



**Riverlawn Presbyterian Church**  
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## SEPTEMBER 2023

When Jesus was physically here on earth, what would it have been like to be one of the disciples? What would the conversations have been about? I think they would have been about adding value to you. About listening to you. About loving you. When Jesus was in any sort of social setting, do you know what His natural reaction was? To serve. Why? Because He was full. He didn't need anything from anyone. He came simply to add, to serve, to complete. His idea of "working a room" wasn't networking, smooth-talking, or manipulating people for His own benefit. It was to make sure everyone walked out knowing God better than when they walked in.

You've probably met a few people who are truly secure. They have a sense of contentment in their lives. They know who they are. They are not concerned with comparison or competition; they are at peace, and they continually add value to others. Maybe you are one of those people. I know I want to be one. I want to live like Jesus.

Jesus always seems to find creative ways to add value to people. You know that kind of person – no matter how bad the meal was you just cooked, they find a way to compliment it. No matter how crazy your kids are behaving, they find a way to make you feel like amazing parents of amazing children. Can you imagine what it would look like if all of us – families, friends, churches – lived and loved from a place of inner fullness? It would look a lot like heaven on earth.

John 1:16 says that we have received from His fullness. How do we receive? We don't earn it. We don't deserve it. We don't develop it. We simply trust it, believe it, and receive it. Our mindset should be: "God, I receive from Your fullness today. I am who I am by Your grace. I find my rest and contentment in who You are through me." I'm not talking about repeating some formula or magic prayer. I'm talking about becoming aware of what God has already made available to us. We can receive from Jesus' fullness to the point where we are emotionally, mentally, and spiritually filled.

This eradicates one of the greatest hurdles in relationships and community: insecurity. Insecurity is more than just an emotion; it is a deep sense of deficiency and incompleteness. It paralyzes us relationally and socially. It isolates us. People can be all around us, yet we feel profoundly alone, because we think we don't measure up or we aren't good enough.

I've got bad news and good news. The bad news is we are right in our self-assessment. We don't measure up and we aren't good enough. But the good news is Jesus is enough. He's more than enough. And if we lean on Him and receive from Him, we will be enough as well. We all need community. When we find our security and completeness in Jesus, His fullness helps us become better friends, better spouses, better parents, better employees, better neighbors ... better servants of Christ!

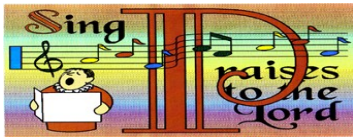
It's amazing how many people I run into who say, "I just don't have any good friends anymore." You would think it would be easier to make friends the older we get, but in fact, it's often harder. We get burned, we get disillusioned, we get manipulated, and eventually we give up. We start to keep people at arm's length to protect ourselves.

Jesus wants to remove the scar tissue – to wholly heal. He wants to help us relate socially the way He did – thinking of and serving others. Ironically, we are most protected against hurt not when we withdraw and isolate ourselves, but when we serve others with no strings attached.

Jesus is the relationship that completes us. When we find true friendship in Him, it frees us to discover real relationships with others at a level we never thought possible. Jesus is the one who fills us. And when we're full, we're free. How can you serve others today?

Pastor Chris





**MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS**  
**September 2023**

It's that time of the year. Plans are made for fall activities and we begin to mark our calendars with upcoming events. Here at the church choir has resumed and we are rehearsing anthems to share the next couple of months.

I have chosen a variety of anthems; some contemporary and a couple are based on hymn tunes. This fall we will be singing an arrangement of Higher Ground a hymn composed by Charles Gabriel (1856-1932) and text written by Johnson Oatman Jr. (1856-1922). It is a great expression of one's desire for a more profound spiritual life and was first published in 1898. It's a hymn filled with optimism and great aspiration to be fully consecrated to God. It's indeed a great help for anyone who aspires to take their spiritual goals to a higher level. As I looked closer at this hymn I was especially impressed with the following verse: My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay; though some may dwell where these abound, my prayer, my aim, is higher ground. What wise words for anyone who faces doubts and fears in their life. All of us have experienced times like that and Oatman's words suggest in order to overcome our fears we need to pray and aim for higher ground. The hymn can be found in our hymnal - #549 and we will be singing it in the near future.

Celebrate the coming fall season and enjoy the beauty of His earth as summer fades into autumn.

Pam



**FAMILY NIGHT**  
**RETURNS!**



Family Night begins Wednesday, September 6, beginning with dinner at 5:30. On the menu is chicken stuffed crescent rolls, scalloped potatoes, vegetable medley, salad and dessert.

Pastor Chris will lead a bible study on The Book of Romans beginning at 6:15.

The book of Romans is perhaps the most important book ever written on the Christian faith. The Apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life. We will join J.D. Greear, journeying chapter by chapter, through the first half of this letter to the church in Rome. Discover the timeless relevance of the book of Romans and encounter the power of its gospel!

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Grasping God's Word Bible study will meet in the cottage Sundays at 6:00 PM beginning September 10th. The focus of the study is on Bible translations and digging into the process of Bible interpretation. Each session should last about an hour/ hour and a half, and the study will run eight weeks. It is geared for all believers, no matter your level of study, and materials will be provided, so there's nothing to purchase!

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Barnes.

