

THE GRAPEVINE

Concord Presbyterian Church | concordpreschurch.com | 704-872-7344



Vacation Bible School

June 14-18; 6-8pm

Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's them!

There's something for every age, from Ages 3 - Grade 6, to engage! Come learn about God knows us and reaches out to us, using Bible stories from Psalms to 2 Corinthians to Nehemiah!

Worship Updates

Beginning May 9, the Worship returns to the sanctuary. Based on recommendations from experts at MIT on air flow and ventilation, the Center for Congregational Song on safe practices for singing and speaking in worship, the CDC on infection and vaccination rates, as well as feedback from our congregation members, the Worship Committee decided the best step forward for Concord was to open our Sanctuary doors for worship.

Worship will include many of our favorite and familiar moments, including an opportunity to share prayer requests prior to the service, spoken responses, and music lead by a few of our talented singers and musicians. Sunday school for all will follow.

However, a couple of mitigation practices will still be in place. In order to increase ventilation and air flow in the sanctuary, the main sanctuary and side doors will remain open throughout the service. We invite you to sit towards the front of the sanctuary to avoid potential road noise. Masks are still required. Both of these are essential to prevent the spread of an airborne disease and until cases are below 10 per 100,000 people in Iredell County, the most prudent steps we can take.

Other churches have made different choices based on what they consider an acceptable level of risk within their community. Concord has always prioritized care of one another as a primary value and therefore erred on the side of lower-risk practices. Our greatest hope is as vaccine rates rise and cases drop over the summer, we will be in the last weeks of these necessary practices.

We look forward to gathering together as one community on May 9. Please contact Pastor Liz or a Member of the worship Committee with questions or concerns.



Stories from the Book of Acts

At Concord Presbyterian, Statesville

Here's what's coming up in worship!

May 2

Scriptures: Acts 6:8-15

Hymns: "Come Thou Font", "Come Live in the Light"

Sermon: Daring to Dream of New

May 9

Scriptures: Acts 4:32-37

Hymns: "Come Ye Sinners Poor & Needy", "For Everyone Born"

Sermon: Daring to Dream of Belonging

May 16

Scriptures: Acts 1:15-17, 20-25

Hymns: "All Creatures of our God and King"; "O God You Search Me"

Sermon: Daring to Dream the Unwanted Dream

May 23

Pentecost

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21

Hymns: "You Servants of God, your Master Proclaim", "Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song"

Sermon: Dare to Dream of a Dream Fulfilled

May 30

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8

Hymns: "Holy, Holy, Holy", "Here I Am Lord", "Come and Fill our Hearts"

Sermon: The God of Hope

2021 Summer Worship Series

“Choose Hope”

We are people of hope. We need hope. We live by hope. Hope gets us out of bed. We need to believe there is something ahead, “somewhere, out there” that is worth our trying to pursue. Hope is a function of optimism. It motivates us and pulls us ahead.

Christian Hope holds promise for us in the future. It is not based on our own attitude or whether we are optimistic or pessimistic. Christian hope is rooted in God, what God has done, and what God promises for the future in Jesus Christ.

So, in Christian faith, hope is secured not by us, but by the actions of God. This makes all the difference. Our human hope can disappoint or change, depending on how things are going at any given time. Our Christian hope grounded in Jesus Christ is always there, always secure, and always giving us assurance to face the future with confidence and joy.

This Summer, we will talk about the basics of Christian Hope through strong Biblical insights, including stories from Romans, Ephesians, 1 Peter, Isaiah, and the Psalms.

