



MARCH 2023 ISSUE

THE PINEVILLE CONNECTION

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

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Pineville Connection

FROM PASTOR MARK

Psalm 8.3-4
Matthew 6.25-34

I am grateful for the emphasis on mental health awareness in our culture today. As someone who battles chronic depression and anxiety, finding healthy ways to address this quixotic connection of mind, body, and spirit can be challenging. There are no x-rays, blood tests, or empirical measures that we can definitively point to and diagnose, “Aha! You suffer from depression.” And the path to treatment is even less clear, far more “let’s see if this works.”



Rev. Dr. Mark Curtis

Nothing in my life has led me to feel more of an outsider than my battle with mental health. It can be isolating, creating distance in relationships when that is the last thing I needed. It can be frustrating, wanting to do something and yet not having the energy or desire to act on the thought. It can be embarrassing, having to admit that some unseen, unexplainable, unprovable force is acting upon me preventing me from engaging in my work, family, and social life in the manner I am accustomed.

For over thirty years, I have sought counseling, medical advice, studied and read on my own about depression and anxiety. I have collected much knowledge along the way. And as the fields of counseling, medicine, and the academy have grown in their own respective knowledge and understanding, so too have I.

However, repeatedly, what I have needed most was **hope**. In the most desperate of times, when I felt isolated, frustrated, misunderstood, and embarrassed, what I have needed most is to know that what I was experiencing in the moment was temporary, that I was not alone, and to be reminded that I am worthy of love.

As we make our journey through Lent this year, we will be exploring stories of people Jesus encountered who in their own ways were considered outsiders, outcasts, and outlaws. We will see and hear the people who in their day struggled to be seen and heard. We will listen in on conversations Jesus has with those on the fringes, those considered dangerous, and those considered unclean. Perhaps along the way, their story will become intertwined with ours.

Pineville Connection

MEET OUR NEW STAFF: SARAH WILLIS

At the end of February, Sarah Willis joined our staff team as Church Office Manager. Join us in extending her a warm welcome!

How do you take your coffee?

I love a good dark roast with French Vanilla creamer or a strong cold brew.

What are you watching right now?

New Girl is comfort show of mine so I'm rewatching it.

What's on your bucket list?

To learn how to surf! I'd want to find the big waves so maybe in Hawaii.

What's your favorite hymn?

Great is Thy Faithfulness is a hymn I always love singing.

Do you have a favorite spiritual practice that helps to strengthen your faith?

I get into the Word as fast as I can - reading the Bible, and being grounded in the Word.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse?

My favorite verse is Esther 4:14. This verse is so important to me because sometimes you wonder in life if this is the season that you're supposed to be in. I hear all the time that I was born in

the wrong decade - I'd be right at home in the '50s! Especially thinking of my children, are they going to survive in times like this? And I am quickly reminded of this verse, that perhaps we are created for a such time as this.

How can the congregation support you as you begin this role?

I'm grateful to be part of this worship community. Please stop by to introduce yourself! I look forward to meeting each of you!

Sarah Willis
Church Office Manager



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LIFE GROUP OFFERS CONNECTION & COMMUNITY ON ZOOM

BY STACY HODES

When I first heard about Life Groups, I was excited about getting involved. However, due to circumstances in my personal life, I was limiting my in-person interaction with groups. I figured there must be others that for their own personal reason, would not be able to join an on-site Life Group. Maybe they traveled often, maybe they were a caregiver, or maybe they just didn't want to head out in the evening after working all day long. There was definitely a need, and so, a Zoom Life Group was formed! We meet on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and share about our faith journey, applying the methodology of Class Meeting and have developed a special connection. We all look forward to our weekly discussions.

What have we gained:

- Our life group has helped us connect with new people and strengthen existing relationships.
- It has provided an opportunity for mutual sharing and support.
- It has helped all of us to continue to grow in our devotion to God and others.
- It has helped with our spiritual growth.
- It has helped us see real examples of how God is working in our midst.
- Any time we may struggle during the week either with life challenges or our relationship to God, we think of our Life Group cohorts and know that we are supported and nurtured.

We are currently using Common Ground by Ameberly Neese as a study/discussion guide. It discusses various biblical characters that struggled with conflicting relationships and sibling rivalries. If you are looking for a Life Group, consider joining us!

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SERMON SERIES: OUTSIDERS, OUTLAWS AND OUTCASTS

As we make our journey through Lent, we will be exploring stories of people Jesus encountered, who in their own ways, were considered outsiders, outcasts and outlaws. We will see and hear the people, who in their day, struggled to be seen and heard. We will listen in on conversations Jesus has with those on the fringes, those considered dangerous, and those considered unclean. Perhaps along the way, their stories will become intertwined with ours.



REFLECTING ON LENT & HOLY WEEK ON SOCIAL MEDIA

On Ash Wednesday, you may have noticed a bit of a takeover on our church social media. Throughout the day, we shared reflections from our staff and church members on how they stay close to God in the time leading up to Easter. Join the conversation! Tag us in your photos at church throughout Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter! We may reshare online or here in the newsletter next month.



pinevilleumc



marcy_eaker 4h

I get the purple shirt Pastor Mark! For me this year I'm looking at the Lenten season not in 'fasting' but (a play on words) "slowing". Every other season of the year I am operating in "fastness". Moving fast, thinking fast, acting fast. I've decided this Lent I'm purposefully slowing down. Slowing and quieting in order to better reflect and better hear! If you know me you know that's going to be difficult but as time flies by I need more than ever to listen and be mindful and be quiet! †



[instagram.com/pinevilleumc](https://www.instagram.com/pinevilleumc)



[facebook.com/pinevilleumc](https://www.facebook.com/pinevilleumc)

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Church Family Night & Talent Show

Join us on Sunday, March 5 for a church family night! Dust off those old instruments, dance shoes, or hula hoops, brush up on your skits, magic, or ventriloquy acts - whatever your hidden talent, it is time to shine! sign up. Covered dish dinner 6:00, entertainment 6:45. Sign up online: pinevilleumc.org/event/family-night-talent-show



Paws in the Park on April 1

Save the date for Paws in the Park on Saturday, April 1 at Pineville Lake Park, 1000 Johnston Drive. Our Children and Family ministries is hosting a booth, providing a clean, private, and safe space for nursing and diaper changing. We would love for some of our members to sign up in 2 hour increments to be smiling hosts in our booth. Please contact Kelly Chiseck for more information.

