

May 2020

Do you ever get a song stuck in your head? Ashley and I have certain songs that we're not even allowed to mention around each other simply because of the risk of it becoming an "earworm." For me, it's Paul McCartney's "Simply Having A Wonderful Christmas Time." You can thank me tomorrow when it's STILL stuck in your head. Some tunes just have a way.

What if I told you that there's a song that's been stuck in my *soul*? Yes, you read that right. For several months now, there's a song that seems to be on "repeat" in my soul. It's a song that came into my life a few months ago during a season of internal, personal fear. I had just dropped Cooper off at school, turned the car in the direction of Micah's school, when the chorus struck my soul. It's repetitive. Almost like a rock-music meditation, "My fear doesn't stand a chance, when I stand in Your love." With warm tears running down my cheeks, I knew God was speaking to me. All the insecurities, failures, ambitions, attempts at "success" that swirled in me, creating a mass of fear, were cast out as I pictured myself standing in God's love for me. The complete song is



in the text box.

Stand in Your Love

When darkness tries to roll over my bones
 When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own
 When brokenness and pain is all I know
 Oh, I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken
 Shame no longer has a place to hide
 I am not a captive to the lies
 I'm not afraid to leave my past behind
 Oh, I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken!

**My fear doesn't stand a chance
 When I stand in Your love**

There's power that can break off every chain
 There's power that can empty out a grave
 There's resurrection power that can save
 There's power in Your name, power in Your name

In the car that winter morning, I didn't realize the heap of fears that would be added to all of our lives—a global pandemic, a spiraling economy, loss, and isolation. The Lord knew I needed a song that would get "stuck in my soul." So, I commend this meditation to you. Say it with me: My fear doesn't stand a chance, when I stand in Your love.

Honestly, the message of this is not new. It's taken right from 1 John 4:18, "**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.**" Starting this Sunday, we will be looking at the book of 1 John in a series titled – **Live in Love**. In a season of fear, may each of us stand in the Love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord. "See" you on Sunday.

In Christ, Pastor Timothy

Communion Service—Sunday, May 3 at 6:00pm.

Join us via Zoom for communion in our homes. In these unprecedented times, the Session has authorized in-home communion again. The format will be much like the Maundy Thursday Service. You will need to supply your own bread and grape juice or wine.

**Meeting ID is the same as last time: 485 527 0780;
 the link is: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4855270780>.**

The password is: FPCMC.

If you have any questions, contact your Care Team leader or Pastor Timothy.

Butterfly Mission



The Missions and Evangelism team has been praying for and brainstorming opportunities to be salt and light to our community. One of the ideas that came from that exercise was an outreach team that would leverage the congregation's ability to give, serve, encourage, and bless anyone in our community with a simple (but powerful) act of kindness. We named it the Butterfly Team after the butterfly effect, a phenomenon when a miniscule local change has a lasting effect elsewhere. Many cultures associate the butterfly with endurance, change, hope, and new life. The idea is to provide a simple and creative "vehicle" for the congregation to use a means to "reach out" and share God's love through encouraging words and deeds. Plant the seed; pray to water it; and God will make it grow! The Missions and Evangelism team is very excited about the potential of the But-

terfly Team to reach out in our community and connect people to the mission of God.

Another option would be to create your own butterfly at home. It's one simple act of kindness that could have a profound effect on those who may be grieving, scared, or hurting.

We want each of us to participate this week in praying for our neighbors, friends, or other people on our hearts – letting them know this by posting a brightly-colored butterfly note on their door. Ideally, the prayer would be done close to the property/home of the person (but it doesn't have to be) while taking a walk or driving by their home (practicing social distancing, of course). Butterfly templates can be printed from our website (go to missions) or can be picked up at the church under the car port. (They are in in a plastic box, take as many as you need.)

Instructions:

1. Print, pickup, or create butterfly template
2. Cut out butterfly shape
3. Personalize – add handwritten notes (as the Spirit leads you) identifying yourself. Add your own artwork if you want!
4. Pray for your neighbor/friend
5. Post the butterfly on their door



Example: *"Therefore, if you are in Christ, you are a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come."* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Offering—Please continue your generous response to God's grace by giving financially even though we are not meeting in person. You can mail in your tithe or offering to the church office, or this is a great time to explore our online giving options. Go to First Presbyterian's website by visiting the Giving page at firstpcmonckscorner.org/giving/ or you can log in directly to Breeze at firstpresbymc.breezechms.com. Create an account or sign in. You can also bring your offering by the church but you must call Sally at 843-761-8469 and arrange a time with her since the church office is closed.

