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Raeford Presbyterian Church  
128 W. Edinborough Ave. Raeford, NC  
Church Office (910) 875-2101  
March 2024



# The Link

The Raeford Presbyterian Church is committed to worshipping God, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, nurturing the faithful, and showing compassion for those in need.

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**We find ourselves in the midst of Lent. As we are in that season of the Christian year, we are preparing to celebrate Easter. What does it mean for the Christian to prepare to celebrate Easter?**

**I have some thoughts that I'd like to share. First, "to be prepared" means to be confessed up. We need to make sure to ask God to forgive us for our sins of commission and omission. Why do we need to be confessed up? We want to approach Easter with a clean heart. The Psalmist addresses this in Psalm 51:10. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."**

**Second, we must be prepared by being read up. We need to spend as much time as possible reading and studying God's Word. Two great places to start are Psalms and the Gospel of John. Remember Jesus overcame temptation by knowing, understanding, and quoting God's Word.**

**Third, we must be prepared by being given up. Yes, I am talking about possessions as part of a tithe or systematic giving. However, I am also speaking about giving our time and talents. Don't misunderstand me. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and doesn't need our giving. We do need to give, however.**

**Finally, we must be prepared by being prayed up. I have already mentioned confession. However, complete prayer needs not only confession, but it needs adoration, thanksgiving, and supplication or intercession. We need to be praying constantly not only for ourselves, but for everyone.**

**I know that there are many other items that I could add, but I have a limited amount of space. I truly believe if we do these four things during Lent, we will have the best Easter ever.**

**For the officers, staff, members of Raeford Presbyterian Church as well as the Owens family, I wish you a blessed Lent and a powerful and wonderful Easter.**

*Shane*

**If you are hospitalized, seriously ill, or having surgery, please notify the church office at 910-875-2101 or [imaxwell@raefordpres.org](mailto:imaxwell@raefordpres.org).**

**Your church wants to minister to you whenever you are ill. We can do that only if you or your family informs us of your needs. Thank you for your calls and e-mail.**

## SESSION MEETING

The session will have their Monthly Stated Meeting on Sunday, March 10, at 6:00 pm.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women continue their ongoing local mission project for Hawk Eye Elementary School. Toiletries, hygiene items, and school supplies are always needed. A new need is socks, crew or footies. Thank you for your continued generosity to this mission.

A new ongoing project for Presbyterian Women is non-perishable food items and plastic bags (grocery store, Walmart, etc.) for Galatia Presbyterian Church.

The PW Council will meet on Sunday, March 24, 2024, immediately following the worship service.

#### March Circle Meetings:

Circle #1 – Sunday, March 3, at 4:00 pm at the church

Circle #2 – Tuesday, March 12, at 4:00 pm with Jodi Willis

Circle #3 – Monday, March 4, at 2:00 pm at the church

#### Wednesday Night for March:

March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm

March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm

**Scholarship application letters will be mailed out around mid-March.**

**The church office will be closed Monday, April 1, 2024 in observance of Easter Monday.**

## SAVE THE DATES

A covered dish appreciation dinner for Dr. Shane Owens and Lisa Maxwell will be held in the John Ropp Hall on Wednesday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m. Put this date on the calendar and plan to attend because Lisa's last day working is March 29 and Shane's last day working is April 14.

**Stephanie Slack's Art Show at ECU-Greenville will be March 22, 2024**

**Vacation Bible School  
June 10-14, 2024  
In partnership with Camp Monroe**

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People –all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

#### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees.
- Receives 32% of funds raised

#### **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)**

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- Receives 36% of funds raised

#### **Self-Development of People (SDOP)**

- Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.
- Receives 32% of funds raised

**Checks may be made payable to Raeford Presbyterian Church with OGHS on the memo line.**





## **EASTER SCHEDULE**

Easter egg hunt @ 3:00pm  
at Antioch Presbyterian Church,  
on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Maundy Thursday Service  
with Communion  
Thursday, March 28, at 5:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service  
Sunday, March 31, at 11:00 a.m.

Our Confirmation class  
(Amelia Johnson and Julianna Fries)  
will make their public profession of faith on Easter Sunday.

#### PRAYER CONCERNS:

Christy Autry, Janet Baker, Cindy Baxley, Elsie Bowen, Bobby Britt, Larry Bullard, DeAndre Butler, Joann Butler, Charles Clubb, Jaxon Davis, Patsy Hawkes, David Holland, Frank Inman, Dolly Jattan, William McDonald, Wayne Mills, Wesley Owens, Butch Posey, Al Potts, Juanita Ramsey, Paul Shortridge, Ruth Sports, Kim Wright, our missionaries: Dan and Elizabeth Turk; members of the United States Armed Forces and our country.

#### MARCH DUTY

**Door Duty:** Edith Averette, Bobby Conoly, Wanda McPhaul, and Chuck Slack

**Nursery Duty:** Lisa Davis, Lynn Hendrix, Wanda McPhaul, Becky Smith, and Jodi Willis,

#### March Committee Meetings

Music & Worship  
Monday, March 4 @ 5:30pm.

Christian Education  
Tuesday, March 5 @ 5:00 p.m.

Budget & Finance  
Tuesday, March 5 @ 6:30 p.m.

Spiritual Dev. & Congregational Care  
Wednesday, March 6 @ 1:00 p.m.

Session Meeting  
Sunday, March 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

Property  
No scheduled meeting this month.

#### ***Lisa Maxwell***

After **25** years of service to the Raeford Presbyterian Church and its' members, Lisa Maxwell, our financial secretary, will be retiring at the end of March. Lisa has been a wonderful employee and helper to so many here at the church. With great appreciation, we would like to wish Lisa a wonderful retirement and thank her for a job well done!  
***Congratulations, and enjoy your retirement, Lisa!***



#### **Good News**

"No one at Raeford Presbyterian Church or Montpelier Presbyterian Church needs a ramp."

Over the last few years these two churches have formed a partnership that allows them to meet the ramp needs of their congregations. This sharing of materials, and sometimes labor, is a shining example of the way Jesus intended people to work together for the common good.

The members of our congregations loudly say "Thank You" for answering the call for help when a ramp is needed. Thanks Ben A., Chuck S., Jim P., Ken M., and the others that get involved and give their time.

#### **Pledges thru February 2024:**

<b>Needed Monthly</b>	<b>\$20,902.00</b>
<b>Required to date</b>	<b>\$41,804.00</b>
<b>Received to date</b>	<b>\$45,907.00</b>
<b>Overage</b>	<b>\$ 4,103.00</b>



**Daylight  
Savings Time  
Begins  
Sunday,  
March 10th**

