



Come and enjoy some lunch and fellowship at the Community Building after the worship service on **Sunday, April 7th.**



First Peter 4:10 says, ***“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*** With time to spare, spring break can be an opportunity to humbly serve.

Volunteering is one way we can show Christ’s love to others. By serving as a family, you get quality time together while reinforcing the importance and blessings of Christian service.

Check out the local animal shelter or food bank, ask your church if there are any projects you can help with, or ask an elderly friend or neighbor if you can help them with yard work or spring cleaning.



The desired “Products of the Month” for April — ***personal hygiene & cleaning supplies***

We will gladly receive any non-perishable items.

Food items will be delivered to Fairfield Presbyterian Church to help families in the northern end of the county.



Collection Dates:
until April 14

The Witness and Outreach Committee is putting together Hygiene Kits in support of disaster relief through Church World Service. Items may be placed in the vestibule basket.

Here is a list of items needed:

- ***1-gallon Ziploc bags***
- ***hand towels measuring up to 16”x32”*** (no finger tip, bath, dish, or micro-fiber towels)
- ***washcloths***
- ***wide-tooth combs*** (must be sturdy with at least 6” of teeth, no pocket combs or picks)
- ***fingernail or toenail clippers***
- ***bath-size bars of soap in original package***
- ***single toothbrushes in original package***



The Compassion and Fellowship Committee will be updating the Family Directory this month. Please contact Sylvia Henry or Joyce Broughman with any updates to your personal information.

Additionally, the committee is working to update the anniversary list for marriages. There is a need for dates and years married. Please contact Jessie Lotts by ***April 14th.***



The deadline is the ***22nd of each month.*** Please send items to Linda Kuehne at kuehneal@msn.com or phone: 703-505-4993.

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church

73 Sam Houston Way, Lexington, Virginia 24450



“Old Stone Church” est. 1746



While you're cleaning out closets and sweeping under the furniture, think about this: Spring cleaning, while worth the effort, will only last for a season, but spiritual cleansing could have an enduring influence. So don't just dust behind those bookshelves. Instead, dust off that Bible and get ready for a spiritual spring cleaning.

Cleanse Your Heart to Become Spiritually Healthy

The Bible encourages us to draw close to God and allow our hearts and bodies to be cleansed. This is the first step in our spring cleaning project. We can't clean ourselves. Instead, we must draw near to God and ask Him to do the cleansing.

Deep Clean Your Mouth Inside and Out

Spiritual cleansing requires deep cleaning--it is housekeeping that goes beyond what others see and hear. It's a cleansing from within, inside and out. As your heart gets clean, your language should follow. This is not just talking about bad language, but also negative talk and pessimistic thoughts that contradict the Word of God and faith. This includes the challenge to stop complaining.

Renew Your Mind

This is one of the biggest areas of struggle for most of us: removing the garbage from our minds. Garbage in equals garbage out. We must feed our minds and spirits the Word of God instead of the garbage of this world.

Clean out Your Spiritual Closets

Hidden sin will destroy your life, your peace, and even your health. The Bible says to confess your sin: tell someone, and reach out for help. When your spiritual closets are clean, the heaviness from hidden sin will lift.

Release Unforgiveness and Bitterness

Any sin will weigh you down but long kept unforgiveness and bitterness is like old baggage in the attic you can't seem to part with. You are so familiar with it, you don't even realize how it is hindering your life.

Involve Jesus in Your Daily Life

What God wants most from you is a relationship: friendship. He wants to be involved in the big and small moments of your life. Open your life, let the light of God's presence shine into every part, and you'll have no need for a yearly spiritual cleansing. Instead, you'll experience a daily, moment to moment refreshing of your spirit.

Learn to Laugh at Yourself and at Life

Some of us take life too seriously, or we take ourselves too seriously. Jesus wants you to enjoy yourself and learn to have some fun. God made you for His pleasure!

Source: Article by Mary Fairchild dated 5/5/19 at www.learnreligions.com



This season is a time of warming weather and nature coming back to life. As flowers bloom and animals are born, we are reminded of the innocence and beauty that exists in this world and that there is new life all around us. As Christians, we are given new life and new mercies every morning. Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life and leaving the old dead parts of life behind. There is always hope during the coldest, darkest winters of life. Spring will come and new life will come forth!

