

The MacPherson Press

June 2024

*God calls MacPherson Presbyterian Church
to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ,
to make disciples, and to be His witness.*

All About Vacation Bible School July 21-25

Register Now!



- See p. 5 for a new Christian Ed Fundraiser**
- See p. 6 for General VBS information**
- See p. 7 for volunteer needs**
- See p. 16 for info about the adult VBS class!**

Faith & God's Word

PASTOR JIM

Since the sermons for June will all be on faith, and God's Word is an important building block of our faith, I am taking this opportunity to explain some important issues regarding differences we experience in the various English language translations of Scripture. Parts of this installment of the MacPherson Press are a little technical. But I am hoping to clarify some concerns regarding translational differences that have come up in several discussions and studies in recent months. In order to explain these translational differences, I am using the familiar passage of Hebrews 11:1, which defines faith for the Believer.

Faith is an interesting thing. Everyone, without exception, claims to have faith in something or someone. Admittedly most people's faith is not in Jesus. I pray one day everyone could have faith in Jesus. However, it is not likely to happen. Yet for those who are Jesus' disciples, like you and me, our faith is in Jesus. But often we ask, "What is faith and can it grow and mature?" Scripture explains, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1; KJV). In the NASB95 version we read, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." And since I know many of you read the NIV, that translation reads, "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Each of these translations, though slightly different in word choice, conveys essentially the same idea. Or do they convey the same idea?

One may well argue the translations are close enough. There are four key words in this verse. These four words in Greek are: *pistis* (faith), *hupostasis* (substance, assurance), *elpizomenon* (hoped), and *elegchos* (evidence, conviction). The reason I give you the four Greek words is to be able to show how we end up with differing translations. In the original language the manuscripts all say the same thing. So how do we end up with different translations?

There are differing translations for two primary reasons. First, they use different manuscripts and second, the translators make different word choices. With regard to Hebrews 11:1, all of the existing manuscripts are the same. And by manuscripts I mean the original documents translators use for their work (such as the Dead Sea Scrolls). So, with Hebrews 11:1, there are no issues to be concerned with as far as the manuscripts are concerned. This means the differing translations are entirely determined by the translator's word choice.



All of the translators in this verse agree *pistis* means “faith” and *elpizomenon* means “hoped.” Hoped is written in the past tense and is coupled with the Greek word *pragmaton*, which signifies a completed action. Hence, the full translation of *elpizomenon pragmaton* is understood as that which is hoped for is received.

This leaves us to understand what the two remaining words, *hupostasis* and *elegchos*, mean. *Hupostasis* is a compound word from *hupo*, meaning support, substance, steadiness; and *histemi*, meaning to make to stand, standing firm, take a stand. Translators are now confronted with a decision: “How is this compound word to be understood?” A native Greek speaker would understand this compound word in all the fullness and richness of its meaning. We, on the other hand, must make an effort to grasp the meaning. This is why there is often such disparity in the various English translations. In this case the word “substance” leaves off a portion of the compound word. In this case I prefer to use the word “assurance” rather than “substance.”

Continued next page →

The second word to look at which has a variety of translations is *elegchos*, evidence or conviction. *Elegchos* literally means “proof.” So one may say the faith we put in Jesus provides the proof or validation of what we hope for and which we will receive, even though we cannot see it at this time.

If you made it this far, congratulations! I hope this short, albeit technical, explanation of why there are differences in translations is helpful. Please continue to read your Bibles daily. Remember, the best translation of the Bible to have is the translation you will read and study.

Until the nets are full,

Pastor Jim

June Sermon Information

June’s sermons will be primarily about faith. The only exception to this will be on June 2, which is Youth Sunday. My hunch is even that sermon will speak about faith in some way. The remainder of the sermons in June will be specifically on faith. Why do we need faith? How can our faith be strengthened and mature? We will read about and hear stories of people and how they lived their faith. Building up our faith is an imperative for all of Jesus’ faithful disciples. I hope you will join this month’s journey in faith.

