

IN THE LOOP



What's Happening At Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church



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Greetings,

It's hard to believe that we are finished with a quarter of 2022 already. Life is flying by at a rate of speed that we can't even imagine. As life is moving, I hope that we don't miss the opportunities that God puts in front of us to share the gospel. I continue to be excited about what God is doing in the midst of Mt. Pisgah, as we continue to Strengthen Relationships with...God, His Church, and the World. I am beyond excited to share this weekend in baptism and baby dedication with you all. It is always a joy to baptize and see children being dedicated to the Lord by their parents, but this time, it will hold extra special meaning as my first born will be among the ones professing their faith in Jesus and my last born will be dedicated to the Lord. Our family is so thankful to get to share these milestones of life with you all.

A Note From Pastor Chris (Continued...)

By Chris Beck

This past Sunday evening, Mt. Pisgah hosted a *Three Bridges* Southern Gospel concert. *Three Bridges* sang a song titled "Satisfied." As I listened to the words of the song, I began to think about the word **satisfy**. According to Webster Dictionary, to be satisfied means to be "pleased or content with what has been experienced or received" and the second definition is "paid in full". As I have continued to ponder this thought, I can't help but draw attention to the fact that when we are satisfied in Jesus, our debt is paid in full and we will always be content with what has been experienced or received. Psalms 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good, Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." Friends, when we taste what Jesus has to offer and we receive it, we will be content in it. May we take refuge in Him who satisfies our every need.

Finally, I am really looking forward to preaching through 1 & 2 Timothy over the next few weeks. I pray you will make a commitment to be a part of our services as we look at these books and strive to deepen our roots in God. We will be discussing three roots that will allow us to deepen our faith in God. These roots consist of us having an **accurate biblical understanding, good spiritual practices, and genuine Christian community.**

As always, we count it a joy and privilege to serve alongside you. You are truly a part of our family and we feel a part of yours as well. We love you all.

Seeking Him,
Pastor Chris



Upcoming Events

Discover Mt. Pisgah Membership Class

On Sunday, July 17, I will be leading a membership class for those who are interested in learning more about our church's vision! This class will start at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. If you are planning to come, please sign up by Sunday, July 10. Simply call the church office to have your name added to the list.

Why Do... We Do...What We Do...In Our Worship Gatherings?

By John Lindsey

In the last article, we answered the question, “**Does my singing really matter in Sunday Worship?**” We concluded that singing helps us internalize the truths of Scripture, just as kids memorize their “ABC’s” by learning them to the meter and melody of a song. Singing encourages and expresses the Spirit’s work in our lives. Singing builds up the church, affects our hearts, exalts Christ, and makes us aware of God’s presence. We can expect that as we sing, in our small or our large gatherings, God’s Spirit is at work in our lives making us more like Christ. **Your singing (even if bad) does matter!** [1]

The next question I want to answer is, “What gets priority during our times of corporate worship?” That is, as a worship pastor, how do I decide who or what gets in front of our church body in the short hour we have together on Sunday? How does our pastoral team decide what videos get to be played, what songs we sing together or how, when or if we will pray together as a congregation? These are important questions to consider. I want to submit to you that our order of worship, or our liturgy, springs from church history and the gospel.

[2] Looking at history, we can trace the influence of what we do today in worship, as odd as it may be to consider, from **Roman Catholic roots**, prior to orders of worship found in the Protestant reformation. In that time, the gatherings had two main parts. The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Upper Room.

The first movement of this worship service[3] would start with a choral introit (a time of adoration of the Lord), followed by a time of penitence. This time of penitence was called the *kyrie eleison*, which is translated “Lord have mercy”. Here, the priest would lead in prayer statements of contrition and the congregation would respond again and again with the Kyrie. The service also included readings of scripture from the Old Testament, the Epistles, one of the Gospels, as well as antiphonal singing of psalms. All of these elements were to move people through a variety of liturgical categories (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition, etc.) to be ready to receive the Word of God. After the gospel reading, a sermon or homily was given. Following this was an affirmation of faith (typically a choir singing a creed) as part of the time of response.

The second movement of this worship service (also known as the Liturgy of the Faithful) was for those who could profess their faith in Jesus. As part of the offering, the bread and wine would be presented. During this time, congregants could also give of their resources to aid the church body’s ministry. The priests and the congregants would participate in a Eucharistic prayer with a few different movements and then take communion, sing a collect, and then dismiss. (The collect is a short general prayer of a particular structure used in Christian liturgy. Collects appear in the liturgies of Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches).