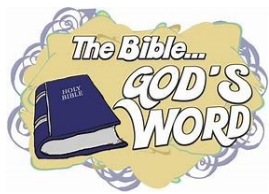
***Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.
~ Deuteronomy 32:2***

CHURCH CALENDAR



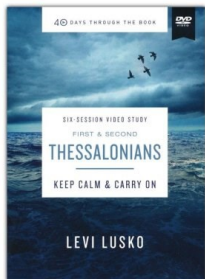
- APR 03 COOKIE COLLECTION
- APR 07 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
- APR 07 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM
- APR 07 LUNCH BUNCH 12:00 PM
- APR 14 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
- APR 14 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM
- APR 16 **SESSION MEETING** 7:00 PM
- APR 17 **WITNESS & OUTREACH** 11:00 AM
- APR 18 **COMPASSION/FELLOWSHIP** ...10:00 AM
- APR 21 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
- APR 21 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM
- APR 28 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
- APR 28 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 AM





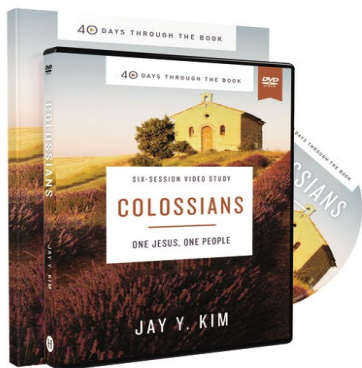
The **40 Days Through the Book** DVD series is taught by a different pastor or Bible teacher and designed to help you actively engage with God's Word. As you read through selected books of the New Testament, you will gain an understanding of the background and culture of the book, insights into key passages, and clear takeaways that you can apply today to your life.

Preview of the next Bible Study in the *40 Days Through the Book* series starting on **May 19th**.



Have you ever been discouraged in your faith? Or wondered if you are staying grounded in what you believe? This was the issue facing the believers in Thessalonica. So Paul compelled them in two letters to not be deceived by false teachers but remain diligent in doing the work set before them as they looked forward to Jesus's return.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
April 7—May 12
6 sessions



In this six-session study, author and pastor Jay Kim guides small-group members through Paul's letter to the believers in Colossae, revealing what his words meant to his original readers . . . and how they apply to us today. The letter to the believers in Colossae contains a message that's urgent today—a message of unity among the followers of Christ; a message of thanksgiving and spiritual fullness in a broken world; a message that shows us how to live as the people who are made alive in the one true Christ. Sessions include:

- ~ **The True Center**
- ~ **Broken Gauges**
- ~ **A Greater Reality**
- ~ **Constant Dissonance**
- ~ **The Right Attire**
- ~ **God Alone**

Lectionary Readings

For April 2024

Apr 7 — Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
Second Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2
Gospel John 20:19-31

Apr 14 — Third Sunday of Easter

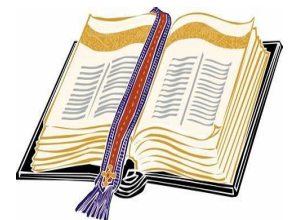
First Reading Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
Second Reading 1 John 3:1-7
Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

Apr 21 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24
Gospel John 10:11-18

Apr 28 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21
Gospel John 15:1-8



Colossae was an ethnically and religiously diverse city in modern-day Turkey where Jews and Gentiles co-existed. The believers there had found themselves floundering as they tried to navigate what following Jesus looks like in a pluralistic society. So Paul wrote to the young church to confront individualism and the falsehood that the world revolved around them. He dispels the false teachings by emphasizing the supremacy of Christ over all human actions and philosophies. This wasn't just an issue for the Colossian Christians ... it's an issue for believers today.



Administration

Allen Strecker— No report.

February budget data:

	<u>February</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
Receipts	16,801.71	24,802.46
Payments	3,977.34	8,913.40
Balance 2/29/2024	12,824.37	15,889.06



Christian Education

Jean Ramsey — The committee did not meet during the month of March. We will begin planning for our summer service-oriented Youth Bible School week at our next meeting to scheduled in April (TBD).

