



The View

Madison Presbyterian Church

February 2025

February 2025 Letter from the Pastor

Well, it's been a heck of a year, lol.

What's the church to do?

Well, we must ask ourselves, as ministers of the gospel of Jesus, "What do people need more than anything else?" This question was asked at our Annual Team Leaders and Elders Dinner. The answer of consensus was: Hope.

Hope.

The Hebrew word for "hope" is Tikvah, which can also mean "expectation" or "rope". It is both a noun and a verb. It is tangible. It is action oriented, and not vapor. Hope is real.

In the New Testament, "elpis" primarily denotes a confident expectation or trust in God's promises. It is not merely wishful thinking, but a firm assurance based on the character and faithfulness of God. This hope is often linked with faith and love, forming a triad of Christian virtues (*1 Corinthians 13:13*).

In the Greco-Roman world, and certainly in ours, hope is often defined as an uncertain expectation, sometimes even a delusion. However, the Christian understanding of hope, as expressed in the New Testament, is rooted in the certainty of God's promises and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This hope is transformative, providing believers with strength and perseverance amid trials.

Now. How can we give others that hope that is a rope to hang on to? Here's some ideas, let me know yours!

1."I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within youfor God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7. As the saying goes - Put your own oxygen mask on first, then help the person next to you.

2.What it takes for a Christian to rekindle: immersion in the things of God. Pray, worship, read, talk to your pastor, listen to Christian music. Steep yourself in the **promises** of God.Then ...

3. When we hear someone else despairing, we must hold on to them and tell them the truth of God's promises. Hold on. It will get better. If it's not better yet, it's not the end yet. It will not always be like this.

For the Christian these are not empty words. This is actively proclaiming the good news of God's promise. The EVIDENCE of things not seen.

4. Make a tangible physical difference where you can. It doesn't have to be big. Our Office Manager and Bookkeeper Donna is part of a group called, I think, the "Lasagna Club". If anybody – inside or outside of the group - needs a dinner they just reach out through the main contact number. They don't need "proof" of anything. It could have been a crippling week at work. It could be that the kids have been sick. It could be that they weren't able to get out of the house for groceries. It could be that they are poor and already have used up their food stamps. The point is that the need presents itself, and a caring person responds and takes a lasagna over to the other person's house.

Be on your toes for ways to bring God's hope to a hurting world. Let us know if you have a great idea of how else we might "do hope".

Blessings!

Pastor Karen

*Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1*

Pastor Karen Contact Information



My cell is 540-414-3193 Saturday through Thursday 9am-7pm.

My Sabbath is Friday. Emergencies only on Fridays, please.



EMERGENCIES call any time. PLEASE call or text directly if you or your loved one goes to the hospital, as soon as possible. Do not assume I know.



2024						
January	February	March	April	May	June	July
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
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29	29	29	29	29	29	29
30	30	30	30	30	30	30
31	31	31	31	31	31	31

In the Office M, W, Th from 9 to Noon AND when you want to see me.

I am HAPPY to make afternoon, evening, or weekend appointments.

My time will flex to accommodate you.

If you want to drop by to see me instead of making an appointment, I will always be glad to see you. Just know you may have to wait if someone else has scheduled time.



MPC Office Hours

Donna is in the Office Mon-Thurs 8:00am-1:00pm. Please stop by, leave a message on the phone or send an email if there's anything we can help with. If you have changes to your Address, Phone, or Email please send updated information to office@madisonpresbyterian.com.



*2025 Flower Calendar
Is posted in the Narthex.*

*Send flower dedications for the
bulletin to
office@madisonpresbyterian.com
or call the office at (540)948-6972.*



Madison Presbyterian Church

PIN: 22871 Presbytery: James (150298) Synod: Mid-Atlantic (150)

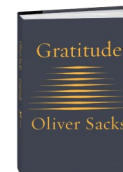
Epiphany and King Cake at MPC



**BROWN BAG BOOK STUDY
NEW BOOK
"Gratitude" by Oliver Sacks
February 5th and 19th
Tack Room
11am**

All Are Welcome

Reflections on what it means to live a good and worthwhile life. These four essays—which went viral when first published in the *New York Times*—form an ode to the uniqueness of each human being.



