The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



A Call to Fasting and Prayer

among the people of

Calvary Presbytery

by Dr. David Barry

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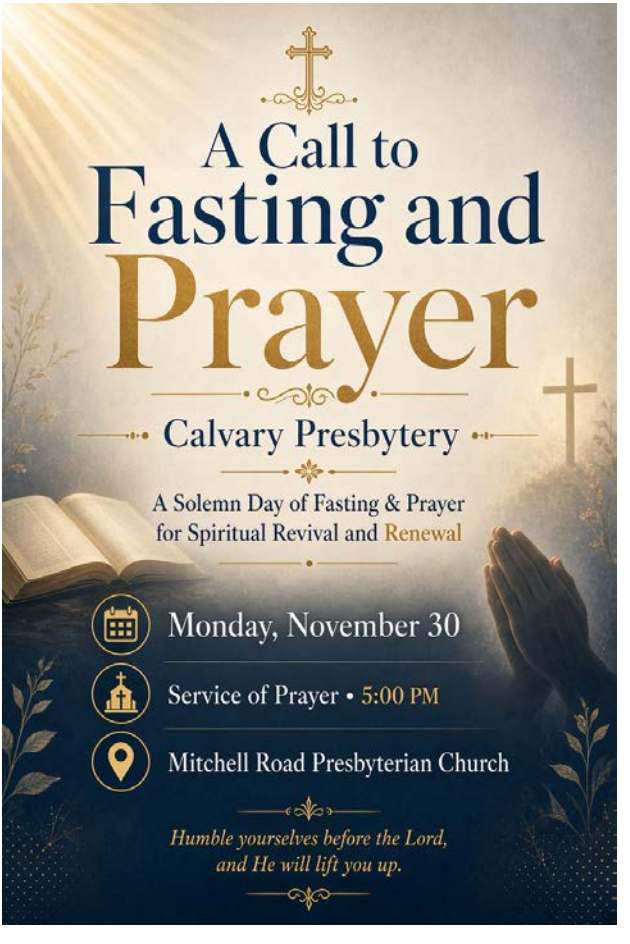
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The fifty-third General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a call for a solemn day of fasting and prayer to be held this fall throughout the Presbyterian Church in America to ask the Lord for spiritual revival and renewal.

Calvary Presbytery has designated Monday, November 30 to be a day fasting and prayer among all the congregations of the presbytery. To close the day and break the fast, we will gather for a service of prayer and worship at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church at 5:00 P.M.



This call to fast and pray is an opportunity to humble ourselves, to seek treasure and aid from heaven, and to stir up our hearts with hope for the future. It is a reminder that we depend upon the Lord for every good thing: for life, for life, for blessing, to prepare good works, and to lead us in them. As

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Ministry of the Week

RUF-I

Brian & Missy Howard



Brian and his wife Missy were married after college. They have three sons and a daughter, Caleb, Connor, Joe, and Jadyn. Brian has served in the local church for almost 30 years. Brian and Missy moved to Clemson in the summer of 2020 to begin working with RUF-I. In his free time Brian enjoys playing golf, fly fishing, and going on long walks.

Clemson Reformed University Fellowship-International (RUF-I) has been on the campus of Clemson since 1989. During that time they have had the opportunity to meet students from all around the world. RUF-I is a Christian ministry that exists to WELCOME visiting students, scholars, and families into a community of other Internationals. RUF-I offers a wide variety of events, activities, and experiences for International students. They also provide the opportunity for any student to EXPLORE the teachings of Christianity and understand how it informs faith and everyday life. This ministry comes alongside to ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP believers in their personal faith.

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we call upon the Lord for a powerful movement of his grace, let us urge one another to take this opportunity, believing that God will hear our prayers. We have his promise: those who wait on the Lord will never be put to shame (Ps. 25:3).

To help us prepare for this day, we should consider what fasting is, its precedent in Scripture, its purpose and integration with prayer, and some guidelines for observing the day to the greatest spiritual benefit.

FASTING

Fasting is a spiritual discipline in which a believer abstains from food and drink (with the exception of water) for a period of time in order to devote himself or herself to the pursuit of God in prayer and devotion. "Solemn fastings… upon special occasions" are acts of religious worship (WCF 21.5; Lk. 2:37).

