

## THE CONNECTING LINK

Clarksville Presbyterian Church  
Telephone: (434) 374-8344  
502 Virginia Avenue, Box 717  
Clarksville, VA 23927



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James E. Moss, Pastor  
Email: revjimmos95@gmail.com  
Maureen S. Potter, Secretary  
Email: CPC23927@gmail.com

Visit our website at [www.clarksvillepresbyterian.org](http://www.clarksvillepresbyterian.org)



### A New Confession

At its General Assembly, last month, the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted to officially include the Belhar Confession in its Book of Confessions. Belhar was written in South Africa by Reformed Christians involved in the struggle to end the atrocity of apartheid in that country. But it speaks to the church's call to seek peace and justice in all times and places, including our own. Here is an excerpt:

"We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows, and blocks the path of the ungodly;

that for God, pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

that the church as the possession of God, must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following Christ, the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel."

How does the Belhar Confession speak to our particular calling to be God's witnesses in the community of Clarksville and in the larger world?

~ Jim

## Remember...

**Two Cents-A-Meal Offering** on Sunday, August 7.



### Financial Update (through June 30)

Total pledges and plate contributions received:	\$93,148
Contributions needed to meet budget:	\$72,859
Actual expenses:	\$62,994
Unrestricted funds available:	\$29,665

A complete budget report can be found on the bulletin board by the church office.

### Mission Update

Backpack Buddies is gearing up for another school year. Our church will be sponsoring 25 children, and overall there will be 111. The projected start date for distribution is September 9. Because of a budget surplus from last year, we are not asking for financial donations, but we will need volunteers to help pack bags and deliver them to the school. Be on the lookout for signup sheets in the Upper Room.

We continue to support the Clarksville Food Pantry. At Cup of Cold Water, during Lakefest, we raised \$309 for the pantry. The third Sunday of every month is our designated collection date for canned foods and non-perishables. There are lists of needed items in the Upper Room. There are also sign-up sheets for volunteering at the Food Pantry on Wednesday or Saturday mornings.

- **Sunday, August 7 at 7:00 pm**, our church is hosting a special program led by Denise Pillow of the Peaks Presbytery. Several Presbyterian churches from our area will gather to share experiences and hear about new ideas for hunger outreach ministries. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall and bring any friends who might be interested.

We have tentatively set a date for a special luncheon for the Haiti Mission Team. **Sunday, August 21**, after worship, we plan to share a meal in the Fellowship Hall and hear about the adventures and the experiences our five participants had.

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Our annual Ice Cream Social will be held on **Wednesday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. All are encouraged to bring a friend, relative, or neighbor, to take part in an evening of fun and fellowship. If you have a special ice cream or topping that you would like to share, bring that too!

Forms will be in your Sunday bulletins, as well as at the Secretary's kiosk, for you to fill out; so that we will have an idea of how many people will be attending. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



## NEVER FEAR!

The Psalms are full of inspiring prayers to God, who always looks after you.

*Directions: Use the clues to fill in each missing letter. Then use those letters to complete Psalm 13:5, NIV.*

What plants grow in ..... DIR 1

The opposite of play ..... WO 2 K

One-of-a-kind ..... 3 NIQUE

A hug and a ..... KI 4 S

Sour ..... TAR 5

To speak very loudly ..... YE 6 L

Immediately ..... N 7 W

Bees live in a ..... HI 8 E

A dandelion is this ..... W 9 ED

I 1 2 3 4 5 in your unfailing 6 7 8 9 ;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Answers: dirt, work, unique, kiss, tart, yell, now, hive, weed;  
I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

# TRUST POSTER

No matter what you face, God is with you. Make this poster as a reminder to always trust God.



### What you need:

- Cardstock
- Glue
- Twigs (a 3" piece and a 2" piece)
- Pebbles
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Sand or glitter
- Broken crayons (2 or 3)

### What you do:

1. On the left side of the cardstock, trace a 3"-high letter T with glue. Place twigs on the glue lines.
2. Trace an R of the same size. Place pebbles on that glue.
3. Use black paint to make a U.
4. Trace an S in glue. Pour sand (or glitter) on top.
5. Make another T with glue. Place the crayons on top.
6. After the poster dries, shake off the excess sand (or glitter) into a trash can.