There is a great collection of books in the Tack Room to learn more about how to become a steward of our planet, and in keeping with being an Earth Care Congregation.



HEBRON LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS AN
ORGAN CONCERT
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2025 2:30 P.M.

Join us for a performance by Daniel Grotz playing the 1802 Tannenberg organ.

Supporting the restoration & preservation of Hebron Lutheran Church. Don't miss this opportunity to listen to the beautiful organ sounds in its charming, historic setting.

Free concert - Donations accepted!
899 Blankenbaker Road Madison, VA

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP VIA FACEBOOK, VISIT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HEBRONLUTHERANVA OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Spotlight on Loaves & Fishes Ministry

by Audrey Sarate

This past Friday, I participated in the packing of the bags for the Boys and Girls Club of Madison County (which meets after school and in the summer at a building on the Waverly Yowell Elementary School grounds). The children are enrolled by their parents to participate in the program. The Loaves & Fishes program was begun by the Hebron Lutheran Church several years ago to supplement the weekend nutritional needs of the children. Madison Presbyterian Church joined soon after, and this past year, Piedmont Episcopal Church was added. These churches provide healthy food and snack items packed in a bag to take home on Friday afternoons.

At our church, shopping for the provisions at Sam's Club is done by George and Bobbie Carroll, alternating with Malcolm Davis and Audrey Sarate. Bobbie and Mary Haught have been sorting and packing the bags with twelve items to cover breakfast, lunch and snacks. These bags are then delivered by Berta Storey, Sam Strahan or John Storey to the Club on the first and fourth Fridays of the month. Members of Hebron Lutheran Church handle the second and third Fridays, and Piedmont Episcopal Church does the fifth Fridays. Currently the churches are serving forty children each week. That's a lot of shopping, packing and delivering for a small group of dedicated volunteers.

Our food supplies are stored in the sanctuary basement and are inventoried after each delivery. This is the largest number of children we have been asked to serve and the need has been growing each year. The process has been refined and works very well, but "more hands" could lighten the workload. If you are interested in serving this mission project, please contact Bobbie Carroll at (540) 948-9922 or send an email to gcbc3.carroll@gmail.com.

We receive funding through the church's annual budget and a grant from Presbytery for our portion of the work. Individual monetary donations are also welcome, earmarked for Loaves & Fishes. If you have questions, please ask anyone above who is involved in this ministry.



2025 Annual Meeting and Potluck



Annual Giving Statements will be in the Narthex on Sunday, February 2. Please let me know if you have any questions. Statements not picked up by February 15th will be mailed.



POJ Recovery Assistance Trip Planned to Augusta, GA

The upcoming mission trip is structured into two separate weeks to ensure steady progress on the home. Volunteers may participate in the first week, the second week, or both. **The trip will take place from February 23 to March 1, 2025, and March 2 to March 8, 2025,** with 6-8 participants needed each week. The team seeks able-bodied individuals willing to contribute, regardless of skill level. Every effort will make a meaningful impact on a community in need.

Accommodations will include a facility with a kitchen, and meals will be self-prepared. A designated cook may be arranged, or meal preparation can be divided among participants. Volunteers must bring air mattresses and sleeping bags.

This mission offers the opportunity to witness tangible progress on a home, gain new skills, and experience one of the most rewarding opportunities of a lifetime.

Those interested in joining or referring others should email [Brown Pearson](#) or [Stan Parcell](#) or by calling Stan at 804-445-3040 as soon as possible.

For new participants, a mandatory training session will be held on February 12, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at 2847 Rams Crossing, North Chesterfield, VA 23236. This hands-on meeting will cover trip logistics, necessary supplies, and safety protocols, so attendees should wear work clothes

<https://www.presbyteryofthejames.com/ministries/disaster-relief/>

Counters February - April 2025

February	March	April
Sue Strahan	Heidi Sage	Dana Edelman
Sam Strahan	Allan McLearn	Art Pearson

The Card Group makes greeting cards for nursing home residents and church members that are home bound, and for other occasions. They meet Fridays (February 7th, 14th, and 28th) in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. All are welcome to join!