Fasting is a means to humble us before the Lord. The first mention of fasting in the Bible, and the only reference to the practice in the Pentateuch, occurs in connection with the Day of Atonement when the Lord instructed the Israelites to "afflict" (or "humble") themselves (Lev. 16:29–31; 23:26–33). This affliction took the form of abstaining from food. It brought a physical hardship designed to bring the people of Israel to a realization of and sorrow for their sins as well as to focus their attention on the hope of forgiveness (cf. Lev. 16:19, 30, 34).

Fasting reminds us of how dependent we are upon the Lord by humbling us with hunger. Without daily bread, our bodies quickly become weak, and that weakness strips away false notions of self-reliance. Fasting also reminds us that, while we need daily bread, we do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from God's mouth (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4). When we fast, the Lord intends for our physical appetite to stimulate our spiritual appetite. We should use our natural desire for food and drink to prompt our souls to hunger and thirst for all the gifts and graces that accompany the kingdom of God. Physical hunger can lead us to a deeper understanding, appreciation, and experience of what it means to taste and see that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8). Fasting is the opposite of feasting but when properly understood and practiced it offers an unparalleled opportunity for our souls to discover greater delights than any earthly banquet.

In the original 1645 Westminster Directory for Public Worship, the chapter devoted to "Public Solemn Fasting" encouraged believers to abstain from "all

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at the corner of

River & Rhett

WIC (Women in the Church) *November 6*

International Dinner















November Birthdays

15 José Barriga, Mark Panosian

16 Will Corbin, Ellie Davis, Benjamin Strickland, Barbara Woodward

17 Chris Roberts

18 Bill O'Brien, Harper Preston, Rebecca Rine, Vicky Uhall

19 George Cumbus, Caroline Farr, Marjorie Swope

20 Elizabeth Backus, Richard Wagner

21 Noel Boudreau, Wilma Cagle, Chase Haws, Walker Hughes, Teddy Johnson

This Week

MORNING SERMON
Dr. Richard D. Phillips
The Four Chariots
Zechariah 6:1–8

EVENING SERMON
Dr. Richard D. Phillips
My Hope in the Promise
Acts 25:23 –26:8

Sunday, November 15

8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel *(Sanctuary)*
10:00 A.M. Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School
11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
12:30 P.M. New Members and Congregation Luncheon *(Gym)*
5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer *(Chapel)*
6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

Monday, November 16

6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study *(Conference Room)*
9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study *(Conference Room)*

Tuesday, November 17

11:00 A.M. Pat Tyner Memorial Service *(Sanctuary)*

Wednesday, November 18

12:00 P.M. Cherished and Chosen Luncheon *(Fellowship Hall)*
5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER *(Gym)*
6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4–K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1–6); Youth Choir (Grades 7–12)
6:30 P.M. Administration Committee *(Conference Room)*
6:45 P.M. Ministry Moment *(Gym)*
7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3–Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5–8)
7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study *(Gym)*
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 19

9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study *(Conference Room)*

Friday, November 20

9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers *(Fellowship Hall)*
12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon/Bible Study *(Gym)*
1:30 P.M. Mission to Main *(Conference Room)*

Saturday, November 21

11:00 A.M. Kye Zimmerman Memorial Service *(Sanctuary)*
7:00 P.M. English Country Dancing *(Gym)*

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

November 15	New Member Introduction & Luncheon
November 22	Communion in the Morning Services
November 25	Thanksgiving Service
November 27	Church Offices Closed
November 30	Day of Fasting and Prayer

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worldly labour, discourses, and thoughts, and from all bodily delights, and such like..." While it may not be possible for us to take a day off work or refrain from other conversations during the day, we should ask ourselves if there are other areas, in addition to food, where abstinence would be a spiritual benefit to us. Perhaps the overuse of our phones and social media would be a good place to start.

FASTING AND PRAYER

Scripture often links the practice of fasting with prayer. Prayer and fasting are twin graces in the pursuit of God and his blessings. When we survey the practice of prayer and fasting in the Bible, we can see the various ways in which God's people have engaged in these disciplines for specific purposes.

1 Scripture most often associates fasting and prayer as a response to some great sorrow, especially sin and its consequences. When Nehemiah received the news of Jerusalem's desolation, he "wept and mourned for days, and... continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven" (Neh. 1:4). He was brokenhearted over the condition of Zion. Overture 50 reminds us of "the persistent divisions and relative spiritual poverty of the church" as "a source of great grief to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ." Our day of fasting and prayer should be an occasion of mourning over the state of the church. We should weep for the PCA but also for every Bible-believing denomination and congregation for our widespread lack of power and effectiveness.