HEZEKIAH HOUSE  
BENEFIT GOSPEL CONCERT

St. Peter's UMC  
2601 Forrestal Ave. Saint Albans, WV 25177  
Sunday, September 10 from 6:00-8:00 pm

WITH ARTISTS:  
The Waymaker Trio  
Jimmy McKnight  
Martin Luther King Jr. All Male Chorus

AND SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:  
Hezekiah House President

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE CONCERT  
Entrance Tickets  
\$0  
Donation to the Hezekiah House requested



NATIONAL BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Since it started as a call to action and invitation for the church in 2009, the National Back to Church Sunday (BTCS) movement marks its fourteenth year and continues to gain momentum—more than 5 million Christ followers have participated through 30,000 churches!

Oct. 4 **Youth Outing: Lauren Daigle Concert**, Charleston Coliseum, 7:00pm. For more information, contact Barb Recknagel or Pastor Chris.

Oct. 7 **2023 Small Church Conference** – Elk Hills Presbyterian Church, Charleston (times and details can be found at [www.wvpresbytery.org](http://www.wvpresbytery.org))

BUILDING SECURITY

After hours security check:  
3rd Larry Hyatt  
10th Randy Dodrill  
17th Brenda Petry/Rosie Rhodes  
24th Butch & Sharon Herndon

Deacons' after church lock-up for September is Mimi Albert

Please contact Pat Croghan at 304-989-1894 if you have any conflicts and need to reschedule.



- 10 Greg Townsend
- 12 Sharon Herndon
- Autumn Pierce
- 18 Julie Wandling
- 19 Janice Sims
- 22 Dave Ryan
- 24 Micheal Sneed
- 25 Diane Vaughn
- 26 Larry Hyatt
- 29 Doris Kellam
- Dick Campbell
- Andy Rawlings



Kathy Barnes; Milo Cummings (Rick Adkins); Elbert Taylor; Heather Skeen; Wes Harless (The Alberts); Aunt Edye and Danny Daetwyler (Jane Lothes); Jim Recknagel; Trevor (Sherry Marcum); Missy Sneed; Trish (Joe Lothes' sister); Wanda (Linda Wilson's sister); Hannah Bowman; Judith Stancik (Susan Bryan); Linda Means; Betty McAdam; Beverly Day (Wanda Smith); Dave Ryan; Roger McBride (Linda Wilson); JB Recknagel; Janet Young; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.

Prayer List for Churches

- 3rd—Church: St. Cuthbert's; Parish: Rware; Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins; Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington
- 10th—Church: Parish: Thegenge; First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood; Mount Hope Presbyterian Church
- 17th—Church: Gathuthi; Parish: Thegenge; Kanawha United Presbyterian Church, Charleston; Smithers Presbyterian Church; St. Mary's Presbyterian Church
- 24th—Church: Hubuini; Parish: Thegenge; Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, Huntington; Upper Glade Presbyterian Church

03—Susan Bryan  
10—Kathy Barnes  
17—Beckie Croghan  
24—Susan Bryan



**CHOIR REHEARSALS**

Choir rehearsals—each  
Thursday at 7:00 pm.



**St. Albans  
Food Pantry Update  
September 2023**



Below are the current needs of the St. Albans Food Pantry that is located at St. Marks Episcopal Church in St. Albans:

The pantry continues to assist people with eyeglasses.

- CURRENT NEEDS:**  
cornbread  
baked beans/pork and beans  
cereal  
instant oatmeal  
pancake mix and syrup  
tuna fish  
canned pasta (spaghettios/ravioli)

Thank you for your support.

Beth Sturgill



Week of:

- 3 Jason Barnes (304-205-3315)  
Kathy Barnes (304-444-3058)  
10 Mary Reppert (304-419-2755)  
Sharon Herndon (304-444-2032)  
17 Mimi Albert (304-546-6547)  
Jamie Albert (681-340-1128)  
24 Paul Mullins (304-741-5914)  
Pam Mullins (304-932-84.63)



Deadline for submitting information for the October Newsletter is September 25th.

**2023 Riverlawn Elders and  
Board of Deacons**

**Elders:**

*Kathy Barnes, Clerk of Session/Stewardship*  
304-444-3058; Kabgmrl@comcast.net

*Joe Lothes, Missions*  
304-767-8313; fishlothes@hotmail.com

*Pam Mullins, Family & Community*  
304-932-8463; pwmandpsm@yahoo.com

*Paul Mullins, Building & Grounds/  
Worship/Fellowship*  
304-741-5914; nascarmemberswva@yahoo.com

*Sharon Herndon, Christian Nurture*  
304-444-2032; Polecat818@hotmail.com

*Jamie Albert, Evangelism*  
681-340-1128; James.macd.albert@gmail.com

**Session Meeting— 17th at 2:00 pm via Zoom.**

**Deacons:**

*Jason Barnes—304-205-3315*  
jasonbarnes@yahoo.com

*Ann Cox—304-389-2227*  
Lcox235@aol.com

*Mary Reppert—304-419-2755*  
Reppert.mary@gmail.com

*Mimi Albert—304-546-6547*  
Mimialbert72@yahoo.com

**Deacons Meeting—October 8—following worship.**

***Riverlawn Strives To***

- Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God*  
*Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship*  
*Demonstrate a life of love through service to others*  
*Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need*  
***Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love***