The Journey - A New Way to Confirmation

Congregation, I ask that you continue to pray for our students walking this Journey to confirmation. Sunday, April 26th was the day we had circled on the calendar for them to join the church—to become members of this local body of believers. We know that this is a special day for them and for us, so we have postponed that until we can all gather together once again.

Continue praying for:

Clay Brock

Jacob Buitenhuis

Bryn Hoffer

Andrew Mims

Lydia Murchison

Asher Overholt

Addie Rucker

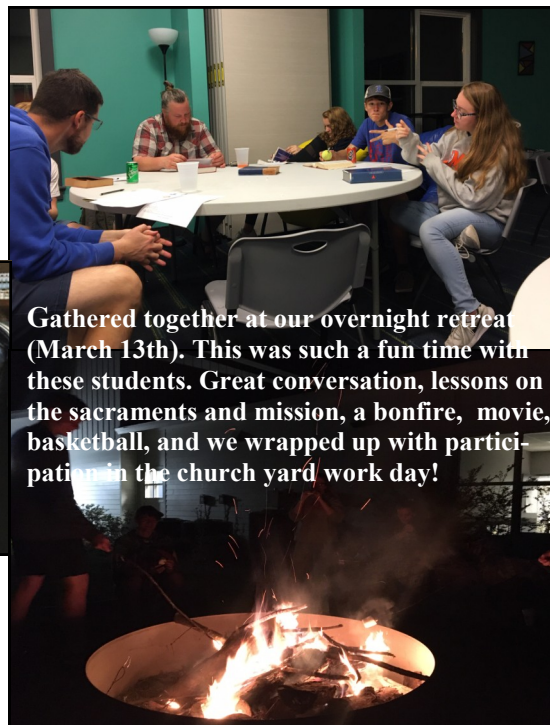
Will Rucker

Davis Weathers

Hampton Weathers



Zoom meeting for a lesson on prayer (Worship), our current way of gathering. These students are faithful and adaptable, eager to learn and grow!



Gathered together at our overnight retreat (March 13th). This was such a fun time with these students. Great conversation, lessons on the sacraments and mission, a bonfire, movie, basketball, and we wrapped up with participation in the church yard work day!

In Christ, Angeline Brock



May

2 Kenneth Fansher

4 Austin Murchison

Wil Robinson

6 Addison Guerry

7 Buddy Harvey

9 Troy Cribb

11 Charles Belhassen

Clay Brock

12 Sarah Swan

13 Barbara White

14 Kelly Brown

Johnna Livingston

17 Jane Harris

18 Seth Tipton

19 Benjamin Miller, II

22 Madeline Buitenhuis

23 Jacob Buitenhuis

24 Michele Metts

25 Camden Guerry

Laurie Bell

27 William Tanner

Miller White

Suzie Wilson

29 Jim Brogdon

31 Kyndra Buitenhuis

Minutes in a Minute

On Monday, April 20 the Session of First Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer and devotion led by Elder David Brown
- Approved minutes from the March Stated Meeting and the March 27 Special Meeting
- Approved Communion in homes via a Zoom worship service on Sunday, May 3 at 6pm
- Launched a new initiative to reach our neighbors, the Butterfly Mission
- Approved and authorized the Restoration Project Team to move forward with the purchase of sashes for the sanctuary windows
- Authorized Elders Don Cribb and Rick Ollic to develop a “Return to Worship” plan
- Received report from Pastor Timothy that his 3rd year of his doctoral program has been postponed to September because of Coronavirus
- Received reports from each ministry team
- Closed with a time of silent and corporate prayer

The next session meeting will be Monday, May 18 at 6pm.

On Friday, April 24 the Session of First Presbyterian Church (special meeting via video conference call):

- Opened with prayer
- After thorough discussion, the Session voted not to apply for the government Payroll Protection Program
- Closed with prayer for those in financial hardship and for our witness in our community



The May-June Upper Room Devotionals are in a plastic box under the carport for easy pickup.

Butterfly templates for the butterfly mission are also under the carport for easy access.



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**Our Mission: Making disciples who reach UP to God,
IN to one another, and OUT to the world!**

