



Riverlawn Presbyterian Church

2008 Pennsylvania Avenue, St. Albans, WV 25177

(304) 727-8872 ♦ rpc.pastor@suddenlink.net ♦ www.riverlawnchurch.org

MARCH 2023

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy! If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; so that you may be revered. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is unfailing love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all their sins. (Psalm 130:1-8)

Throughout Lent, as we travel the road toward the Cross, we focus on our faults, taking an honest look within ourselves. We seek to humble ourselves before our Holy, Righteous God. That is no easy task. As we travel through this season, it is easy to be weighed down by the burdens that we each face. It is easy to get discouraged. This is where the psalmist is crying from. He is crying "out of the depths" to the Lord. Maybe that's where you are right now.

Yet at the same time we are also reminded, as we wait out this solemn season of Lent ... there is hope in the end – and that in hope there is forgiveness, love, and redemption. Our hope is found in no other but our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Looking back over the years, we may recall times of severe snow, ice and cold – how it hindered, hampered, confined, endangered, and chilled. There is a common longing for warmth – for the sun to break through the darkness and cold. We long for the breaking forth of such a morning.

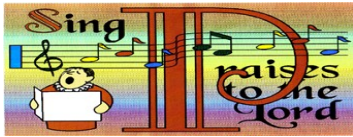
But listen to the psalmist – “My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.” It is such a strong desire that he repeats the phrase twice! There is a greater cold, a greater darkness, a greater threat than simply the weather outside – it is the sin that lies within. And if we long for the sun to melt away the snow, our soul should long even more for the Son to cleanse us of our sin. My soul longs for the Lord more than for the most glorious of mornings!

Our lives can resemble one long Lenten journey, with plenty of grief, anxiety, pride and pain along the way. Yet along that same way, we discover why the journey is worth the struggle. As we look within ourselves, may we also look up to the One who bridges heaven and earth. When we come to the end of Lent, as we celebrate the resurrection on Easter morning, there is no other who will hear our voice, or redeem us from all our sins, but the One who went to the cross on our behalf – the Sun of Righteousness, the Son of God, our Savior Jesus Christ!

Pastor Chris

Almighty God, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ who, as we cry out, is there to hear our voices, and that in hearing our cries, responds with love, forgiveness, and redemption. We thank you for all the blessings of our lives and lift up our highest praises to You as our God. We do all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen





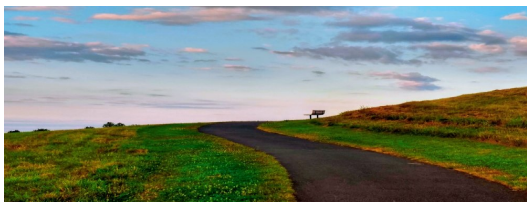
MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS MARCH 2023

February was a month with special music. The choir has continued to share each Sunday the anthems they have been preparing and on two Sundays we had guest musicians accompany them and share solos. Some of you probably know that most of those instrumentalists were students I encountered when I taught at Marshall. Many of them I accompanied on student recitals or their junior & senior recitals. As I think back (and it's been over 9 years since I taught there) I am so thankful that I have been able to stay in touch with them and even more grateful that so many of them continue to come to Riverlawn and share their talents. I never dreamed as I sat at the keyboard there on the stage in Smith Music Hall that years later those same 'kids' would be traveling to St. Albans (some from as far as Ashland, KY & Madison) and playing at Riverlawn year after year. There's only one way to describe this.....it's a GOD THING. He knew all along these relationships would go much further than the Marshall campus! I certainly do appreciate each of them as well as the choir members who remain faithful to this ministry.

On Wednesday evening, March 22 at 6:45 (following Family Night dinner), Aaron Sowards will be joining me in a program of Celtic music. Aaron has played flute & oboe several times for us during worship and was also here in January when we played selections following the Wednesday Night dinner. We will be doing hymn arrangements of familiar Irish tunes as well as some popular Irish melodies. As a special treat Aaron will be playing a couple of jigs on his Irish flute. I hope you can join us in the sanctuary for this special program.

