



The Messenger

Perseverance Christian Church Newsletter
Celebrating 198 Years of Ministry

April 2026

Dear Church,

In Paul's letter to the early church in Ephesus, in Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul reminds us of the incredible gift of God's grace. He teaches that through God's grace, we Gentiles, have been chosen by God. Even when we were lost in sin, God reached for us. There were no prerequisites, no checklist to complete. The only requirement then, and the only requirement now, is belief in the One who saves.

One of my favorite moments in Scripture happens at Calvary. Jesus is hanging on the cross, giving His life for the salvation of the world, and a Roman centurion—someone who had likely witnessed countless crucifixions—looks up and says, in Matthew 27:54, "Truly this was the Son of God." Even in that moment of suffering, the truth of who Jesus is could not be hidden.

When we come to know Jesus for ourselves, when our eyes are opened to see that He truly is the Messiah, the One the prophets spoke of, the one John the Baptist prepared the way for, then we too step into salvation. And not just salvation, but transformation. Paul reminds the Ephesians, and he reminds us, that we are no longer who we used to be. We don't live to satisfy the old desires of the flesh. Instead, through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' thoughts begin to shape our thoughts. His way becomes our way. We are made alive in Christ—continually being renewed, continually being shaped—and then sent back into the world as living demonstrations of God's handiwork. This is exactly who we are: God's handiwork. Let's not forget it. Let's not hide the light of Christ within us. Let's remember that we were once blind, but now we see.

Let's remember that God raised us from death to life. And through His grace and mercy, we now live in Him.

Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed!

In Hope,
Rev. Webster

PRAYER LIST

Alice Carol Maitland, Bobby Northington, Bruce and Voni Thompson, Cookie Daniel, Danny and Edna Moore, David and Beverley Hite, Eddie Callahan, Edward and Elsie Almand, Jane Browder, John Ragsdale, Johnny Moore, Kathy Pegram, Larry Way, Nick Whisenhunt, Pamela James, Paul Willis, Richard Maddox, Rose Jenkins, Sue Perkins, Vincent Coley, Wayne Mafon, Our Troops, Leaders of All Nations, Nancy Wainwright, Jessie Mae Maddox, Barbara Greene, Tracey Hadley, Blaire Liggett, Cynthia Arthur, Julie Lafoon, Paula Jo Morgan, Mark Walsh, Ersall McDowell, James and Gayle Edmonds, Ray Covington, Heather Wallace, Carol Watson.

Family of:
Haynie Matthews, Joann Kirk, Jay Hamlett
Robin Wrenn, Clyde Edmonds, Ann Epperson

Special Services:

A Journey of Faith and Renewal

Experience the depth of God's love through Palm Sunday and our Holy Week services:

Maundy Thursday Service – April 2, 2026 – 7 PM

Join us for a meaningful Maundy Thursday service as we remember the Last Supper and the love of Christ. The evening will include a Last Supper Reenactment, Service of Shadows, and Holy Communion by intinction. We will conclude with a silent candlelight exit, leaving in quiet reflection as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday and Easter. All are welcome to share in this sacred night.

Good Friday Prayer Opportunity – April 3, 2026 – 9 AM to 5 PM

On Good Friday, we invite you to come and reflect on this holy day as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The Stations of the Cross will be set up throughout the sanctuary, offering a self-guided time of prayer, reflection, and meditation. The church will be open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and you are welcome to come and go as you are able. All are welcome to enter this sacred time of remembrance.

Easter Sunday – April 5 – 6:30 a.m. (sunrise) and 11:00 a.m.

Rejoice in the victory of the Resurrection! Worship with us as we celebrate the risen Lord. Our sunrise service will be held at the pond at the Parsonage-weather permitting.

TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY

The Membership Committee will be starting a "Teddy Bear Ministry." We need new or gently used teddy bears. They can be any color. A card will be attached to each bear with these words: "Dear Friend, I'm just a teddy bear, it's true, but I have a message for you. I've been to church and sat in a pew; I've been hugged and squeezed by quite a few. I've bowed my head when they said a prayer; I've been charged with love by those who care. And now I've come to live with you, to bring you joy when you're blue. To let you know that others care and want to help your burdens bear. So, keep me close and squeeze me tight and know God's love helps make things right." Love from your friends at Perseverance Christian Church. Once the bears are collected and tagged, they will be placed throughout the pews. Anytime you visit someone who needs a little encouragement, please select any bear and take it to those that need encouragement to keep.



