

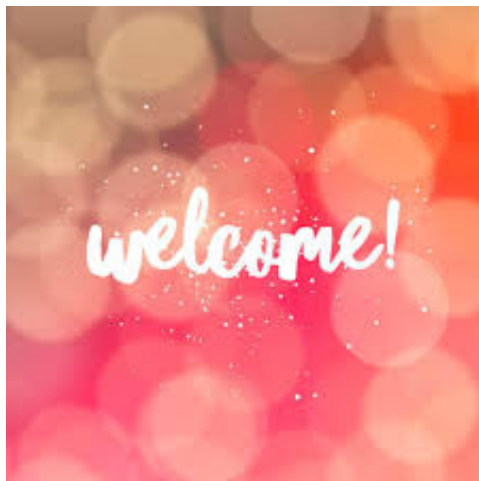


**Party at the Pastor's House**  
**Saturday, June 11th**  
**11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for a cookout with hotdogs, hamburgers, fellowship, games and more! Click [here](#) to RSVP. Please let us know if you can provide transportation or need a ride by signing up on the sheets in the narthex or calling the office.



**Thank you** to everyone who had a hand in making the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast so special: Nancy Andrews, Carolyn Bondarenka, Susan Brown, Sannie Cook, Karen Lassiter, Rossie Webber and the ECEP families who provided food throughout the week! It was marvelous and greatly appreciated by all.



This Sunday, May 29th, we **welcome Rev. Beth Yarborough** as our guest Minister. Beth recently retired after serving Williston Presbyterian Church for seven years. Prior to that, Beth served churches in Kingsport and Jonesborough, TN, Abingdon, VA and Gastonia, NC. She is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur Georgia where she received her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry Degrees. Since retiring she has begun work with Pinnacle Associates as a church consultant and coach. Beth is a native South Carolinian and she and her husband Mike, currently live in Williston.

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### **Understanding the Ascension of the Lord**

When Christ's work becomes our work

By Kevin Scott Fleming | Presbyterians Today

Reprinted from the April/May 2018 issue of Presbyterians Today

The Ascension of the Lord has never been an important event on the Presbyterian church calendar. But perhaps it should be, as there are things we can learn from it.

The story of Jesus ascending into heaven after appearing to his followers in the 40 days after his resurrection does come with two significant challenges. First, as a rule, people do

not simply float away into the sky. Just think of the nightmare that would pose for the Transportation Security Administration. Secondly, the story presents a picture of the universe we know not to be true. “Heaven” is not “up” and “hell” is not “down” and we do not live in “the middle.” So a literal reading of the story is not going to be helpful.

But stories of ascensions appear in both sacred and secular writings. Elijah is taken up into the heavens on a chariot of fire. “Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him.” Plutarch, the historian, included an ascension story in his history of Rome. What are these stories trying to tell us?

Ascension stories offer us a new and exalted view of the one who ascends. When we say, in the words of the Apostles’ Creed, that Jesus “ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God,” we are proclaiming that Jesus is now exalted over all — the Lord of heaven and earth who heals the wounds of a broken humanity and breaks down the walls that divide us from each other and from God. The Ascension is a celebration of the church’s first creed: Jesus is Lord.

The Ascension also marks a critical turning point. In both the Gospel of Luke and in Acts, the Ascension marks the passing of Jesus’ message and mission to his disciples. What is to become of his story and work is now in their care and keeping. And the disciples will be able to continue Jesus’ work with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit that comes upon them at Pentecost, which is celebrated 10 days after the Ascension.

For us in the church, Ascension Sunday can be a time when we remind ourselves of the important work to which we have been called. Christ’s work is now our work. Without the Spirit’s empowering presence, our work cannot be faithfully offered. Ascension Sunday, thus, connects us to Pentecost and the gifts for ministry that the Spirit provides.

The Ascension story also includes a rather comical scene. The disciples are standing there, first looking at Jesus ascending and then staring at the clouds. They then hear a voice asking them what they are looking at.

“Uh, the sky.”

“Don’t you think you ought to get on with what Jesus told you to do?”

“Guess so.”

And there is one of the great challenges the church has always faced. Adoration or action. Worship or service. Contemplation or engagement. Let’s be clear. It’s not a choice. All are part of the life of a Christian. They feed each other.

Sometimes, though, we are a bit like those disciples, standing there with our feet on the ground and our heads in the clouds. We get a little distracted. We get a little preoccupied and sidetracked.

But then someone, or something, says, “What are you looking at?” And that is Ascension’s moment of grace. It is a moment when we are invited to reexamine our calling and our discipleship.

So it’s up to us. We can be so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good, or we can be about the work of expanding the realm of God.

What are you looking at?

How about a world made new? A world where there’s enough for all. A world where all people are treated justly and with love.

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## June Hope Lodge Meal

Just two spots left for our meal

next Wednesday (1 soup and 1 casserole)! Please click [here](#) to sign up.



As James Island residents, we are blessed to be part of a local community that supports one another in times of grief. We're in prayer for Nicole Mitchell's family. If you'd like to participate in the Meal Train, please click [here](#).



*The Church Office and ECEP will be closed  
for Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th.*



Hugh Donnan (5/27)  
Cathy Chihocky (5/29)  
Jennifer Harriett (5/30)  
Seth Copeland (6/2)  
Brenda Gist (6/4)  
Jim McNay (6/4)  
Nelson Springer (6/5)

*Rusty is on vacation Wednesday, May 25th - Saturday, June 4th.  
Please contact Natalie in the office if you need anything during this time.*

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**Special Events:**

June 11th 11:00 a.m. Party at the Pastor's  
June 25 - July 1st Mission Trip to Appalachia  
September 18th 9:30 a.m. - Worship in the Park

**Weekly:**

James Island Outreach food delivery

**Monthly:**

Lunch Bunch (first Tuesday)  
Presbyterian Women Morning Circle (third Tuesday)  
Prayer Group (third Thursday starting in April)  
Book Club (third Sunday)  
James Island Outreach Food Pantry Volunteer Team  
Hope Lodge Meal (first Wednesday)

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*Click [here](#) for the Prayer List.*

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*Click [here](#) for a list of the HVPC Session members and email addresses.*

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“Sharing God’s Love with All”  
- Mark 12:31

Mission Statement: Harbor View Presbyterian is a  
*neighborhood church that fosters relationships  
through worship and fellowship, spreads love  
through outreach, and seeks to create a spiritual  
environment for lifelong learning.*

Church Office: (843) 795-4072  
Rusty's Cell Phone: (864) 399-2288