In looking at worship following the Protestant Reformation, one can see many similarities in the liturgy just described from Rome versus that of Martin Luther, then John Calvin, and even to those of today. Some of the biggest differences to note after the Protestant Reformation was a change in church culture that viewed congregants as ministers (i.e. priesthood of believers). In antiquity, music was in the domain of those with sacred orders. Those in the congregation were not invited to play or sing music. In fact, the service was done in ecclesiastical Latin, in lieu of the common language of the people. After the Reformation, Psalms and hymns were sang in the language of the people and the people were expected to participate in singing. The Kyrie would still be recited or sung and Scripture readings took place prior to the sermon. After a time of response, communion would occur prior to dismissal. While many of the elements remained similar, a marked change in congregants’ participation and the advent of reformation thought (founded in *sola scriptura*, *sola fide*, and *sola gratia*) recentered worship in the Christ found in the gospel. Much more detail could be given, but I think the point has been made: Our corporate time of worship is informed by historical Christianity.

The next element to consider is how the gospel of Jesus Christ informs the elements of our worship. Often, worship gatherings begin with a song, hymn or video of praise, declaring one of our Lord’s wonderful attributes. (He is holy, compassionate, his grace is amazing, etc). This adoration of the Lord leads our hearts and minds to acknowledge God’s great glory.

The author informing the writing of this article asserts, “Human confession is the reflex response of divine encounter.”[4] For example, when Isaiah responded in awe at seeing the Lord high and lifted up, he said “Woe to me!... I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty” (Is 6:5) I wonder if in our modern liturgy, we fail to connect the contrast of God’s greatness with our sinfulness, as found in this example here in the book of Isaiah.

Why Do... We Do...What We Do...In Our Worship Gatherings?

By John Lindsey

I am not contending that we should live as a people under condemnation (Romans 8), but rather as individuals who, in humility, acknowledge our persistent struggle with indwelling sin. No congregant is immune to this struggle. Each member of the church body is in daily need of the power of the Holy Spirit and the church community to fervently aid in their sanctification. This communal aspect of confession of sin reminds us of how we can further help each other in our weakness with sin, as we lean further into the beauty of the gospel message that Jesus took our sin on himself so that we could become his righteousness.

As we adore and thank the God found in Scripture in our singing, we are indeed confronted with who we really are before a holy God. While singing the Word is a tool to help us internalize it, at Mt. Pisgah, we also give time to the public reading of Scripture within our weekly gatherings. This is because we believe in the power of the Word of God to speak into our lives. (1Tim 4:13, Heb. 4:12; Is 55:11). Other songs we sing help us to engage in thanksgiving, petition, assurance of pardon and more. We may show videos and pictures to give a testimony of God's faithfulness in a ministry group or with intent to invite others to live out the gospel commission to make more and better followers of Jesus in our "glocal" community.

One final element that we have not yet mentioned, but that is critical to the mission of the church, is that of corporate prayer. Most weeks, we engage in time of intercessory prayer. During this time, we reflect on the truths of Scripture, and we spend time in prayer for those who are sick and lost in sin. Often, your pastor will ask you as individuals to be honest before the holy God you have just sang about, or heard Scripture read about. During these times of prayer, we desire to see the Holy Spirit work in you and even through you. He is our helper (John 14:26).

In conclusion, we can see that our order of worship is not just about singing songs that we like or that are popular. Our intent is to see the gospel thread in our times of worship as we encounter the God who has saved our souls. We do not just encounter the gospel and say a prayer and then just live out our lives. Rather, the gospel changes us and calls us to go deeper and deeper. The former President of the SBC, J.D. Greear, says it this way, "The gospel is not just the diving board, it's the pool. All of the Christian life flows from what Jesus has done." [5] Therefore, each element from week to week is considered carefully in view of the gospel and prayerfully, as we seek to worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth! Grace to you! -John

Resources:

[1] Ideas taken from "True Worshipers" by Bob Kauflin

[2] Much of these thoughts are taken from my reading through "Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape our Practice" by Bryan Chapell. He is also the author of "Gospel Centered Preaching"

[3] of note, experts would know there are variations in this sketch

[4] Ibid, *Christ Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape our Practice*

[5] <https://jdgrear.com/plumb-line-1-the-gospel-is-not-just-the-diving-board-its-the-pool/>

Other Exciting News

Fifth Sunday Night Singing

On Sunday, July 31, we will be having a Fifth Sunday Night Singing! This will take place in the Sanctuary, time to be announced soon! We would love for you to invite a friend to come with you to this awesome night of worship.

Get Involved With Our Worship Ministry

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our worship & production ministry. If you have a musical/vocal talent, or would like to help run sound, lights, or cameras, please reach out to Pastor John, by calling the church office & leaving a message!

