



WALKERSVILLE EPC

January 2024

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A Note from Pastor Paul:

The Beatitudes. Very familiar. And we all agree that they are good, true statements of who we are to be in Christ. At the same time, the more we study and consider what Jesus is saying, the more uncomfortable they become. Why? Because they go against the culture of the human race. These attributes are at the heart of the culture of the kingdom of heaven, which, of course, means they are also at the heart of...relationships.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

How many of us *desire* poverty, or to be needy? It is not a normal desire, and yet, as the first of the Beatitudes, it is perhaps the one that all the others are built upon. This is the one that contains a present promise, "...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Most of the others give a promise that looks into the future. What is it about being poor in spirit that is so important? And how does that draw us closer to heaven?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

What do we mourn for? We mourn in the middle of some of the circumstances that life throws at us. We mourn because, somewhere within us, we know this is not the way it is supposed to be. In John 11 Jesus wept...Jesus was troubled in spirit. Why? And where do we go to seek comfort?

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Meekness. The original Greek word meant gentle, humble, considerate. It goes along with the Apostle Paul's words in Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others." We also find the same thoughts in 2 Corinthians 12:9 "...'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." Are we ready to be "meek"?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

What do we desire? Isaiah 55 begins by asking if you are thirsty. Where do we go to satisfy our hunger and thirst? We know this is not about our physical bodies, but about filling our spiritual needs. Do we truly hunger and thirst for God, for the Word of God, to be nearer to God? What does this Beatitude say about our priorities?

SERMON SCHEDULE

January 7: The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3

January 14: The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:4

January 21: The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:5

January 28: The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:6

Interested in connecting with other women, locally or internationally? Try Bible Study Fellowship for 2 weeks. See Debbie Rankin at 814-279-0612 or Caitlin Richardson at 704-726-1045 for more information.



Celebrate the Sanctity of Human Life by participating in the HELP Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign.

"This event is a simple fundraiser to help us be a voice for the voiceless.

You can pick up empty bottles and fill them with change, cash or checks, or you can simply donate virtually to this LIFE-CHANGING ministry."



Beginning in January, all the donation baskets will be in the connector between the Education Wing and the Sanctuary. This will also feature updated information on all our missions and upcoming events. The purpose of this space is to connect everyone to Church events, youth, missions, and education. The Mary Ann Room will feature the month's mission as well as welcome information on the church.

ELDERS & COMMITTEES

Teaching Elder:
Pastor Paul Rankin

Building & Grounds:
Elder: Bob Stirton
Chair: Russell Mosley

Christian Education:
Elder: Larry Schott
Chair: Debbie Rankin

Congregational Care:
Elder: Dennis Robinson
Chair: Tammy Mosley

Missions & Outreach:
Elder: Bob Stirton
Chair: Clay Murray

Finance:
Elder: Dennis Robinson
Chair: Fran Griffin

Worship:
Elder: Ann Rose
Chair: Frances Gamble

Fellowship:
Elder: Rick Gay
Chair: Debbie Robinson

CHURCH HOURS

Pastor Paul:
Mon-Thur 8:30-5:00
or by appointment

Caitlin Richardson
M-W-F 8:00 - 2:00



- Bristol Batson - 4**
- Caitlin Richardson - 4**
- Nolan Rogers - 5**
- Karen Trull - 5**
- Ben Bartel - 9**
- Nicole Gill - 11**
- Justin Parr - 18**
- Ella Rogers - 19**
- Sue Stinson - 24**
- Gretchen Presson - 26**

2024 Missions:

- January:** HELP Pregnancy Center
- February:** Ground 40
- March:** House of Pearls
- April:** Project 2 Heal
- May:** "The Shack" - Prospect Food Ministry
- June:** The Shepherd's Place
- July:** Missionary Month
- August:** Ministries of the EPC
- September:** Pochocuape Christian School, Samaritan's International, Nicaragua
- October:** Operation Reach-Out
- November:** Operation Christmas Child
- December:** Faith Works Benevolence Partnership

On January 7, 2024, we will be starting a series called "Why Not Now". In "Why Not Now?" Mark Matlock shares stories from the young lives of Miriam, Joseph, David, Solomon, Daniel, and Mary, as well as the lives of contemporary teens, to find out why and how they said yes to God while they were young. By looking at these stories in conjunction with modern spiritual role models, teens learn how to break the cycle of procrastination and dedicate their lives to God sooner rather than later.

2024 Let Jesus be your Solution!

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- BIBLE READING PLANS (IN A YEAR OR CHRONOLOGICAL)
- DEVOTIONAL BOOKS
- YOU VERSION BIBLE APP (FREE)
- WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY, 3 PM
- SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 AM



Assisted Living
Robby Griffin: Lee Forest Group Home
1209 Pelham Dr., Laurinburg, NC 28352

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Square Dancing 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall	Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm			Epiphany
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Holy Communion</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am <i>Worship Committee,</i> <i>11:15 am</i>	Removal of the Greens 6:00 pm Men's & Women's Mth Bible Study 7 pm	Square Dancing 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall Open House	Operation Reach-Out Meal, 12 pm Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm			Linda Goodman, Service 1 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Congregational Mtg, 11:15 am		Square Dancing 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall	Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School 9am Worship 10am Christian Ed. Mtg 11:15am		Square Dancing 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall	Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm	Session, 5pm, Library	Presbytery, Benton Heights, Monroe 12-8pm	Presbytery, Benton Heights, Monroe 8am-12pm
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Sunday School 9am Worship 10am		Senior Covered Dish Lunch, 11:30 Square Dancing 7-9pm, Fellowship Hall	Bible Study, 3pm Prayer Time, 4pm Little Angels & The Outsiders, 5:30 pm			
<i>Committee of the Month: Fellowship</i>						
<i>Mission of the Month: HELP Pregnancy Center</i>						