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thursday Live "Last Supper" Service @ 7	3 Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9-5 Sanctuary	4
5 Easter Sunrise @6:30 Parsonage Pond SS @ 10 Worship @ 11	6	7	8 Bible Study @ 6:30	9 Board Meeting @ 7	10	11
12 SS @ 10 Worship @ 11	13	14	15 Bible Study @ 6:30	16	17	18
19 Earth Day/Blessing of Animals SS @ 10 Worship @ 11 Choir Practice @ 6	20	21	22 No Bible Study	23	24	25
26 SS @ 10 Worship @ 11 Choir Practice @ 6	27	28	29 Bible Study @ 6:30	30		



Debra Craven (2nd) Charlie Pegram,
Kim Cox (3rd) Larry Way, Westin
Gwaltney, Jordan Pegram (4th) Tiffany
Pahe, Ricky Almand, Dickie Jeter (7th)
Stacey Turner (8th) Marty Robbins (9th)
Lula Fay Gwaltney (13th) Noah Daniel
(14th) Terri Peterson Way (15th) Jewell
Fenwick, Frankie Thompson (16th) Billy
Wilkinson, Paula Jo Morgan (17th)
Darcy Willis (19th) Roger Wallace
(20th) Jennifer Wallace (21st) Chris
Fowler, Dany Willis (22nd) Tammy
Matthew, Sue Cox (26th) Carolyn Keyes
(28)

Take the One Year Challenge!

April Reading Plan

April 1: Deuteronomy 1
April 2: Deuteronomy 2
April 3: Deuteronomy 3
April 4: Deuteronomy 4
April 5: Deuteronomy 5
April 6: Deuteronomy 6
April 7: Deuteronomy 7
April 8: Deuteronomy 8
April 9: Deuteronomy 9
April 10: Deuteronomy 10
April 11: Deuteronomy 11
April 12: Deuteronomy 12
April 13: Deuteronomy 13
April 14: Deuteronomy 14
April 15: Deuteronomy 15
April 16: Deuteronomy 16
April 17: Deuteronomy 17
April 18: Deuteronomy 18
April 19: Deuteronomy 19
April 20: Deuteronomy 20
April 21: Deuteronomy 21
April 22: Deuteronomy 22
April 23: Deuteronomy 23
April 24: Deuteronomy 24
April 25: Deuteronomy 25
April 26: Deuteronomy 26
April 27: Deuteronomy 27
April 28: Deuteronomy 28
April 29: Deuteronomy 29
April 30: Deuteronomy 30



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



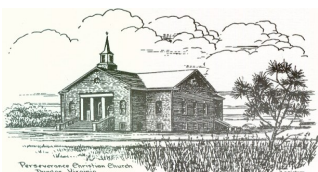
What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen"

30 Days of Prayer for April

- April 1 — Surrender**
Scripture: Psalm 139:23-24
- April 2 — Gratitude**
Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- April 3 — Listening for God**
Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:10
- April 4 — Confession & Renewal**
Scripture: Psalm 51:10
- April 5 — Trust in Uncertain Times**
Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6
- April 6 — God's Presence in Daily Life**
Scripture: Psalm 16:11
- April 7 — Strength for the Journey**
Scripture: Isaiah 40:31
- April 8 — Compassion**
Scripture: Colossians 3:12
- April 9 — Forgiveness**
Scripture: Ephesians 4:32
- April 10 — Reconciliation**
Scripture: Romans 12:18
- April 11 — Serving with Joy**
Scripture: Galatians 5:13
- April 12 — Encouragement**
Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25
- April 13 — Hospitality**
Scripture: Romans 12:13
- April 14 — Loving Difficult People**
Scripture: Matthew 5:44
- April 15 — Unity in Christ**
Scripture: John 17:21
- April 16 — Spiritual Growth**
Scripture: 2 Peter 3:18
- April 17 — Faithful Leadership**
Scripture: Hebrews 13:17
- April 18 — A Spirit of Worship**
Scripture: Psalm 29:2
- April 19 — Bold Witness**
Scripture: Acts 1:8
- April 20 — Generosity**
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:7-8
- April 21 — Healing & Restoration**
Scripture: Jeremiah 30:17
- April 22 — Peace in Troubled Places**
Scripture: Psalm 46:9-10
- April 23 — Justice & Righteousness**
Scripture: Amos 5:24
- April 24 — The Poor & Vulnerable**
Scripture: Proverbs 19:17
- April 25 — Creation Care**
Scripture: Genesis 2:15
- April 26 — Missionaries & Ministries**
Scripture: Romans 10:14-15
- April 27 — Government & Community**
Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-2
- April 28 — Schools, Teachers & Students**
Scripture: Proverbs 2:6
- April 29 — Hope for the Future**
Scripture: Romans 15:13
- April 30 — Walking in the Spirit**
Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23



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WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Wednesday night Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. The new study is entitled "The Purpose Driven Life."
Questions? No previous reading necessary. If you have the book, however, here is April's schedule.

April 8=Chapters 19 and 20
April 15-Chapters 21 and 22
April 22- No Bible Study-Pastor out of town
April 29-Chapters 23 and 24

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Mary Rose Ragsdale

by Melvin Ragsdale

In Memory of Joan Parrish

by Sharon Lyles

CEMETERY

Donations to help cover costs are appreciated. Donations can be sent to Perseverance
Christian Church, P.O. Box 157, Dundas, VA 23938.

If you would like to send an offering to Perseverance, please send it to Perseverance
Christian Church, P.O. Box 157, Dundas, VA 23938. or give online at
[Perseverance Christian Church's website](#)