Mt. Pisgah Students

By Chris Sanford

Hey church family,

We just began a new series called, "The Thread". We are excited to start this year-long series, and are praying that it will help our students learn the big-picture story of Scripture. So many of our teens do not have a grasp of the narrative of the Bible. Through this study, they will learn **what the Gospel is**, and **how it literally courses through the narrative of the Bible**. With that being said, I ask that you diligently pray for our students as we go through this series.

We are also looking forward to our **summer camp** at the end of July! Our theme for the weekend is going to be "**The Uprising**". We will learn that if we are in Christ, we must rise up to follow Him. I ask that you pray for all the students who will join us on this trip.

We are so excited about where God is taking our student ministry and would like to thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. Our student ministry wouldn't be where it is **without the countless hours our adult volunteers pour into our students and the support that the church gives us**.

Finally, we have our upcoming events listed below, but there will be a few more added as summer approaches. Follow our student page on Facebook/Instagram (**Mt. Pisgah Students**) or visit our student page on the church website to be up to date on all the upcoming events for our student ministry (www.mtpisgahchurch.net/students).



Upcoming Events

"The Uprising"- Student Retreat

Our retreat will take place from Friday, July 29-Sunday, July 31 at Shocco Springs! The cost will be \$100 per student and money is due Sunday, May 22. You can sign up today by scanning this QR code!

Lunch & Kickball - Sunday, May 22

Following our Morning Worship Service, we will have lunch & play some kickball. We would love for you to join us.



SCAN ME

Mt. Pisgah Kids

By Sherri Lindsey

This Spring, we have experienced so many exciting things in the Kids Ministry. We have seen numerical, as well as, spiritual growth in our children and families. In April, we celebrated Easter with our Easter EGGstravaganza. This was such a fun night, with a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt, followed by a celebration of all God has done for us! Looking forward to this summer, we are gearing up for our annual VBS. This year's theme is **Make Waves!** We will learn that what you do today can change the world around you, one ripple at a time. **Our VBS is June 13-16 from 6-8 PM.** Make plans to join us for this awesome week of fun!"



Upcoming Events

"We're Taking A Break" In Midweek Activities For The Summer

Kidventure will be taking a break during the summer! **May 11** will be the last night of KidVenture until the fall semester starts! Don't worry though- our Sunday morning activities will still be happening!

Vacation Bible School : "Make Waves"

Go ahead and save the dates for VBS! It will take place on June 13-16, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM each night! If you'd like to go ahead and register, just scan this QR code!



CentriKid Camp : July 29-31, 2022



Keenagers (Senior Adult Ministry)

By Elizabeth Warren

Our Keenagers have an exciting summer planned! We encourage you to attend as many meetings and trips as possible. Just some of the things we will be doing throughout the summer include a fashion show, a trip to the Vulcan, and a river boat cruise. One thing this ministry continually proves is this: you're never too old to have some serious fun!

Down below, you will find a tentative summer schedule. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



Tentative Schedule

Keenagers Meeting - Monday, May 2

On Monday, May 2, we will be having a fashion show in the Fellowship Hall. The fun will begin at 10:30 AM, and will be followed with a potluck style lunch. Please bring a dish & a friend with you.

Keenagers Trip - Thursday, May 19

On Thursday, May 19, we will be going to Peach Park in Clanton, AL. Then, we will eat lunch at Hickory Chip BBQ. We will leave the church at 10:00 AM. If you'd like to go, please let the church office know.

Keenagers Meeting - Monday, June 6

On Monday, June 6, Lindy from Unless U will be coming to speak at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be followed with a potluck style lunch. Please bring a dish & a friend with you.

Keenagers Trip - Thursday, June 16

On Thursday, June 16, we will be taking a riverboat cruise on the Coosa Queen. More details are coming on this event soon, but go ahead and mark your calendars!

Keenagers Meeting - Monday, July 11

On Monday, July 11, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce will be coming to speak at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be followed with a potluck style lunch. Please bring a dish & a friend with you.

Keenagers Trip - Thursday, July 21

On Thursday, July 21, we will be going to eat lunch at Rick's Crossroads Grill. We will leave the church at 11:00 AM.



MT. PISGAH
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

What's New At The Daycare

By April Hartley

Hey church family,

We are approaching the summer season here at the daycare! With that comes a lot of fun activities with our kids. We ask that you continue praying for every child and family that comes on our campus. Our daycare VBS will be taking place from July 18-22, and we are excited to see how God continues moving in the lives of every child represented at the Child Development Center. May we always remember what a great ministry opportunity we have in our hands.