Choir Practice meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Elizabeth Anne Storey with any questions.

Breakfast Buzz meets at 9am on the third Friday of the month (February 21st), in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Bobbie Carroll with any questions.

Presbyterian Women meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday (February 12th), at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Group meets each Tuesday at 9am in the Tack Room. All men are welcome!

Book Club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11am in the Tack Room. We are starting a new book on February 5th, "Gratitude" by Oliver Sacks. Please join us.

February Communion Servers

Bill Pattie	
Linda Sadler	Heidi Sage
Bobbie Carroll	Beth Kloker



On Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, **the cups contain only Juice.**

February Liturgists and Greeters

Feb 2	Ruth Miles	Harvey & Corrine Stanley
Feb 9	Dorinda Grasty	Charles & Sharon Carter
Feb 16	John Quinley	Bill & Ann Tidball
Feb 23	Audrey Sarate	Cindy Pattie

Social Services Needs for Families

Needs of the Month: **FEBRUARY**

"Foods" of the Month for Infants and Children

Baby foods, diapers, finger foods, baby cookies, small cans of spaghetti or soup, packages of macaroni and cheese, instant oatmeal, cereal, cream of wheat, peanut butter and jelly, pudding, Jell-O cups, fruit cups, juices, instant dry milk



Please place your donations in the red container in the Fellowship Hall.
Items will be taken to Madison Social Services to help neighbors in need.



February Birthdays


02/11	Sam Strahan
02/15	Jackie Haines
02/16	Sharon Carter
02/17	Carter Rees
02/22	Ann Patterson
02/23	Ashley Haines
02/24	Frank King
02/27	Dudley Pattie



Breakfast Buzzzzzzzz
Friday February 21st 9AM

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall!

The First Sunday of each month we collect a special offering for 5¢ a Meal. Please consider contributing to this worthy cause in the effort to end hunger.




Men's Group
 meets each Tuesday at 9:00am in the Tack Room.
 Bring your breakfast and enjoy some coffee and conversation.
All men are welcome!

The 2025 Church Directory is Available.
 Many thanks to Pastor Karen and Sharon Carter!
 If your information is incorrect, please send an email to office@madisonpresbyterian.com so we can update your info.
 Thanks!




Have something you would like to contribute to the Monthly Newsletter?
 Send your articles, pictures, or information to the church office at: office@madisonpresbyterian.com



Deadline for MARCH is February 24th
Newsletter Thank you!

Brown Bag Book Study
New Book

We will meet Wednesday, February 5th and 19th at 11am in the Tack Room. Our new book study is "Gratitude" by Oliver Sacks.
 Contact Bobbie Carroll if you have any questions.
 540-948-9922



Madison Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 297, 1236 Fishback Road
 Madison, VA 22727
 540.948.6972
www.madisonpresbyterian.com

Pastor: Karen Allamon Church
pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com
 Administrator: Donna Kulesza
office@madisonpresbyterian.com
 Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a – 1:00p

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 10am Communion AA 5:30 PM	3	4 Men's Group 9am	5 Brown Bag Book Study 11am Choir Practice	6	7 Card Group 10am	8
9 Worship 10am AA 5:30 PM	10 Quilt Guild 1:00pm	11 Men's Group 9am Session 6:00pm	12 Pres Women 10:00am Madison Womans Club 12:00pm Choir Practice	13	14 Card Group 10am <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 Worship 10am AA 5:30 PM	17 Worship Team 10am 	18 Men's Group 9am	19 Brown Bag Book Study 11am Womans Club 6:00pm Choir Practice 7pm	20 Garden Club 11am	21 Breakfast Buzz 9am	22
23 Worship 10am AA 5:30 PM	24 Quilt Guild 6:30pm	25 Men's Group 9am	26 Choir Practice 7pm	27	28 Card Group 10am	

Sunday, February 2 Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm 71:1–6 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 Luke 4:21–30

Sunday, February 9 Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11

Sunday, February 16 Jeremiah 17:5–10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Luke 6:17–26

Sunday, February 23 Genesis 45:3–11, 15 Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50 Luke 6:27–38