May 2 and
16

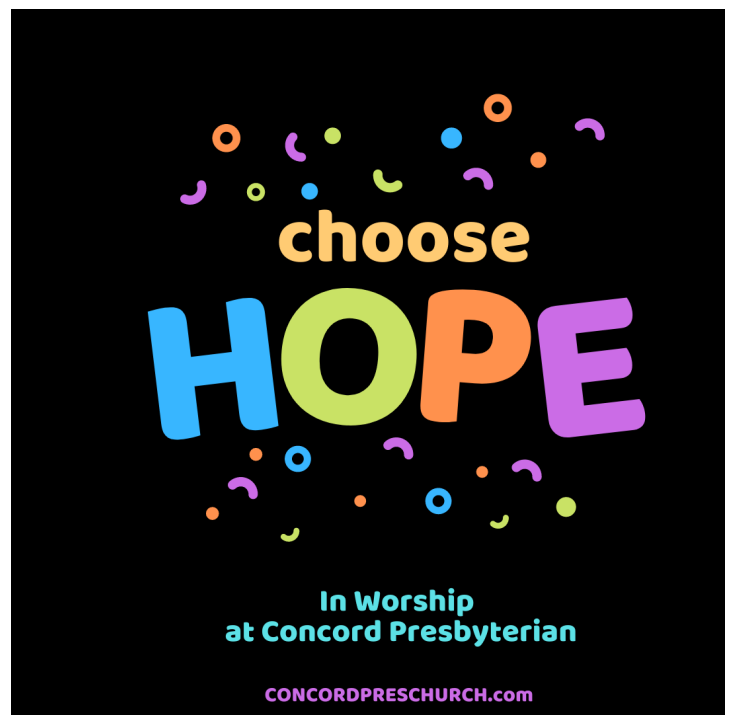


YOUTH AND CHILDREN

at Concord Presbyterian Church



Go to
[Concordpreschurc.com/
grow](https://Concordpreschurc.com/grow)
for more information



May Mission Projects

Community Outreach

- On May 2, the Youth will pack up and deliver Hospitality Bags to Heritage Place. Thank you for your generous donations which will help residents at the facility receive an extra dose of love this month!
- The Mission Committee has made contact with the Alzheimer's Association, Statesville Senior Center, and Alcoholics Anonymous to begin hosting support groups and provide support materials, including classes, webinars, and other opportunities. Stayed tuned for more details about these important ministries! If you feel called to assist in facilitating any of these ministries, contact Jeremy at jrtroyer13@gmail.com
- **Plan Ahead!** June 2 is our semi-annual blood drive for 2pm - 6:30pm. Sign-up to donate by going to Concordpreschurch.com/serve.
- Items to Donate to the Food Pantry: Instant Mashed Potatoes, Ketchup, Toothpaste, Cleaning Supplies, Bar Soap, Canned Fruit, Canned Pinto or White Beans, and Peanut Butter. Please. . . No Green Beans or Corn.

Bible Study

Stories from the Book of Acts

Sundays @ 11am

Pastor Liz will continue leading the Sunday Morning Bible Study following worship throughout May. This group will look at the scriptures for the next Sunday Morning in more depth in order to prepare for the following week's Worship.

The class will meet in the Sanctuary.

Thursday Book Group

Prayer by Phillip Yancey

Thursdays @ 6pm

Meeting at Amalfi's for Dinner and Discussion. Fellowship begins the evening, catching up on our weeks and sharing our stories. A discussion about Prayer follows, all on the outside patio.

Phillip Yancey's book looks at the different aspects of what makes prayer effective and meaningful, how we can pray "better", and what does an answer to pray look like?



In April, Session considered several important items:

- Acted on a motion from the Property and Grounds Committee to approve a bid from Bell Landscape Supply for 966.77 for new planting around the church.
- Approved a request from Property and Grounds to install a security system. The new system positioned cameras surrounding the church perimeter and gives the church active, live video of both parking lots, the cemetery, the office door, and the front yard. Cameras were installed April 23.
- Heard a report from the Discover Concord group, asked questions about their current status, and gave input into their future discussions.

Session Members and Committee Chairs

In 2021, Session is also enlarging its focus to include more time in prayer and in faithful contemplation of God's word and its impact on Concord's life and mission. To that end, Session spent time in prayer for our Church as well as individuals on our prayer list.