I'd like to close with a traditional Irish blessing.....May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Pam

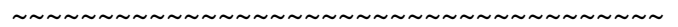


Join us for Family Night on Wednesdays, starting with dinner at 5:30. Following dinner, there will be worship, music and activities for the children and youth, CORE discipleship group and time for fellowship for the adults. **(There will be no Family Night on Wednesday the 15th),**



Join us for an evening of Celtic music after dinner on Wednesday, March 22.

Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up before and after dinner.



Please join us on Sunday, March 12, at 10:30am, as we celebrate Dawn Scheick becoming a member of our Riverlawn Church family!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Offering envelopes will be available on Palm Sunday, April 2.

Dates to Remember

- 03/19 Session meeting – 2:00pm
- 03/22 Evening of Celtic Music – following Family Night dinner
- 03/24 Riverlawn hosting Commissioned Pastor Training course (Fri-Sat)
- 03/26 Deacons Meeting – following worship
- 04/02 Palm Sunday – Special music program
- 04/07 Good Friday Tenebrae (joint service of the Presbyterian Churches of St. Albans and Nitro) – First Presbyterian, St. Albans hosting this year – 7:00pm
- 04/09 Easter Sunday
- 04/16-04/29 Pastor Chris will be on pilgrimage In the Holy Land



We will be ordering Easter flowers beginning this month. Watch for the order form in the Sunday bulletin. If you have any questions or need information regarding placing an order, please call Beckie at the church office at 304-727-8827.

We will be ordering lilies, tulips and hyacinths from Stadler's





- 4 Dawnetta Cook
- 6 Gavin Albert
- 9 Tom Cottrill
- 11 Brynne Shamblin
- 17 Finnian Connolly
- 21 GregCook
- 23 Sarah Wandling
- 24 Todd Barrie
- 25 Susan Bryan
- 29 Parry Johnson
Linda Spradling
- 30 Elizabeth Keller



- 5 Kathy Barnes
- 12 Susam Bryan
- 19 Beckie Croghan
- 26 Susan Bryan

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Each Thursday, 7:00 pm.



BUILDING SECURITY

- After church lock-up for March is Jason Barnes
 After hours security check for January:
- 05—Pat Croghan
 - 12—Brenda Petry/Rosie Rhodes
 - 19—Bill Bryan
 - 26—Pat Croghan



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; pwmmandpsm@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 will meet March 19 at 2:00pm 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 will meet Sunday, March 26, following the worship service.

~~~~~  
*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***

Sharon Bays (Dave Monday); Greg Townsend; Diane Vaughn; Edward Maxwell (cousin of Chase and Charlie Smith); Ryan Lott (Dave and Joyce Ryan); Randy Dodrill; Patsy Novak (Pastor Chris); Brandi Wolfe (Donald and Sherry Marcum); Donald Miller (Frances Miller); Emma (Linda Monday); Michelle Flint (Casey Stribling); Katie Price (Joanna Keller); Linda Means; Betty McAdam; Nancy Young; Kayla and Brandon (Kathy Barnes); Lauren (Ron & Sherry Claar's granddaughter); Beverly Day (Wanda Smith); David, Laura and Max Brubaker (Janet Brubaker); Joanna Keller; Sherri Drake (Ann Cox); Dave Ryan; Hannah Bowman; Roger McBride (Linda Wilson); JB Recknagel; Lakyn Kilbert; David Blevins (Donald & Sherry Marcum); Janet Young; Charlie Kellam; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.

Prayer list for churches of WV Presbytery and our Nyeri partnership church of the week of **February 26**: Church: Githunguri New Church Development; Parish: Giakanja; Beverly Presbyterian Church, Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot.



|         |                                |                              |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 5  | Jason Barnes<br>Kathy Barnes   | 304-205-3315<br>304-444-3058 |
| Feb. 12 | Mary Reppert<br>Sharon Herndon | 304-419-2755<br>304-444-2032 |
| Feb. 19 | Mimi Albert<br>Jamie Albert    | 304-546-6547<br>681-340-1128 |
| Feb. 26 | Paul Mullins<br>Pam Mullins    | 304-741-5914<br>304-932-8463 |



**APRIL NEWSLETTER**

Deadline for submitting information for the April Newsletter is Monday, March 27.