

## What is the Presbytery?

For the next three months we'll be talking about the larger governing bodies of the church: the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. This month, let's talk about the Presbytery: what is it and how does it impact us?

A Presbytery is made up of all of the churches within a specific geographical bounds. The Presbytery of Arkansas is made up of the PC(USA) churches within the state except for a small strip across the bottom of the state which is part of the Presbytery of the Pines (it really did make sense when the first drew the lines!).

One of the main jobs of the Presbytery is to help strengthen the relationships between the congregations and members as we are a *connectional church*. We believe that we are the people of God, not just the person of God; we cannot function well as the body unless we are all together.

But the Presbytery does this not only by working within its own bounds, but by working in the larger church as well. The Presbytery has representation at the Synod and General Assembly levels which serve to connect us to the larger church, giving us a vote and voice in decision making and an opportunity to develop relationships.

But does the Presbytery impact us? Yes! The Presbytery helps us not only with our responsibilities as outlined by *The Book of Order*, but they provide resources, encouragement, and support. Looking for a good commentary on Mark, a book on discipleship, or stewardship? Have you thought about the [Presbytery's Resource Center](#)? Want to join with other churches in workshops? Come to events like "The Place" (see p. 6) that the Presbytery puts on every year. Want to help when a natural disaster occurs in the area? The Presbytery's Mission Committee can use your help! There are places and people for you to connect with that will make a big difference for you and for others. If you are looking for a way to get involved with the larger church, just ask! I might have some good ideas for you.

Next month, we'll talk about the Synod. And guess what...I'm the current moderator of the Synod of the Sun and I KNOW we can use your special gifts and skills there!

Thank you, and have a wonderful month.

Peace to  
you,  
Elizabeth



## 142nd Stated Meeting of the Arkansas Presbytery

Save the date for the next Presbytery meeting Friday and Saturday, October 4-5

at [Ferncliff in Little Rock.](#)

On Friday night the FPC Ukulele Band will play during worship. Our minister Elizabeth will bring the message, and Bob Fischer will be one of the musicians. On Saturday our church has been asked to share about the amazing breakfast ministry.

You don't want to miss this chance and to worship and learn about other missions in the Presbytery of Arkansas! Watch for more information coming soon in bulletins and emails.

You are loved and welcomed at FPC! We invite you to worship with us every week that you are able. Who knows what you might be missing?



*Michael inspires us with "Go Light Your World"; the children of the church come forward for their very own sermon*

### August Offerings and Attendance

Date	Offering	Worship	Breakfast
8/4	\$1950.00	24	64
8/11	\$4724.00	35	47
8/21	\$1084.00	36	73
8/25	\$368.00	26	65

# Reverend Brinegar's Welcome Party

July 2019





## The Confession of Belhar

Article By Elizabeth Brinegar

Love One Another by Laura James ([www.laurajamesart.com](http://www.laurajamesart.com))

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (USA) added a new confession to *The Book of Confessions* in 2016? The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly voted to include the Confession of Belhar as part of our constitution which was groundbreaking: this is the first creed or confession included in our *Book of Confessions* to come out of the global south. Ever. This is a historic event for the PC (USA) and one that should be celebrated. But although we celebrate this movement to publically embrace our brothers and sisters in the global south, we must remember that every confession is borne out of a specific time, place, and experience. The circumstances that led to the Confession of Belhar are ones that should be mourned, repented of, and never repeated.

“How should the church respond when sin disrupts the church’s unity, creates division among the children of God, and constructs unjust systems that steal life from God’s creation? Members and leaders of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa faced these questions under apartheid, a system of laws that separated people by race from 1948-1994.”<sup>1</sup>

Apartheid was a social system that created a racially stratified society giving preference to those with the lightest skin tones while those with the darkest skin tones received very little opportunity or governmental protection. Those who protested this system would risk severe punishment, imprisonment, and even death.

Similar to the history of the church in America during the times of slavery, the South African church sometimes participated in and defended the structure of apartheid. It has taken, and will continue to take, dedication to the work of the Holy Spirit to heal the wounds of decades. The Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa, the church that came out of apartheid, “has offered the Confession of Belhar to the global Reformed family as a gift, believing that the themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice issue a call from God to the whole church toward holy action, transformation, and life.”