Class of 2021

Ryan Dellinger
George Saffos
Frank Setser
Liz Setser
Betty Sharpe

Class of 2022

Danny Cook
Tim Donnelly
Joe Raymer
Barbara Williams
Nicole Winterhalter

Class of 2023

Bill Baker
Gena Bergner
Elaine Nicholson
Nelson Queen
Janie Stikeleather

Committee Chairs:

Administration

Congregational Life and Growth

Christian Education

Mission

Property and Grounds

Worship

Technology

John Ervin
George Saffos
Nicole Winterhalter
Jeremy Troyer
Frank Setser
Liz Setser
Tim Donnelly



May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Youth Group; 4:30pm; Session; 7:00pm	3	4	5 VBS Volunteers Meeting; 7pm	6 Book Group; 6:00pm	7	8
9	10	11 Presbytery; 9am Missions; 7:00pm	12	13 Book Group; 6:00pm	14	15
					Girls Scout camping at	Troop church
16 Youth Group; 4:30pm;	17 Property and Grounds; 5:30pm	18 Admin; 4:00pm	19 Worship Committee; 7:00pm	20 Book Group; 6:00pm	21	22
23 Pentecost; Communion	24	25	26	27 Book Group; 6:00pm	28 Cub Scouts Boston	29 Butt BBQ fundraiser
30 Memorial Day; Office Closed	31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5

Regularly Scheduled Events:

Every Sunday: Worship Service - 10:00am, Small Groups - 11:00am

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am - 1pm

Staff Contact List:

Pastor Liz: pastorcpc@outlook.com; 412-877-5193

Elizabeth Dobson - elizdobson@hotmail.com

Susie Brown: concordpresby@bellsouth.net; 704-872-7344

Samantha Dudley - Custodian; call church office



Dear Friends -

How has the pandemic changed you? As we begin to see what we hope is light at the end of this long, dark tunnel, I'm hearing people ask this question more often. As you reflect back on this past year, how are you different that you were in April 2020? What changes have you made, or more likely, what changes have been forced upon you? Here are a few I've heard named.

We're more technologically engaged. How many of us had used Zoom before the pandemic hit? I thought it was a nice novelty I'd used a couple of times for Webinars, but I had no idea the numbers of hours I'd be spending staring at beloved church members in little boxes on my computer screen. The pandemic forced us to learn new ways of communicating and plugging in and allowed us to include members spread far and wide. Some people have really learned to love the convenience of a Zoom meeting held in pajamas, while others have struggled with the same. I wonder, moving forward, how technology will continue to be incorporated into the life of the church.

We have different priorities. At least we do for now. The pandemic forced us to stay inside and away from the many activities that kept us busy - and distracted. Many of us found, once we were required to spend time at home, we actually kind of like our family. Others have focus more on their health, using this time to create better habits. And some of us have realized, because of the loneliness and isolation of the pandemic, we need to spend more time with those we love. Whether or not this carries over once the pandemic is finally at its end remains to be seen.

We realize the church is more than a building. We knew this in our heads, but we know it in practice. The church never closed, we just moved to different ways of being. The pandemic didn't stop us from worshipping, praying, and service. But it did force us to think creatively about how we do those things, like live-streaming funerals and reaching out to home bound members. The pandemic hasn't kept us from doing anything we've done before; we just had to figure out how to do it in new ways.

We know how important Sunday morning is. People need in-person worship. We have done our best to provide meaningful worship in ways people could access at home, but it's just not the same as worshipping together and hearing other voices. The Sunday morning ritual of church was one of the biggest losses for people. I'm hopeful and excited how, as the pandemic, we will be able to join together and share our voices, hopes, and smiles with one another.

The pandemic changed us in many ways, some for better, some for worse. I give thanks God walks with us through it all, and we can trust God's promises are good. May the lessons we learned make us better followers of Christ now and in the future.

Love always,
Pastor Liz