Summer Spotlights



By Elizabeth Warren

Midweek Summer Plans

Wednesday, May 11, will be the last night of KidVenture & Adult Bible Study! Morning Bible Study & Student Worship will continue meeting throughout the summer. Our fall kick-off is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, where every ministry will be back in full swing.

Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School will be happening on Monday, June 13 through Thursday, June 16. It will take place from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM each evening. Our theme is "Make Waves." Kids will learn that what they do today can change the world around them, one ripple at a time. If you would like to sign your child up, please see the Kids Ministry page in this newsletter for a QR code that will take you to the registration page. If you would like to volunteer to help during this event, please call the church office and leave a message for Sherri! (Important To Note: there will be a VBS Workday on Wednesday, June 8. There will also be a volunteer meeting that night at 6:00 PM)

Student Retreat

Our Student Retreat will take place from Friday, July 29-Sunday, July 31 at Shocco Springs! The cost will be \$100 per student and money is due Sunday, May 22. The theme for this retreat will be "The Uprising." Students will learn that if they are in Christ, they must rise up to follow Him. If you'd like to sign your student up, there is a QR code on the Student Ministry page of this newsletter that will take you to the registration page.



Young Adult/ Family Picnic

If you're a young adult, or have a young family, we have an exciting event coming up that we would love for you to be a part of! On Sunday, May 15, we will be heading to Shocco Springs for a fun picnic, as soon as our Morning Worship service concludes! We will cook out, as well as have bazooka ball & pedal boats/ kayaks! The cost will be \$10 per person (this is the price for children and adults)! Please let the church office know if you plan on attending! We are so excited to continue growing the Young Adult Ministry at Mt. Pisgah!

CHURCH CALENDAR



How We Are Strengthening Relationships With God, His Church, And The World Throughout The Coming Months

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, May 1 - Baby Dedication & Baptism Sunday (During Our 10:30 AM Worship Service)

Monday, May 2 - Keenagers Meeting (10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, May 11 - Last Night Of Midweek Service For KidVenture & Adult Bible Study

Thursday, May 12 - Game Day (10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, May 15 - Young Adult & Family Picnic

- We will be going to Shocco Springs as soon as our Morning Worship Service concludes. We will have a picnic & enjoy some fun, family activities together. Cost will be \$10 per person (adults & kids).

Thursday, May 19- Keenagers Trip

- We will be going to Peach Park in Clanton, AL. Then, we will eat lunch at Hickory Chip BBQ. We will leave the church at 10:00 AM. If you'd like to go, please let the church office know.

Friday, May 20- Food, Fun, and Fellowship (6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, May 22 - Student Retreat Money Due

Sunday, May 22- Lunch & Kickball

- Following our Morning Worship Service, our Student Ministry will have lunch & play some kickball.

Wednesday, May 25 - Daycare End of the Year Program (6:00 PM, Worship Center)

Thursday, May 26- Game Day (10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Monday, May 30 - Office Closed For Memorial Day

Monday, June 6 - Keenagers Meeting (10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, June 8- VBS Workday

- Please come help us get things set up for Vacation Bible School throughout the day on Wednesday, June 8! We will also be having a volunteer meeting on this evening at 6:00 PM.

Thursday, June 9- Game Day (10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Monday, June 13- Thursday, June 16 - "Make Waves" Vacation Bible School

Thursday, June 16- Keenagers Trip

- On Thursday, June 16, we will be taking a riverboat cruise on the Coosa Queen. More details are coming on this event soon, but go ahead and mark your calendars!

Friday, June 17- Food, Fun, and Fellowship (6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, June 23- Game Day (10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Monday, July 4 - Office Closed For Fourth Of July

Sunday, July 10- Last Sunday To Sign Up For Discover Mt. Pisgah Membership Class

Monday, July 11- Keenagers Meeting (10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, July 14- Game Day (10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Friday, July 15- Food, Fun, and Fellowship (6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 17 - Discover Mt. Pisgah Membership Class (9:15 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 17- Business Meeting (5:30 PM, Chapel)

Monday, July 18-Friday, July 22- Daycare VBS

Thursday, July 21- Keenagers Trip

- On Thursday, July 21, we will be going to eat lunch at Rick's Crossroads Grill. We will leave the church at 11:00 AM.

Thursday, July 28 - Game Day (10:00 AM, Fellowship Hall)

Friday, July 29 -Sunday, July 31- CentriKid Camp

Friday, July 29 -Sunday, July 31- Student Retreat

Sunday, July 31- Fifth Sunday Singing (Time TBA, Worship Center)