In our worship this September, we will use part of the Confession of Belhar as our affirmation of faith in worship. Let us remember that as a church, we are here to proclaim that our God is one who wants all to fully flourish as holy children. Our God wants all to be fully reconciled to God and to each other. And our God wants us all to be fully transformed by love.

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<sup>1</sup>*The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Part 1: The Book of Confessions*, 2018.

## *Congratulations*

*to John and Jeannie Price and to their daughter, Jennifer, on  
the safe and happy arrival Thursday night of*



*Grace Jordan*

*8 lbs, 6 oz. 20 3/4 inches.*

*Welcome to the world, Grace!*

## **Announcements**

We are running low on hospitality snacks for our twice-per-month fellowships following services. If you are at the store and see some goodies, would you consider picking some up for the church? Thank you!

The pastor's office hours will be most **Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-8pm.** Her cell phone number is **601-341-6395.** Elizabeth welcomes your call!

## **Church Work Day**

**Please join us on October 12th from 8am-12 pm, for a property work party. Thank you!!**

*Dear Church,*

*I just want to say thank you for everything you do for us. My family really thanks you for the food.*

*The Simmons Family*

[Community Breakfast Program]



October 7–10, 2019

*A conference addressing systemic racism in the church*

*At Montreat Conference Center*

We live in a world where blatant examples of racism and acts of violence constantly occupy our daily news with stories of shootings, discrimination, and fear. It's time to act. This event seeks to bring together people of faith in order to disarm prejudices that divide us and equip each other for practicing resurrection as new creations in Christ. We will delve into questions around the toxicities of racism and white supremacy we are currently breathing into our bodies and exhaling into the shared air. Additionally, we will seek to identify those things we want to breathe in, to forge a pathway to eviscerating the racism in our country and our world. We have to start somewhere. Let's start together...

*and with an incredible line-up of speakers!*

Don't wait. [Register today](#)



## Breakfast Club Forming

Last month, our church served **249 hot meals** and shared **the unconditional love of God** with families in our community hungry for nourishment, hope, and belonging.

We're getting a group together to specifically work on helping provide services for our breakfast guests. We'll be asking people what they need, reaching out to our local community for help, and organizing resources. If you have a heart for this kind of work, come join us! We can't get this done without you.

Please call the church office or talk to our pastor, Elizabeth, if you want to join this meaningful and vibrant work.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS of August 11th

The window repair in the sanctuary has been completed. The parking lot sign at the street corner will need to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$100. The Fall work day will be Saturday, October 12. The clipping of hedges/shrubs will be completed soon.

Prayer request cards are being placed on the tables in the fellowship hall for the breakfast patrons to complete. Christian music via CDs or radio will be played during the breakfast.

Session continues to discuss becoming a Matthew 25 congregation. For Presbytery Day and Synod Day, articles will be placed in the newsletter to explain what each does.

Elizabeth, Mary Jane, Karen, Amie, Michael, Kathie, and Jeannie represented the church at the P.L.A.C.E. conference held at Trinity Presbyterian Church on August 10th.

With the new high school a few blocks from the church, Elizabeth will reach out to the counselors regarding needs of teen moms who may be attending the high school; grants are available to provide services to them through the church.

Session discussed developing church business card for distribution that would provide church information.

The membership rolls are currently being reviewed and updated.

*JP*

### **Thank You on Behalf of our Neighborhood**

Thank you to those who donated items last week for those in need from our community. We were completely out of supplies! Many, including children, have already benefitted from these latest donations. Families often visit our church through the week looking for relief. If you do not already, would you consider joining this worthy cause by purchasing needed items every so often? The most helpful items are deodorant, wipes, and snacks with protein such as Vienna sausages (those go fast!). It is difficult to describe the deep and personal impact this has on families who feel alone and desperate. You are a bigger blessing than you can know!



