all star games, and learning about Jesus through some amazing Bible stories! We truly appreciate the time and effort that was put into this awesome outreach event this year. It was OUT OF THIS WORLD! You can see a few pictures below from the week!



PROBLEMS WITH NEWSLETTER BULK MAIL



Please remember that to solve some of the problems we've been having with the bulk mailing of our newsletter through the post office, we've made some changes. In the coming months please try to:

- (1) Get your articles in for the next newsletter by the 15th of the month
- (2) See what it would be like to either (a) pick up your newsletter at the doors of the sanctuary the first 2 Sunday's of the month or (b) read yours online!

We will continue to bulk mail the newsletter for now, But we wonder if we could eventually move away from the cost of mailing the newsletter thru inconsistent bulk mailings and just send it to a handful who need it mailed.

PASTOR JAMES VACATION

Just a reminder that Pastor James will be **on vacation** off and on. He will out of town **July 1-11**. If you need to pastoral need during these times, please reach out to one of the members of Session. Thank You!

COMMUNION IN JULY

Communion has been moved to the second Sunday in July. We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper on Sunday, July 14th**. We hope you will be able to join us.

SCHOOL TOOL COLLECTION 2024

I read a quote recently that I think was probably taken from Thomas J. Watson. The quote I read is: "To be successful, you have to have your heart in your work and your work in your heart."

Passion is so important when it comes to success in life, especially in education. Unfortunately, it's not all you need. When it comes to education, if you don't have the paper and pencils and other school stuff required... your passion for learning can only get you so far.



Once again, this year we will be collecting school supplies during the month of July to help out Bess Elementary School & Forestview Highschool. Our official collection dates are **July 7 thru August 11**. You may drop off school supplies in our gathering area on Sundays or during the week. Let's help the all the kids of Bess and Forestview be able to be a success this year!

Also, like the last couple years, we will be competing against other area churches to see who brings in the most items. Hopefully, we can be passionate at both helping kids and beating the other church this year!

TIME TO HEAR YOUR FAVORITES

During the month of July and August, the songs we sing are all based on your requests last June! If you missed the opportunity to request a song, there may still be space in worship. Just let Pastor James or the office know your song requests today!

MEN'S FISHING TRIP

Thanks for the men and helpers who helped make the Men's fishing trip a blast last month! Some fish were caught and fun was had by all!





BOOK CHICKS

Join us monthly during our Book Chicks book club meetings for some food, fun, and fellowship! For more information or to find out what book we are reading, please reach out to Kim Morrison. Our next meeting is **Monday, July 15th, at 6:30 PM.**

BINGO

Join us for BINGO at Terrace Ridge on **Thursday, July 18th at 3 PM.** You are sure to receive many blessings from this outreach event!



WOMENS CIRCLE

The Golden Girls Circle and the Soul Sister's Circle are on break until this Fall. Stay tuned for more information coming out about our kick off this fall.

5 CENTS A MEAL

Our next 5 Cents a meal offering will be on **Sunday, July 7th during worship.** The money collected will go to support CAM.

FIVE CENTS A MEAL DISTRIBUTION THROUGH JUNE

CAM	\$149	(2 months)
SALVATION ARMY	\$117	(2 months)
BLESSING BOX	\$ 77	(1 month)



No offering was received for the month of March. Just think the value of your nickel when you give!

HAPPY YEARS

Happy Years will be on **Wednesday, July 17th at 12 PM.** All ages welcomed and invite a friend.

MEN OF THE CHURCH MEETING & FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The next Men of the Church Planning meeting will be at **8 AM on July 14th!** Come learn about and help plan future events for the Men of the Church! The next Men of the Church Fellowship outing will be at **6 PM on July 16th at Ole Carolina BBQ!** Men of all ages are invited to attend!

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will be taking two weeks off in July while Pastor James is on vacation. There will be **no Bible Study** on **Tuesday, July 2** or **Tuesday, July 9.** We will pick up again on **July 16** and **10 AM** as we continue to work through Genesis! Come check it out!

