

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

August 2021

Living or Existing?

I recently saw a church sign that read “Are you living or existing?” Now you might look at that question and think that living is existing. But is it?

Existence involves doing only that which will ensure you continue to stay alive. It is about survival. People who are only existing have no purpose in life. They go through the motions, mechanically or automatically. And people who are merely existing have no passion or joy.

When we are truly filled with life, we are people of purpose who go about life actively and enthusiastically. There is passion and joy. There are interests, goals. There is contentment and fulfillment.

Which brings us to God. God has given us life. We do not merely exist, but we live. One of Jesus’ I AM statements is found in John 10 where He tells the disciples that He is the Good Shepherd and people who love him and believe in him are the sheep of His pasture. It was then that Jesus said; “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10b, NRSV)

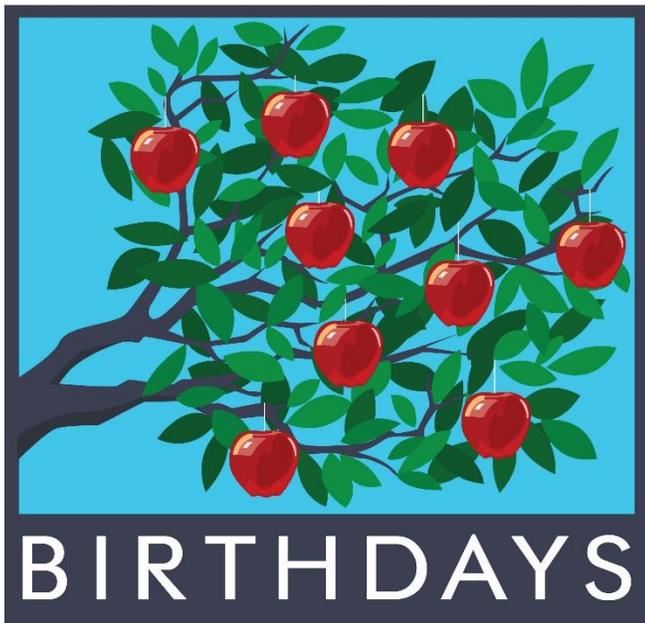
The Greek word that is used in this verse is *perisson*. It means “exceedingly, very highly, beyond measure, more, superfluous, a quantity so abundant as to be considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate.”

When we trust in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit we are people filled with purpose and joy. Our lives have meaning that exceeds any expectation we might have. We are no longer existing; we are living. The abundance we experience is not about what we have in a material sense. It is about our spiritual lives. It is about trusting that in whatever circumstance we might find ourselves, there is hope, peace, there is GOD.

Do not merely exist. Live! Live with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Susi

AUGUST



1 Harriet Snead
3 Billy Oliver
6 Martha Carter
8 Elyza Pillow
10 Pastor Susi Ennis
12 Lucas Pillow
17 Sue Rollinson
28 Mildred McCabe

Pastor Susi and HIPPA

One thing that pastors hear at times is a statement such as this: "Pastor, I was in the hospital and you never came and visited me." It is a fact that I am not clairvoyant and here is the reason I might not have visited.

In 1996 The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was signed into law. Better known as HIPPA it has 2 purposes. First is to protect health insurance coverage when one changes employment.

The second purpose is what is important to Pastor Susi. It is to protect a person's health data and ensure that it remains confidential.

By now we are all used to being asked to sign the HIPPA statement when we visit a doctor's office. It details to whom your health information is released and under what circumstances. What this means is that the doctor and his/her staff may not discuss any of your diagnosis or treatment plans without your specific permission. The same goes true for hospitals.

Before 1996 a pastor could walk into a hospital and receive the names of all patient currently in that hospital. The pastor would go over the list and find the names of any congregants that needed to be visited and make the visit. In today's world I cannot do that. So, if you are in the hospital, unless I am informed by you or a family member this means that I won't know about it.

You can call me, or have me called, at any time; even if it is my day off. Also, if you know of someone who is ill, either at home or in the hospital, please let me know. I would rather hear it multiple times than not at all. I will make arrangements to visit. Also, in regards to HIPPA, I take the confidentiality of a person's health diagnoses seriously. If you ask me for prayers and to announce the need for prayers, I will ask you what or how much you feel comfortable sharing. I ask the same of you. If you are passing on a prayer request for a family member or friend, please ask them how much information may be shared.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Greetings to Presbyterian Women at the church.

Our group is going to begin in September on the second Thursday of each month. We are looking forward to being together for a time of fellowship and growth as Christian women. Rev Susi has agreed to be our Bible study leader. Our new books have a theme, "Things our Grandmothers might remind us." Since some of us are grandmothers it might be fun to see if we could add to those lessons with our advice.

We always welcome new members. We promise to keep the business session part short. Occasionally we plan a soup and sandwich meal, or dessert and drink.

Our main goals are to keep in touch with each other via phone, notes and cards, computer or in person. It is a warm and welcoming group full of laughter and love.

We did a Christmas service project our last year together of filling a shoebox with items for a girl or boy. This year we will decide what our group project will be.

Current members, look in your handbook to see if your mailing address, email, and phone number is correct so our secretary can get an updated copy for us.

I want to thank all of you for calling and checking on each other. I have truly been appreciative of your phone calls to make sure that my husband and I are managing his health issues. Thank you for your love. Thank you for keeping our group together. You are the best!

Here is a picture of our last time together before COVID stopped us from being with one another. Hoping to see you all in September.