# Birthday Celebration

*On August 18, we celebrated David's 92nd and Megan's 5th birthdays!*





## Report From PLACE Conference

The PLACE, an educational event sponsored by our presbytery, was held August 10 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Seven people from our church attended and had a really good time. The event began with worship and then everyone had the opportunity to choose from several different workshops that were offered. Here are some of the comments from two of those attending:

*Karen:* I really liked the bagpipes. Only Presbyterians would think to include them at a gathering! The ladies that led the *Deep and Wide* workshop were well organized and provided lots of ideas for education—even for adults! I like how they utilized the different learning styles and recognized that adults are different in learning just like kids are.

*Mary Jane:* I went to the Mission Workshop. In that session we talked about identity, belonging and purpose—three areas of our lives that we continually deal with as we grow. *Who am I? Where do I fit in? What difference do I make?* These questions follow us and help us to choose the roads we will travel. As we grow we continue expand our focus from “me,” to “us,” and then to the world. We can make a difference as we find the unique ways that God is calling us to mission. Our faith is not complete without mission: risk-taking mission is a part of our DNA as members of the body of Jesus Christ. One phrase particularly stood out to me concerning our church buildings: **WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE SCUFF MARKS OR COB-WEBS?**

Start thinking and praying now about your attendance at next year’s PLACE conference.!

## River City Men's Chorus Fall 2019 Concerts

“Daddy Sang Bass”. “I’ll Fly Away”. “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”. “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”. “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”. These are some of the songs being sung at the River City Men's Chorus Fall 2019 concerts titled “Hallelujah!” Songs such as these can touch our souls and fill our hearts.

All concerts are free and open to the public. They will be held at Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock. The dates are Sunday, September 15 (3:00 PM); Monday, September 16 (7:00 PM); and Thursday, September 19 (7:00 PM).

Hope to see you there!

*Barry*

\*We offer praise to God for answered prayer as Jeannie and John Price's granddaughter, **Grace Jordan J.** was born safely Thursday night

\*An anonymous breakfast guest thanks God for answered prayer about a friend who awoke from a coma

Please pray for:

\*The new mom, **Jennifer** and **Baby Grace**

\***Perla's family**, the Espinoza-Reynosas

\***Melissa** who is suffering with lung disease

\***Marita, Blake, and Kenny H** as they search for employment

\***Marita H's** return to full health

\***Michael K** and all prison ministries.

\***Elizabeth P and her son Steven** as they face daily medical challenges

\*The **Cook family** following the loss of their beloved daughter

\*The **McCreight family** after the loss of their husband and father

\***Toni H's parents'** health and for her **daughter-in-law**, who is battling cancer

\***Victims and families** of the Ohio and Texas shootings

\***Joe G**, Joe P's cousin, who was in a plane crash

\***Mary Virginia** who is recovering from a broken nose

\***Emma, Colin**, and their newborn baby **Caspian**

\***David S**, Leslie B's brother, who is being treated for multiple myeloma

\***Lynette S**, (mother of Amie S) and **Valerie B** as they continue to recover from hip replacement surgeries

\***Alice D**, who continues to recover from a broken pelvis

\*Our friends and family who are battling cancer: **Melissa H** (the Schultzs), **Sue L** (Barbara M) **Nanette D** (Margot S), and **Nancy D** (Don S)

General prayer has been requested for:

**Catherine C; Marc M; Clay T; Katie and Matt F; Frank, Keith, Terry, Elizabeth, and Selena L; Tracey M and her mother; Pam M; Bobby W; Keith and Carolyn C; Frankie and Catherine A; Martha G; William H; Pat O; and Christie B**

Prayer requests from our breakfast family include:

**Charles and Annie; Noel; Eric; Monica M; and Judy F** (for general prayer),  
**Keith B** (for guidance finding his ID papers and a job), **Charles L** (for his family),  
**Dee N** and **Cindy T** (both for healing), **Todd** (for asthma and shelter),  
**Gregory S** (for dangerously high blood pressure and for his family)



Nothing Can Separate  
Us From the Love of God  
Romans 8:31-39

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*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out  
your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your  
heart to love.  
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on  
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face  
of Christ on you.*

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!*