One of the great sorrows over which the men and women of the Bible fasted and prayed was the tragedy of sin and its consequences. Israel fasted at Mizpah and confessed their sins (1 Sam. 7:6). Daniel anchored his moving prayer of repentance for the sins of Israel in the steadfast love and covenant

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Announcements

Men of the Covenant

Men (9th grade and above) will be having a breakfast and teaching time on Saturday, November 14, beginning at 8:00 A.M. in the Gym. Meat will be provided. Men are asked to bring breakfast items to share.

New Member Sunday



The Fall 2026 New Members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service on Sunday, November 15. The church family and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon in our New Members' honor.

DATE: **Sunday, November 15**
TIME: **Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service**
PLACE: **Gymnasium**
FOOD: **Meat/drinks will be provided. Please bring generous portions of sides and desserts.**

Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are available on the counter outside the Church Library. Fill a box for a needy child! Gift suggestions are posted there also. Shoeboxes should be turned in at the same location by November 18.

Budget Information Meeting

Information about the proposed 2027 Budget will be presented to the congregation after the Evening Service on November 22.

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 6, Jr. High young people up through adults will meet in the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour to elect new deacons, receive and support the 2027 Budget, and hear from Dr. Phillips. Pray for this important meeting together.

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faithfulness of God, but he poured out his prayer with "pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes" (Dan. 9:3). The people of Nineveh also clothed themselves with sackcloth and called for a fast when they heard and believed the message that God was going to judge their sin (Jon. 3:5–7). The General Assembly has called upon us to humble ourselves "before the LORD, fast and pray, and seek his mercy in heartfelt repentance over ministerial sins, the sins of officers, members, and whole congregations." Like Daniel, we should pour out our sorrow for our transgressions. The Lord intends for the ache in our stomachs to aid the ache of our hearts for his mercy.

2 God's people fasted and prayed during times of famine. Judah mourned and languished during a time of drought (Jer. 14:1–12). Joel summoned God's people to lament, wail, and consecrate a fast for the desolation caused by an invasion of locusts (Joel 1:13–14). Amos reminds us, however, that the greatest famine is the lack of hearing God's word (Amos 8:11–12). As we repent of ministerial sins, we should lament the widespread lack of true, biblical preaching across the land. Furthermore, we should seek the Lord to bless our own pulpits so that the preaching of the PCA will be faithful to the Scriptures and useful to the gathering and perfecting of the saints. As Overture 50 urges, "earnest prayer should be made for the pouring out of the Holy Spirit, the blessing of heaven on the preached word, the conversion of the lost, the planting of faithful churches at home, and the success of the gospel in our communities, on college campuses, and on the mission field around the world."

Though sorrow and repentance are dominant reasons for fasting and prayer, the Scriptures give several more reasons why God's people should engage in these disciplines.

3 For help in struggle. When his enemies came against him in battle, Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast throughout Judah to seek help from the Lord (2 Chron. 20:3). When we face spiritual assaults from the powers of darkness (Eph. 6:12). In Psalm 65, David lifted his voice to the Lord: "O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come" (v. 2). We have been invited to come to this great God and call upon him—to come with fasting, approaching him in humility with our supplications and pleas. Let us lift our hearts before him. Let us seek his face. Let us cry out, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation" (Psa. 85:6-7).

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We warmly invite you to join with Calvary Presbytery on November 30 at 5:00 P.M. at Michell Road Presbyterian Church, and more broadly, with all the Presbyterian Church in America:

- to humble ourselves before the LORD,
- to seek his mercies,
- to earnestly pray for revival, renewal, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit,
- for the blessing of heaven on the preached word,
- for the salvation of the lost,
- for the planting of faithful churches at home,
- and for the success of the gospel in our communities, on college campuses, and on the mission field around the world. ◆



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Thanks to TE Rhett P. Dodson and RE Olin R. McNeely who authored a previous version of this article.

Birth of a Covenant Child

Christopher Jude Strickland, newest son of Mark and Christy Strickland, was born on November 5. Christopher joins Caroline, Meredith, Benjamin, and Eleanor at home!

Death of a Church Member

Kye Zimmerman entered the courts of Heaven on Monday, November 9, after a long battle with various health difficulties. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 11:00 A.M. here at Second Presbyterian. Visitation with the family will be after the Service concludes.