

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call to Prayer— January 2024. Join us this evening at 5pm. As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: **Sunday, January 7 at 5pm, Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 13 at 9am.** Nursery for ages 4 and under is available for the Sunday evening prayer meeting only. Each prayer meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer is foundational to all that we do at APC. Oswald Chambers says, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” Prayerfully consider joining us as we each seek the Lord’s wisdom and transforming power in our lives and our church! The focus and format for each meeting is different, and we encourage you to come to more than one meeting.

Join the Youth Choir in Spring 2024! Sign up by January 9. The Youth Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 5:00-6:00 and is open to grades 2-8. Participation will be offered in three shorter cycles in the spring: January 16 - February 6; February 13 - March 26; and April 2-23. Singers may join for one or more full cycles. For more details, please scan the QR code or visit the link in the APC email, where you may also register (deadline January 9.) Contact Serenity Novak (serenity.novak@alexandriapres.org) with additional questions.

New Women’s Thursday Bible studies begin January 18. Ladies, as we continue with our theme of Unfailing Hope, we invite you to pray about joining the Thursday women’s Bible study, beginning January 18. We will be going through the book of Hebrews, using Jen Wilkin’s study *Better*. As we “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”, we’ll see Him as the better Word, the better high priest, the better sacrifice, etc. The morning study meets weekly from 10-11:30am. Childcare is provided. The evening study is a hybrid class: the first Thursday of each month we meet in person and the remaining weeks we meet via Zoom, from 7-8:30pm. Please rsvp to Lynn Streett at lynn.streett79@gmail.com in order to receive the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

Men’s Discipleship Study on Wednesday mornings at 7am, beginning January 17. Jesus calls every Christian to be a disciple and to help others become disciples. This involves study and meditating on God’s Word, prayer, fellowship, much grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit -- all in the context of a supportive community. Join with a group of men who want to learn, grow, and encourage one another to faithfully follow Jesus. Each week the group will read and discuss a chapter from the soon-to-be published book, *The Heart and Soul of Discipleship*. The group will meet in Room 114 of APC starting January 17 and running for 10 weeks. Please email Jim Taft at jamesdake1017@gmail.com to RSVP.

Communicants Class for Children and Teens ~ January ’24: The class will be held on Thursdays from 5-6pm at APC and run for eight weeks starting January 18. Parents, please talk with your child/teen and consider whether or not you think they are ready to join the church as a communicant member. To find out more information, preview the workbook, or sign up; please contact Adam at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

Newcomer Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, January 20, 6pm. If you’ve been attending APC for one week or several months, please join us for food and fellowship. You’ll have a chance to meet church officers and staff, ask questions, and learn more about the ministry God is building here.

The next Inquirers Class is February 2 & 3. If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, we invite you to attend this class. You will receive an introduction to Christianity, the PCA, and the specific vision/mission and philosophy of ministry at APC.

WE ARE HIRING

Communications Manager: The Communications Manager maintains and develops APC’s communications both inside and outside the congregation through various means including website, social media, weekly emails, bulletins, and more. Experience with Adobe InDesign, Canva, and MailChimp is preferred; however training is available. A full position description is available. This position is part-time with an anticipated 25 hours/week (including Sunday activities). If you desire to use those talents as a member of APC’s staff, please contact Executive Director of Ministries Matt Coombs at matthew.coombs@alexandriapres.org.

Nursery Assistant: The Nursery Assistant’s primary function will be to oversee certain aspects of the nursery, in close coordination with the Director of Children’s Ministries, in order to create a high-quality, safe, and nurturing environment for the children and families we serve. This position is part-time, and expected to take 6-7 hours weekly (including Sunday activities). Please contact Erin Furgerson, by email or in person, if interested in applying and for the full Position Description: erin.furgerson@alexandriapres.org.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality *This Week:* the Flores family; *Next Week:* Kari Adams
Nursery *This Week (9am):* Chase and Mary Lou Chesser, Sara and Lydia Eppright, Jenny and Abby McGahey, Juliana Richardson, Susanna Root, Rachel Sylvia
This Week (11am): Liz Crowley, Frank Girgenti, Emily Kinch, Janice Nichols, Rachel Sylvia, Joey and Bailey Rolland
Next Week (9am): Leslie Bridge, Chase and Mary Lou Chesser, Frank Girgenti, Will and Catherine Marks, Jackie McCauley, Nathan and Jess Newman, Serenity Novak
Next Week (11am): Femi Adeniji, Allison Rivera, Bryant and Lynn Streett, Mary Mitchell Todd

Children’s Church *9am:* Becky Knapp & Amy Murr; *11am:* Ryan and Erin Furgerson
Tech Team Liz Crowley, Eli Kendrick, Ethan Novak, Bailey Rolland
Greeters *9am:* Ryan Furgerson, Mike and Vicki Gutshall, Jim and Jo Ann Kottkamp, Lynn Streett
11am: Maggie Cho, Kristi Hellmuth, Yaovi and Patricia Kodjo
Ushers *9am:* Femi Adeniji, Andy, Kira, and Granville Allison, Will Marks, Janice Nichols, Sam and Collin White
11 am: Sam Diack, JW Jung, Jodie and Seth Kirk, Christian and Jack Poole, Rachel Veenstra
Deacons on Duty Owen Gentry

KEY EQUIPPING *Covenant Kids, PROTAS, and Adult classes resume January 14*

During our Key Equipping time on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, ministries are designed to equip all ages, from toddlers to seniors, to be followers and worshipers of Jesus.