June 2: Youth Sunday

June 9: Maturing Faith

Psalms 146:1-10, Hebrews 6:1-8

June 16: A Father’s Faith

Job 1:1-5, Mark 9:14-29

June 23: Justified by Faith

Genesis 15:1-11, Romans 4:1-25

June 30: The Law and Faith

Exodus 20:1-17, Galatians 3:19-29



**It's Another Spirit
Night for
Vacation Bible School
at MacPherson Church!**



**Tuesday, June 4
5:00-8:00 pm
Dairy Queen in
Westwood**



**Come out for a sweet
treat or to buy supper
and support Vacation
Bible School! (And be
sure to say you're from
MacPherson so the
church gets credit!)**





VBS—NOT LONG NOW!!!!
JULY 21-25



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ENROLL A
CHILD, ENROLL YOURSELF IN THE
ADULT CLASS, OR VOLUNTEER!



Here's HOW YOU can HELP!!!

SIGN-UP WITH THE QR CODE,
CALL RENE, OR CONTACT A
CHRISTIAN ED TEAM MEMBER!

Here's WHERE we need HELP:

4 BIBLE STORY HELPERS

5 CREW LEADERS (TO WALK KIDS FROM
STATION TO STATION, NOT TEACH)

1 NURSERY HELPER

5-10 TO HELP DECORATE ON
SATURDAY, JULY 20

WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND BULLETIN FOR
DETAILS ABOUT DONATING ITEMS FOR
THE NIGHTLY MEAL!

WHenever I'M afraid,
I PUT MY TRUST IN YOU.
PSALM 56:3

June 2, 2024

Youth Sunday & Mary McArthur Picnic

For the picnic, bring a salad, main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. (Lemonade, water, and coffee will be provided.)



Lunch will be shared in the Fellowship Hall; seating also available outside at the church picnic tables or bring your own chair to sit outside.

Also this day, the annual collection for the Mary McArthur Scholarship Fund. Though a penny per year used to do nicely, folks are encouraged to take inflation into account and give accordingly!

Family Fun Night

June 30, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Ice Cream Social & Talent Show

Come out for a delicious ice cream sundae and to enjoy some lively entertainment. Want

to be a part of the Talent Show? Call the office and add your name to the list! Performers and audience members needed!



Bowling for Fun with the Youth!



Another Dessert Auction Is in the Books!

Your generous baking and bidding raised more than \$3,300 for three MacPherson Missions— Gate Beautiful, Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp, and the MacPherson HVAC Fund. Thank you to all who baked and shopped at the 2024 Dessert Auction!



↑ This picture is titled “Decisions, Decisions!” There were lots of choices to be made with so many delicious treats to bid on!





From APP

Bill Groening, Chair

Now that the Manse has been turned over to a rental property management company, the APP team has turned its attention to the church grounds. We are now in the process of trimming the bushes around the church. The area in front of the church, as well as the driveway to the back parking lot, have been completed. Next, we will focus our attention on the back. The overgrown trees and bushes in this area interfere with the fire escape. This will be a major effort as we will need to remove the large bushes and cut out the trees that have overgrown, preventing the use of the fire escape. The numerous dead bushes around the property have been targeted for removal. As many of these tasks have been put off for awhile, there is much to accomplish. If you would like to be a part of this project, reach out to a member of the APP team. We can always use your insight, your support, and your help. In addition, we would like to thank Liz Hart for the beautiful flowers that she has planted around the church in recent months.



From Congregational Care

David Hesnard, Chair

June is here. For many, school is out, vacation planning is underway, graduates are celebrating their achievements, and Vacation Bible School is on the horizon. The future has mixed indicators, and for some the chaos and confusion of life can be a bit overwhelming. Thinking on this, I turned to the apostle Paul's advice in 1 Timothy 6 where he encourages Timothy to stay strong in the faith he has through Jesus and to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness. Paul continues his spiritual pep talk with the following actions: do good, be rich in good works, be generous and ready to share, and thus store up treasure in heaven as a good foundation for the future. Such is worthwhile encouragement for all of us as we face the future one day at a time!