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
~ Hebrews 13:16*



Compassion & Fellowship

Jessie Lotts— The committee provided a Soup and Bread meal prior to the annual congregational meeting on March 3rd. Members of the congregation were generous with help and food for a successful gathering. Unfortunately, during cleaning up after the meal, it was noticed that the microwave's door would not open and there seemed to be a short in the light. A committee member made a generous donation so that a new one could be purchased.

Committee members made Easter Baskets for out shut-ins during our March 21st meeting, and the congregation was asked to help distribute them on Palm Sunday. It was decided that since the church would not have a Sunrise service, a breakfast was not needed. Instead, the committee served coffee and pastries on Easter morning from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Community Building to provide an opportunity to enjoy the celebration of Easter and fellowship with each other.

There are plans in the works for an update of the church directory this year. Also, the committee is planning an anniversary celebration in May at our Lunch Bunch for our couples in the church.



Witness & Outreach

Kathy Cummins— In late February we concluded our money collection in support of the Comfort Care Women's Health annual Baby Bottle campaign. A total of 15 Baby Bottles were returned. Your donations help to support women in unplanned pregnancies, and to equip and encourage others to lead with hope and compassion. Thank you to everyone who helped in making this successful.

We are in the process of collecting Hygiene Kits in support of disaster relief through Church World Service. These kits are used to help families who have to abruptly leave their home because of emergencies. They may not have time to pack the things they use on a daily basis like toothbrushes or soap, but after a few days without these items they definitely miss them. A hygiene kit offers a refreshing daily boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by. The supplies needed have been listed in the March newsletter, and a list was included in the March 3rd worship bulletin. There are also some extra copies in the vestibule. If anyone is not able to make a kit, a donation can be made and the committee will take care of getting the supplies needed. We would like to complete at least 50 kits, but 100 would be even better. We will collect the kits until April 14th, and then the committee will meet the following week to put kits together and deliver them to Church World Service.



Property

Nick Ramsey— No report.



Worship

Mike Henry— An updated list of Pulpit Supply ministers is shown below:

- Apr 7 — Rick Ramsey
- Apr 14 — Rick Ramsey
- Apr 21 — Carl Pattison
- Apr 28 — Bernard Bangley
- May 5 — Open
- May 12 (Mother's Day) — Marjorie Anderson
- May 19 — Open
- May 26 — Bernard Bangley



*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
~ Psalms 100:2*



The Flower Committee

If you would like to share your artistic talent in the beautification of our church, please consider becoming part of the Flower Committee. Along with providing floral arrangements for the Sunday worship service, the committee is responsible for the Flowering of the Cross at Easter and the decoration of our church windows and vestibule during the Advent season. Please contact Julie Lipscomb at (540) 460-2246 if you are interested in volunteering your time in this way.



<https://www.trpchurch.org>

Accessing YouTube Video of the Church Service

As many of you know, we have been recording the video and sound for the Sunday services and posting the recordings on the Timber Ridge Church YouTube channel. For those of you who are on the church's email list, we send out an email each Sunday in which there is a link to the YouTube video for that Sunday service. For those that are not on the email list, you can still access the YouTube recording for the last four services by going to the church's website address ([trpchurch.org](https://www.trpchurch.org)) and selecting "Sunday Service" in the "Worship" section. At the top of the Sunday Service page, you will see the dates for the last four services and a YouTube address beginning with "https:". Simply click on the address for the date you would like to view and it will automatically take you to the YouTube video.

Meet **Gale Dickerson**



Gale grew up in the town of Ashland, Virginia, the youngest of three children. She attended Virginia Tech where she received an Engineering degree in 1982. During her professional career she worked with a number of construction firms in the Hanover County area outside Richmond. For many years she resided in the Northern Neck area along the Rappahannock River, a scenic and historical part of the Commonwealth. But in 2023 she decided to move to Fairfield, Virginia to be closer to family (Julie Lipscomb is a cousin), and has come to appreciate the natural beauty of the mountains and pastures of the Shenandoah Valley region. Interestingly, Gale's mother, a Mackey, grew up in our church, and because of that, Gale expressed a close feeling of connection with Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Gale enjoys being involved in many of our church activities and is such a welcome addition to our congregation. Some of her interests include: reading (particularly mystery novels) and getting out in nature. She likes to put in a 2 mile walk each day. Her dog "Nellie" is a constant companion.