Covenant Kids Ministry: Children 2 years old - 5th grade, Lower Level (Nursery for 1 & under) We welcome children to learn foundational truths about God and the Gospel story. We experience what it looks like to love God and love others in community with our worship, small groups, teaching, games, fellowship, and dinner!

PROTAS Youth Ministry: Teens 6th-12th grade, Upper Level Connect each week in community with your peers — the schedule includes games, worship, small group discussions, a short devotion at a teen level, and dinner.

Adults
Walking in the Spirit (WitS), Led by Pastor Tom and Sharon Holliday. Today is the last day to register. This is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, which runs through March 24, with a break on February 18. Each class will consist of an hour of teaching followed by an hour of small group interaction, as well as reflection and homework during the week. Since each week builds upon the previous week, we ask that you commit to being present in at least 8 of the 10 weeks. Participants are also invited to a banquet on April 7 to celebrate and share testimonies of what God has done in our midst.

The Gospel According to Matthew, Led by Elder Marc Allen. From its opening focus on the Messianic lineage, to its spectacular capture of Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, to the Great Commission with which it ends, the Gospel According to Matthew offers beautifully deep teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven and Lord Jesus’ work for our salvation. In this class, we will survey the entirety of the Gospel in our 10 weeks of study.

Introduction to the Christian Life, Led by Elder Aaron Renenger. To be called to faith in Christ is to be called to live a life filled with meaning and purpose. This five-week class will explore what it means to live a Christ-centered life, focusing on key passages from Genesis to Revelation that reveal God’s eternal plan and its profound implications for everything we do as Christians.



unchanging truth. changing lives

Alexandria Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of believers, rejoicing in the gospel, transformed by its power, and responding with grateful hearts in service to our God and world. We long to taste the glory of God in such an astonishing way that the city of Alexandria will be drawn to the majesty and mercy of our great God. It is our desire that our worship will serve as an authentic model to our city of the possibilities for transformation of individuals, families and a city encountering the glory and grace of God.

Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ prelude

■ call to worship | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

Psalms 57:2,5,10-11

Leader: I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

**All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!**

Leader: For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!**

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

All of Our Tomorrows

This spinning world, by Your own hand, hurls ever on around the sun;
the seasons march at Your command; the old departs, the new year comes.
And though celestial is Your gaze, You search and care for all our ways.
We offer up to You this day and all of our tomorrows.

May zealous youth and cautious age determine not the steps we choose;
Great Shepherd, guide us through each day— O how we want to follow You.
Come, Living Way, our way make clear; let perfect love drive out our fear;
be Thou our vision— now and here, and all of our tomorrows.

When winter makes us reminisce of warmer days so distant now,
of cherished saints the sun once kissed whose beauty passed behind the clouds,
let all our fond and longing tears remind us we are pilgrims here.
We trust You, Sovereign of our years, with all of our tomorrows.

Hands to the plow, we're pressing on and running hard to win the prize,
empowered by the love of God with grace before and grace behind.

For lo, what hope before us stands: You finish all that You began;
eternal joy is in Your hands, and all of our tomorrows.

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■ prayer of adoration

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ scripture reading | *Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life and Missions (9am);*

Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries (11am)

Romans 8:1-11 (pg. 887)

Life in the Spirit

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of praise

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea—
a great High Priest, Whose name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,
upward I look and see Him there Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,
for God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb, my perfect, spotless Righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself, I cannot die; my soul is purchased by His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high— with Christ, my Savior and my God,
with Christ, my Savior and my God.

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■ congregational prayer

■ offertory prayer | *Patricia Kodjo (9am); Jo Lea Wigley (11am)*

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

*Children ages 5 through 2nd grade are now invited to continue worship in Children's Church.
Children should exit the Sanctuary using the door to the left of the stage.*

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ sermon scripture reading

Romans 8:12-17 (pg. 888)

Heirs with Christ

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

■ prayer for illumination

■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

"A New Prayer Life – Abba! Father!"

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS TABLE

■ sacrament of the lord's supper

Explanation, Invitation, Participation

All baptized Christians who are members in good standing of a church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ are invited to participate. Children who have been admitted into the church as communicant members are invited to participate as well. If you have any questions, please ask one of our pastors or elders.

Members will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and the cup. You will receive the elements from the pastors and elders standing up front in your section of the Sanctuary, and then take the bread and cup back to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to your seat. We will take the elements together as prompted by the pastor.

■ communion song

Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)

Are you weary, heavy laden? Come and lay your burdens down.
Jesus calls you, Jesus draws you; rest in Him.
He is gentle, He is lowly, He delights to bring us peace;
tender Shepherd, mighty Savior; rest in Him.

*How sure His compassion for us, O how deep is His love,
so come, come to Jesus and rest in Him.*

Are you hopeless, are you guilty, caught in shame for all your sin?
He pursues you to forgive you; rest in Him.
He has paid for every failure, mercy flows in endless streams;
come and follow, freedom calls you; rest in Him.

Are you waiting in your sorrows for this broken world to heal?
He is coming, soon returning; rest in Him.
We will see Him, we will know Him, O what heights of grace revealed:
from His kindness, every promise then fulfilled.
Trust in Jesus; He will keep us to the end.

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GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ song of response

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior; precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise; You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost our way
Oh, we've hopelessly lost our way

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

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■ dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.

■ benediction

■ announcements | *Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries*

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