Peaks PW Annual Gathering

The Peaks PW Annual Gathering will be held in person this year at Trinity Ecumenical Parish (40 Lakemount Dr., Moneta, VA 24121) on Saturday, September 25. We are working to have a great Gathering, and we will be installing **our new Moderator, Shelda Wills**. Please continue to watch for more exciting news about the Annual Gathering. We are so looking forward to seeing you on **September 25, in Moneta, Virginia – lots of room to spread out!**

Prayers and Songs

The Worship and Music Committee is working on creating spiritual and unique opportunities for our worship. We welcome any suggestions for change in our services.

We will in the new future be asking individuals to do the Welcome and Announcements at the beginning of the service. You will be asked in advance of your Sunday to speak.

The committee is also in the planning stages for an evening hymn sing in the fall. Please feel free to attend our meeting or make suggestions.

Be praying and singing with you soon.

Sunday School July 18, 2021 Virtual Visit by Brazil Missionaries Tim & Marta Carriker

We were pleased to have nine join the virtual Sunday, July 18th Sunday School hour to meet/get reacquainted with the mission work of Tim and Marta Carriker in Brazil. Tim and Marta last visited us March 15, 2016 where we learned of their Bible work being used to facilitate mission work by many others, but have a history with our congregation back to at least 2012.

Despite being retired, they continue at full speed on their mission study, which is not language translation. Rather they focus their writing and training on being good missionaries and focus on “creation care”, such as the “Interfaith Rainforest Initiative”, “Renew our World” and “Faith in Climate”.

We support Tim and Marta Carriker’s mission programs financially via our Church’s annual budget and also in prayer. Should you like to make a designated gift to support their work, please send your check to the church office with a memo note of “program support for the Carrikers”.

Upcoming: Please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 12 to hear Brenda Linkenhoker speak on local mission work including the Christmas Mother and Bridging the Gap.

If you are not on the email distribution for these virtual Sunday Schools, please let Pastor Susi know and she will add you the weekly list and you can participate via Zoom when you are able. The class begins at 9:30am Eastern with 15 minutes of socializing, then at 9:45am begins the lesson and in this case the visit by one of the folks whose mission work we support via First Presbyterian Church, concluding at 10:30am.

-- Mission & Service Committee

SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY REPORT

STATISTICS

	<u>Families Served</u>	<u># of Family Members</u>
June 2021	69	263
July 2021	79	269

We paid Feeding Southwest Virginia \$485.40 during June and July 2021. They did not deliver the last two Wednesdays of June because they were taking inventory. But during July we have been able to order enough frozen meat that when coupled with the USDA frozen meat and donated meat from Food Lion has filled our freezers. This has been such a great blessing!

<u>Deposits</u>	<u>June and July 2021</u>
\$235.00	Local UMCs
\$1,200.00	First Presbyterian Church
\$40.00	Memorial – Moselle Davis
\$1,000.00	Ingevity Highlands Community Bank as Directed by Chris Fisher, Recipient of Ruth Middleton Volunteer of the Year Award
\$334.00	Donations from Individuals
\$430.00	
\$3,239.00	TOTAL

BLESSINGS

- We are still picking up expired Little Debbie pastries from Sunshine Distributing.
- Boiling Springs Fire Dept. received a donation of antibacterial wipes and dispensers from Walmart, which they shared with other churches and us. We gave out several dispensers to our applicants.
- Chris Fisher honored us by directing a portion of his Ruth Middleton Volunteer Award to our pantry.
- The Callaghan Charge delivered 312 items.
- Aspen Hill Farms donated 147 dozen eggs.
- Mt. Carmel UMC donated 145.5 pounds plus 101 food items.
- Christ UMC donated 13 food items...
- Granbery UMC donated 249 food items plus 76 rolls of toilet paper and 15 rolls of paper towels.
- South Covington UMC donated 117 items.
- The Patterson Grandchildren donated 22 items.
- Individuals donated 147 food items.
- We received 288 cans of vegetables plus 60 packages of toilet tissue from the Staunton District UMC.
- Our first ever donation from Ingevity was presented on July 13.
- Many thanks to First Presbyterian Church for the faithful support of our mission in the Alleghany Highlands.

Proverbs 22:9: "He who is generous will be blessed. For he gives some of his food to the poor."

Our blessings are many as evidenced by these records. Another blessing that I can't emphasize enough is the Care Pantry team itself. What a dedicated group of Christian men and women who continue to make our mission a reality in the Alleghany Highlands! Each one has their own way of spreading "joy in the Lord." We are so blessed by the many ways our Care Pantry is supported in this community. THANK YOU, LORD!!

Donations of combread mix such as Jiffy are always appreciated. Please don't forget to add this item to your grocery list! September is Hunger Action Month when people all over America stand against hunger.

Many blessings to each of you!

Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Will Be Held In-Person and on Our YouTube Channel
 Devotions with Daniel Continue to Be Streamed on Our YouTube Channel
 Sunday School via Zoom – Contact Pastor Susi for an Invitation @pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Presbyterian Pastor Lunch Noon	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>W/M Comm. + Staff, 11a</u> VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>No Choirs</u>	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Session, 12:30p	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>No Choirs</u>	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Special Visit: The Carrikers in Sunday School 9:30a Worship, 11:00a COMMUNION	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>No Choirs</u> Newsletter Items Due 10a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Blessing of The Preschool	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a				

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