WITNESS & SERVICE

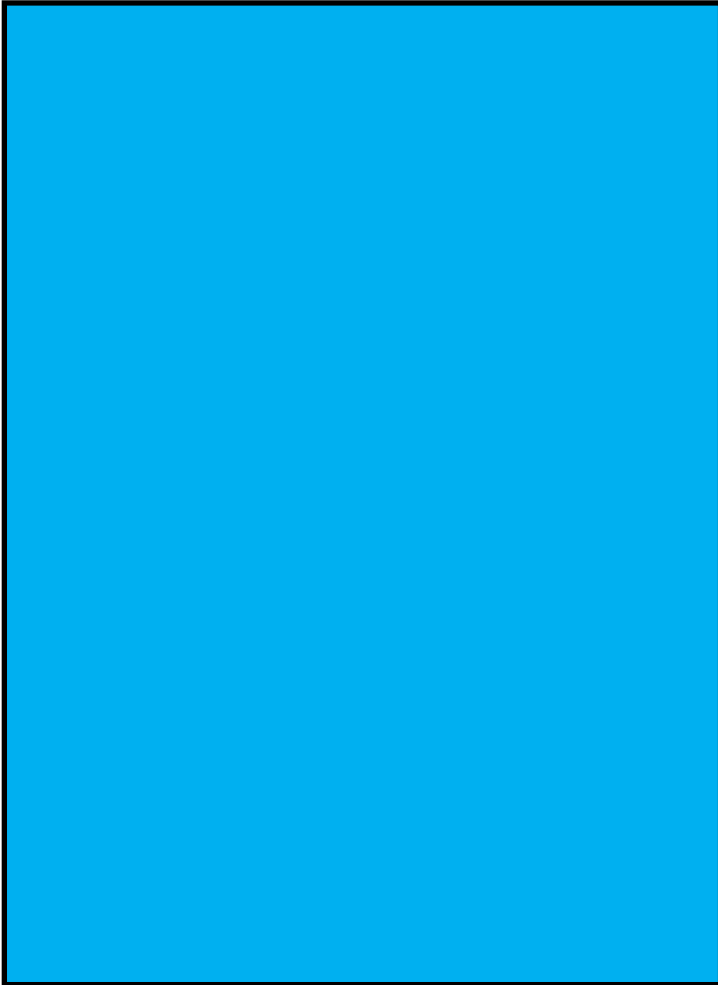
Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, July 14th at 2:30 PM.** Please consider joining us as we try to do God's work!

LOAVES & FISHES STORE – ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR CAM

A special thanks to Mickie Nelson for her great leadership with our Loaves & Fishes Store! Thanks to Mickie and our youth sales personnel and to you, the support system for the store, a check in the amount of \$812.34 (\$663.34 proceeds from food sales plus \$149 from our Five Cents a Meal for two months) was sent to CAM. In addition, food with a purchase value of \$704, was delivered to their facility. **AMAZING! Thank you for this successful story!!!**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for the Fall of 2024 scholarship is **July 31st.** Please give your application to our new treasurer, George Ratchford. If you are currently receiving a scholarship, please remember to turn in your grades from last semester.



FINANCIAL NEWS
June, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF
May 31, 2024

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Revenue	\$14,981	\$84,632
Expenses	<u>20,220</u>	<u>93,054</u>
	- \$5,239	- \$8,422

We are going into the summer months with a deficit of \$8422. Largest portion of this is the waterproofing of the Sanctuary bricks which was a budgeted expense for 2024. In addition, we all are enjoying our new communications system which was also a budgeted and much needed item for this year.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Martha Simmons – Disbursing Treasurer
Jason Morrison – Treasurer

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PRESBYTERY PRAYER CALENDAR & PRAYER CONCERNS

Buladean
217 Blevins Branch Road
Bakersville, NC 28705

Burnsville First
P.O. Boc 635
Brunsville, NC 28714

Calvary
44 Circle Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Canton
P. O. Box 784
Canton, NC 28716
cantonpres1@gmail.com

- We continue prayers for the Rev. Beth Newman, pastor of Byson City Presbyterian. Beth was back in the hospital dealing with a number of complications. A Caring Bridge website is available for communication and updates. You can reach it by clicking here.
- We ask for your prayers for safety of our latest Mission Team in Guatemala as they return to North Carolina on Thursday.
- Prayers for Presbytery Associate Rev. George Thompson who broke his foot and awaiting treatment decisions.
- Hold Ronnie Puckett, husband of former PWNC staff member Marcia Puckett, in prayer as he continues immuno-therapy every six weeks for his cancer.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sundays 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship	1	2 7 PM Building and Grounds	3	4	5	6
PASTOR JAMES ON VACATION						
7 5 Cents a Meal 2:30 PM SOC	8 7 PM Men's Bible Study	9	10	11	12	13
PASTOR JAMES ON VACATION						
14 8 AM MOC 2:30 PM W&S	15 6:30 PM Book Chicks 7 PM Men's Bible	16 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Men's Fellowship Dinner	17 12 PM Happy Years	18 3 PM Bingo	19	20
21 11 AM Nominating Committee Meeting 2:30 PM Session Meeting	22 7 PM Men's Bible Study	23 10 AM Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28	29 7 PM Men's Bible Study	30 10 AM Bible Study	31			

Union Presbyterian Church

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Non-Profit Organization
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Reverend James Holeman
Pastor

Tammy Biddix
Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Nelson
Communications Director

Jieeun Ha
Accompanist

Church Hours
3:00 PM—6 PM
Tuesday and Thursday



Save the Date



July 7
July 14
July 21

5 Cents of Meal (for CAM)
Communion
Stated Session Meeting