

FAITH NOTES

APRIL
2019

Gadsden Cumberland Presbyterian Church

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Church Family and Friends,

As I write this month's newsletter, we are right smack in the middle of March Madness. If you are unfamiliar with that term, then you definitely are not from Kentucky! March Madness refers to the NCAA Basketball Tournament and Championship. Yes, other sports besides football are also played at the collegiate level! To get the full picture of how big this is in the basketball world, just imagine the time from the Iron Bowl through Bowl season and on to the National Championship game. My Cats have a good chance of making the Final Four and bringing home their 9th Championship, and for you football fans of Auburn and Alabama, you ought to have some idea of how special that is. *(update: congrats to Auburn for their victory vs KY)*

This particular time of year is one of my favorites. I love watching all of the different teams (there are 68 teams that make the tournament), whether they come in as Conference Champions or are good enough to earn a bid based on their performance throughout the season. Each and every team is giving it their all, hoping to end their season holding that championship trophy.

But understand, this great tournament is not the only thing that makes this time of year special. We have the distinct privilege of getting to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Without His sacrifice for us, I shudder to think what our lives, our world would look like. I cannot fathom going through this life and not having the hope we have in Christ Jesus. The hope of new life both here and now, as well as for all eternity. The hope for brighter days, hope of a future.

Many teams each year hope for and try their hardest to earn a championship, yet, all but one will ultimately fail. Only one will end their season with a win. As you go from season to season, it is a rarity for that same team to repeat their success. Without fail, each and every team at some point experiences disappointment and heartache. All experience failure.

We too experience failure in our attempts to please God with our behavior. The good news for us as children of God is that though we fail, and we all fail on a daily basis- "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"- Christ has come to redeem us and set us free from sin. HE freely offers Himself as the atonement for our sin. So for this we rejoice. In this, we find our hope. In this we celebrate, not a championship but life everlasting.

Peter refers to this hope at the outset of his letter; "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

1 Pet. 1:3

Let us praise God together, rejoicing in His great love for us. You are invited to celebrate the resurrection with us at GCPC on April 20th at our Church Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 11am. We will gather for worship on April 21st as we host the Community Sunrise Service at 6:30am with breakfast to follow. Then we will celebrate again in our regular morning worship at 10:30. Bring the whole family to worship our Risen King!

In Christ,
Rev. Daniel

PRAYER REQUEST

RECENT PRAYER REQUESTS

(This list will be purged every two to three weeks, unless indicated otherwise in your prayer request.)

- *David Moyer
- *Ken Payne
- *Dale Henry
- *Tim Waddell
- *Madde Sue Bazzell
- *Linda Howington
- *Tony Elrod
- *Sonny Brady
- *Haley Ryan
- *Karina Barrett
- *Jason Russell

- *Joanne Kelley
- *Carol Payne
- *Denice Hall
- *Avis Elrod
- *Elizabeth Cline
- *Fran Kennedy
- *Lew DeJoseph
- *Peggy Jolly
- *Kristin Bean
- *Gilda Knighten
- *Brayden Garrett

Happy Easter!



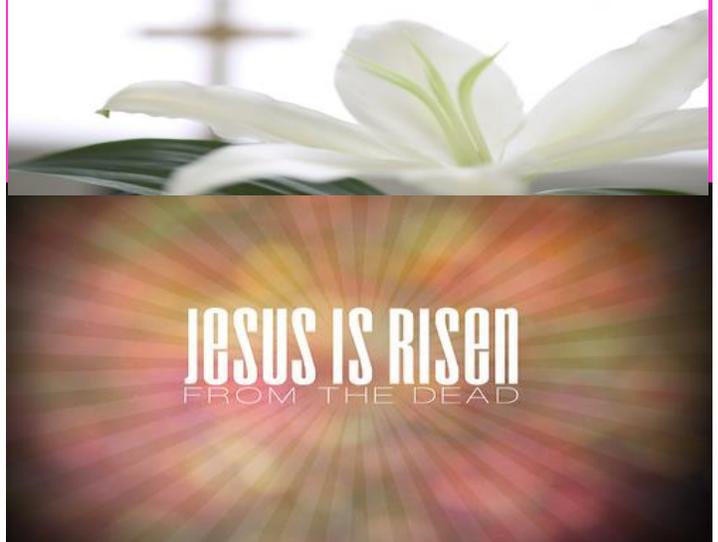
LONG-TERM PRAYER NEEDS

- *Jerry & Carol Stombaugh
- *Michael Moyer
- *Walter Westbrook
- *Charlotte Davis
- *Elaine Ray
- *Dale Mayo
- *Larry Gramling
- *Aimee Collier
- *Ava Gallahair
- *Our military personnel, police, fire, and rescue
- *The children & families of The Children's Home
- *Ginny Acton
- *Betty Jo Ponce
- *Marie Hendricks
- *Janice Spivey
- *Nell Hall
- *Sonny Brady
- *Greg & Jennifer Dobbins
- *Wesley Lyons

OUR ASSISTED LIVING, NURSING HOME And HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- *Milton Roe— *Piedmont Health Care Center in Piedmont, AL*
- *Ann Corley— *Cherokee Village in Centre, AL*

*NOTE: This information is current at time of printing.
Weekly updates are printed in the Sunday bulletin.*



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