Pentecost reminds us that as we live our lives in the spirit of the living Christ, we are secure in that faith if we trust and obey as Jeremiah wrote 2700+ years ago: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Dennis Rainey wrote a little book, *Choosing a Life That Matters*, illustrating his thoughts on how to live the Christian life: Seek God not Sin; Fear God not Man; Love God not the World; Believe God not Satan; Obey God not Your Feelings; Worship God not Your Comfort; Serve God not Yourself.

The Mary McArthur Picnic is June 2, following the 11:00 service. Turn back to page 8 of this newsletter for more details about this annual time of fellowship for the MacPherson congregation. Plan to bring a covered dish (or two) to share, and be prepared for a morning of worship with Youth Sunday and then a delicious lunch together with friends old and new. If there's someone you haven't seen in church for awhile, why not give them a call to invite them to join you on this special day?

~ ~ In Prayer and Service, David

Worship and Music

Mary Groening, Chair

It seems that only yesterday we welcomed spring. It was a wonderful spring in which we saw the earth renew itself, we celebrated Mother's Day, and we also celebrated the return of the Chancel Choir. Now here we are, ushering in June, the gateway to summer.



"Spring being a tough act to follow,
God created June." ~ ~ *Al Bernstein*

June promises to be a busy, fun-filled month at MacPherson. We will begin the month with Youth Sunday on June 2, celebrating and rejoicing in the Youth of our church. This service, prepared and presented by our Youth, is always inspirational; it is one you don't want to miss. Youth Sunday is also the date for the Mary McArthur Picnic. Be sure to make plans to come and enjoy a time of fellowship and great food. Just as we begin June with the Youth, we will also end it with the Youth. Mark your calendar now for Family Fun Night on June 30. You don't need to be a youth to attend; you just need to be young at heart and ready to enjoy some fellowship and fun. Details about the event are back on page 8.

In mid-June we will send a group of Youth and adults to the Cabell-Lincoln Work Camp in West Virginia. This week provides an opportunity to reach out, to help others, to learn new skills, to form new friendships, to share and to grow in faith. It is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. The week is filled not only

with work but also with music, fellowship, and Bible study. The motto of the work camp—"Love Works"—reminds us of the 3:16 found in 1 John: "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." West Virginia provides a means to put our lives aside for a week and to dedicate our time and our life to helping out others. Please keep this group in your prayers, that they have a safe and productive week. Prayerfully consider if this just might be a future mission for you.

June, of course, is not all about work. When we think of June we think of vacation, family, friends. June is a time to refresh and relax, a time to recharge our batteries. It's a time to enjoy some leisure, a time to relish the summer bounty that God has blessed us with and to appreciate all the wonderful, glorious lazy days of summer.

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time."
~ ~ *John Lubbock*

Sometimes, it is in those quiet moments that we hear that still, quiet voice of God.

Enjoy June. Relish each and every day because before you know it, July will be here!

Summer Greetings from Your Worship and Music Team!



From Christian Education

Tanya Anderson, Chair



It's all about Vacation Bible School for Christian Education this month. Turn back to the front cover and pages 5, 6, and 7 for all you need to know about VBS 2024. We hope the dates are already on your calendar (July 21-25) and that you're planning to invite someone, bring someone, or volunteer.

If you can't volunteer for some reason, we hope you'll consider coming and being part of the adult VBS class. This class will be taught by David Hesnard and will cover the same curriculum and Bible Stories that the children are learning, but taught at an adult level. Adults also are encouraged to register using the QR code at right or by calling Rene in the office!



Next MacPherson Men

Saturday, June 8

Fellowship Hall @ 7:30 am

Reserve the date on your calendar today!