Window to the Past:

The Timber Ridge congregation issued a call to young Henry Ruffner in 1819. Ruffner was a "big-bodied and heavy fisted" man of German-Swiss ancestry who had been born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, in 1790. Henry attended Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) and graduated in 1813. After several years of theological studies and missionary work, he returned to Lexington as an ordained Presbyterian minister. In 1819 he took over the College chair in literature. His ties to Timber Ridge were strengthened that same year when he married "Sally" Lyle. In time, Henry Ruffner became president of Washington College and one of the most prominent Virginians of his day.



ENCOURAGING A LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD

If you go downstairs into the Youth Sunday School room you will find favorite Scripture verses that our kids have selected and posted on the chalk board. This is the start of a desire on their part to know more about what the Bible has to teach them.

Throughout our nation's history, many great Americans have held the Bible in high esteem, recognizing the value of its redeeming truth and eternal wisdom for our daily lives. Helen Keller is quoted as saying, "Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations, because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness." Henry Ford claimed, "All the sense of integrity, honor, and service I have in my heart I got from hearing the Bible read by a school teacher in the three years I was privileged to go to a little, old-fashioned grammar school. The teacher read the Bible every morning to start the day right. I got a great deal out of that influence."

We read in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that "all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do." This verse emphasizes the importance of Scripture as a guide for understanding truth, correcting our mistakes, and equipping us to live righteously. It serves as a powerful reminder of the value of God's Word in our lives.

During this Easter season, encourage our young people and share with them the message of comfort and hope that comes from knowing that Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is risen, having triumphed over death and sin.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying."

~ John 11:25



PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE SERIES *for kids*



PAUL



Paul was the first great missionary of the Christian church. His Jewish name was Saul, and he was from the city of Tarsus. Before he believed in Jesus, he was a Pharisee, a Jew who strictly kept the Old Testament law. He hated Christians and thought he was pleasing God to hurt them. Then the resurrected Jesus appeared to Saul in a blinding light. Saul believed and started using all his energy to tell people about Jesus. He went on three missionary journeys to take the Good News throughout the Roman Empire. He wrote 13 of the New Testament books. Some of them are Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, 1 Timothy, 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Paul was beaten, stoned, flogged, arrested, thrown into prison, and ultimately executed for his faith in Jesus Christ.

See Paul's story in Acts 7:58-28:31 and in his many New Testament letters.

Key event

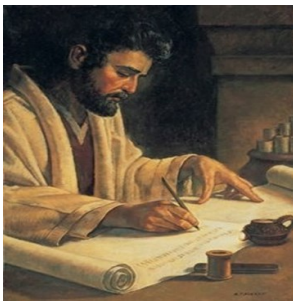
The early church; Paul's first missionary journey; Paul's second missionary journey; Paul's third missionary journey; Paul's journey to Rome

Study Questions

- What was Saul doing when Stephen was stoned? (Acts 7:54-60)
 - What did God tell Ananias to do for Saul? (Acts 9:1-19)
- How did Lydia hear Paul's message about Jesus? (Acts 16:11-15)



LUKE



Luke was a physician who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He wanted to make a clear, orderly account of the life of Jesus Christ, the apostles, and the early church. Luke was the first church historian. He traveled much of the time with the apostle Paul. Many times, he said "we" as he wrote about their travels. He may have been Paul's personal physician. Luke was with Paul in Rome when Paul was imprisoned. Paul spoke of him as "dear Doctor Luke." Luke's Gospel shows Jesus as the perfect man. It is also filled with many songs of praise and joy.

See Luke's story in Luke 1:3; Acts (for example, 16:10); Colossians 4:14.

Key event

The early church