Behind the Scenes

The Little Free Library in front of the MacPherson Sanctuary has stood sentinel for two years with a quiet invitation: *Come and read!* The shelves hold all kinds of books for children and adults. The concept is simple—Take a book, leave a book! And do so as often as you wish! Don't have a book to leave? Take a book anyway and bring one back when you can!



The Little Library is an Eagle Scout Project by Hunter Sparks of MacPherson's Troop 771. The Little Free Library is just one of many Eagle projects that have enriched life at MacPherson. For example, James McWane created the Firepit in 2018. That same year, Jacob Peterson added six benches around the Firepit. Other benches and picnic tables were added to the grounds in 2022 and 2023 by Nicolas Lindon, Tomas Lindon, Anthony Diaz, and Dylan Sholley. Other recent Eagle projects include the woodshed by the Firepit (Aryan Naik), a MacPherson Cemetery Index (Mark Clifton, Jr.), and the Walking Trail Markers (Brenden Altom). Troop 771 has more than 120 Eagle Scouts who have done projects here at MacPherson and in the community.

Perhaps you'll make it a goal to enjoy some of these features during the summer and various events at MacPherson. (Walk the walking trail in the early summer morning, before it gets hot!) But remember that the Little Free Library is there any season, any weather, any time. Just take a book, leave a book—and let your friends and family know the Little Free Library is open to anyone in the community. Invite them to stop by next time they're in the area!

From Evangelism & Mission

Don Mollett, Chair

Last year I wrote about the power of faith and what can truly happen when you trust in the Lord to help with the burdens of this world. With the burdens we all are facing these days, I find myself leaning harder on my faith and asking for guidance and strength to persevere in the onslaught of high prices, crime, political discord, and—most concerning—the rise of HATE, particularly against the Jewish Nation and people. The following Scriptures help to calm my fears and strengthen my faith. I hope they do the same for all who read them.

In Proverbs 3:5 we read, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Trust is difficult these days, but we can always trust in the Lord’s love and compassion.

Hebrews 11:1 talks of the power of faith: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” We all

have had moments when we lose faith. Maybe it is faith in an event that we were hoping would happen. For others it may be a doubt of faith in God, or in a person who is very close to us that we depend on but let us down due to their own crisis of faith. Bottom line is we all struggle with faith at one point or another.



The Mission Dessert Auction held on May 15 was a resounding success, raising more than \$3,300 for Gate Beautiful, the Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp, and the capital campaign for the HVAC repairs made last year. Sometimes, it seems as if every year we face another issue with our building, but we must remain strong in our faith and trust in God's plan for us all.



Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 6: The E&M Team will next meet at 6:00 pm in Room #228. All are invited to join us as we look to other opportunities to glorify God. We can use all the help we can get to develop new opportunities for missions in the church. If you have ideas, concerns, or a passion for our outreach and mission efforts, please contact Megan Shoff, Sharon Mozingo, Barney Treneman, Bill Kern, or Don Mollett.

Sunday, June 16: The Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp team departs to West Virginia. They will return on Saturday, June 22. This year's volunteers will experience God's compassion and love as they help others in need of a helping hand. We wish them all a safe and fulfilling mission at workcamp. Please keep them in prayer throughout that week.

MacPherson Presbyterian Church

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Mary McArthur Plenic Youth Sunday Communion 12:15 pm Mary McArthur Plenic (FH/ K)	3 7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer Meeting (FH) 7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)	4 8:15-5:15 pm Classical Conversa- tions Practicum Childcare (TN/FH/ Youth Room) 6:30 Bible 101 (#215)	5 9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#232A) 4:30 pm McCrafters (FH) 5:00 pm Finance (FH) 6:00 pm B'JOB Bible Study (FH/ K) 7:00 pm Freedom to Grow (#215)	6 <u>Session Team Meetings</u> <u>See Above</u> 9:00-3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#232A) 6:00 pm Friendside Chat ... (You Tube) 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#215/ Zoom)	7 7:00 pm SOS Seekers of Sobriety (FH, K)	8 BUS RESERVED-REYES 7:30 am MacPherson Men (FH/K) 8:00 am Noon Happy Feet Soccer-- Summer Session (Stoner Field) 12:00 pm Sanctuary Reserved (S)
			Session Team Meetings June 6 6:00 pm APP (FH) 6:00 pm E B M (#228) 6:30 pm W B M (#224) 6:30 pm Christian Eq (P) 7:00 pm LRP (#233A) 7:00 pm Congregational Care (FH)			1

<p>9</p> <p>Centennial Offering 12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K) 12:45 pm Session (#205)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer-Meeting (FH) 7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible 101 (#205)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A) 4:30 pm McCreeters (FH) 6:00 pm BYOB & Bible Study (FH/K) 7:00 pm Freedom to Grow (#205)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00–3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A) 6:00 pm Fireside Chat... (You Tube) 7:00 pm Eagle Board of Review (Various Rooms) 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#205/Zann)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Rene Away 6:00 pm Parlor Reserved Pastor 7:00 pm SDS Seekers of Sobriety (FH, K)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 am-Noon Happy Feet Soccer—Summer Session (Soccer Field)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Cabell-Lincoln Work Team Departs 12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Rene Away 7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer-Meeting (FH) 7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Rene Away 6:30 pm Bible 101 (#205)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Rene Away NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A) 4:30 pm McCreeters (FH) 6:00 pm Express Meal & Prayer (FH/K) 7:00 pm Freedom to Grow (#205)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Rene Away 9:00–3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A) 6:00 pm Fireside Chat... (You Tube) 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#205/Zann)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Rene Away 7:00 pm SDS Seekers of Sobriety (FH, K)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Cabell-Lincoln Work Team Returns 8:00 am-Noon Happy Feet Soccer—Summer Session (Soccer Field)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Food Drive 12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K)</p> <hr/> <p>30</p> <p>12:45 pm Youth Fellowship (FH/K) 5:00 pm Family Fun Night (FH)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 am Monday Morning Prayer-Meeting (FH) 7:00 pm Troop Meeting (FH)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible 101 (#205)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9 am ESL Tutoring/Jackson (#233A) 4:30 pm McCreeters (FH) 5:00 pm Finance (FH) 6:00 pm BYOB & Bible Study (FH/K) 7:00 pm Freedom to Grow (#205)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00–3:00 pm Children's Hope Alliance Staff (#233A) 6:00 pm Fireside Chat... (You Tube) 7:00 pm Pastor's Book Study (#205/Zann)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 pm Parlor Reserved Pastor 7:00 pm SDS Seekers of Sobriety (FH, K)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00 am-Noon Happy Feet Soccer—Summer Session (Soccer Field)</p>

June 2024 – Life with the Holy Spirit

Verse 1 – God Has a Future for Each of Us

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Verse 2 – Our Future in God Is Secure

Genesis 9:12

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations.”

Verse 3 – God’s Glory Shines on Believers

Isaiah 60:1

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

Verse 4 – God’s Glory is In Our Future

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Verse 5 – Our Future is With God

Proverbs 23:18

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

Verse 6 – Pray for the Leaders of Habitat for Humanity, Operation Inasmuch & Our City

Psalms 127:1

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

June Birthdays

See paper copy for this content



★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

The Faith Freezer—so lonely and empty right now!

Can you lend a hand?

Prep an extra portion next time you're cooking, put it into a disposable container, label what it is with the date, and pop it into the Faith Freezer at your convenience! We even



have labels for you inside the kitchen drawer by the steam table if you don't have any at home. Faith Freezer meals are a MacPherson tradition and always a blessing to folks in need!

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. James W. Randall, Jr.

Church Secretary

René Bahrenfuss