Vacation Bible School 2023

Calling all heroes! Save the date, **July 17-23, 2023**, for VBS this summer. The Hero Hotline Headquarters is where everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play. The Professor, Super Meer, and our team of heroes will explore the ultimate Hero Handbook -the Bible- to discover how all Heroes can follow the examples set by a cast of supporting Bible Heroes in stories from the Old and New Testaments, who work together to bring peace, build each other up, and share the great story of God's love for us where they are and with the whole world. Registration info is coming soon.



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Prayer Ministry List for Healing:

Patty Mills, Ken Walker; Carolyn Harris; Eve Perry; Joe Thompson; Theresa Potts; Donna Threewitt; Carol Payne; Amanda DeHeaven; Diane Snead; Marietta Young; Gail Williams; Mike Kish; Sam and Sandy Phillips; Ted and Shirley Godleski; Barbara Anderson; Rusty Humphrey; Sharon Thompson; Debbie Babington; Kathy Luetkemeier; Barbara McInerney; John Hopkins; Stella Smithey; Toni Marquette; Rev. Adrienne Brewington; Bob Nark; Sara Collins; Peter Hodes; Chris Harmon; Debbie Rivers; Vito Banci; Larry & Toi Warren.

On Going Concerns:

Sue Weed; Tracie Clark; Teddy Quimet; John Rea; George House; Glennette Ranson; Kelly Spangler; Robert Kagel; Glen Walker; Joey Furnas; Matt Schnebelen; Mary Ella Treece; Gloria Baker; Ray Phillips; Christel Short; Ruth Gleason; David Krueger; Sharlene Adams; Prakash Laud; John Racey; Larry Wadsworth; Allen Morris; Gary Short; Lisa Akers; Dr. Bill James; Doris McClee; Mary & Bill Hawkins; Mike House; Jackie; Dot Phillips; LaVon Sigmon; Les Haga; Nicole Rippy; Wyamon Price; Patsy Payne; Joyce Hunter; Mark Decker; Catherine Martin; Brian Naylis; Flor Quesada; Judy Workman; Allie Gullledge; Rev. Dean Guest; Gwen Brown.

Share a prayer request:

We would love to join you in prayer. You can share a prayer request by submitting a Prayer request card in the Attendance Pads or by contacting the church office.

Join the Prayer Team

Our Prayer Team meets every Monday at 11:00 in Stacy Hall. Contact Darlis Gross at Hidol51@aol.com for more information.



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March Birthdays

Matt Castner 03/01
Elliott Ballowe 3/1
Kellen Childers 3/2
Dennis Mulhearn 3/4
Mariah Harrelson 3/4
Diane Hill 3/5
Mark Shutt 3/5
Denise Blankenship 3/6
Jonnie Rogers 3/6
Ashley Bolick 3/6
Ben Hodes 3/6
Chuck Cook 3/7
Martha Turbeville 3/8
Sarah Willis 3/8
Avery Emmerton 3/8
Mary Livengood 3/11
Stowe Blankenship 3/11

Jamison Becker 3/12
Ryan Powers 3/13
Henry Shumate 3/14
J.R. Griffin 3/15
Hannah Dedmon 3/15
Gloria Price 3/16
Ken Downs 3/17
Nick Dillon 3/17
Collin Burk 3/17
Mark Curtis 3/18
Elizabeth Traxler 3/19
Priscilla Sappenfield 3/20
David McMillan 3/22
Tiffany Bioletti 3/22
Travis Wilson 3/22
Katie Emmerton 3/23
Peyton McClary 3/23

Kellie Snyder 3/24
Jerry Richi 3/24
Gabryela Franks 3/24
Nancy Nyilyk 3/25
Michael Bryant 3/25
John Rae 3/26
Majie Johnston 3/26
Brad Aschenbrenner 3/26
Mary Ann Rippy 3/26
Laura Hughes 3/26
Sonnie Kale 3/27
Toi Warren 3/27
Joey Bramlet 3/27
Jeff Rikard 3/28
Kim Lynch 3/29
Luci Roberts 3/31
Rachelle Currier 3/31

Military Concerns

Joey Calbreath
Jerome Menendez
Scott Weeks
Bill Hillis
Adam McClary
Joe Soderlund
Elijah Read
Michael Douglas
Noah Lewis

Chase Lewis
Arielle Aeby
Matt Windisch
Tyler Baucom
Samuel Faulkner
Garrett Rodriguez
Cameron Jackson
Richard Beaman



Pineville Connection

MARCH

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

KEY DATES

- 3/1 - Golden Pines
- 3/4 - CPR/AED Training
- 3/5 - Church Family Night & Talent Show
- 3/21 - Queen Charlotte Chorus Open Rehearsal
- 3/22 - Police Advisory Panel community event

For the full calendar, please visit pinevilleumc.org/events/month.

Weekly Events

Sundays :

9:00 a.m. Worship
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Lenten Study
 11:00 a.m. Worship

Mondays:

11:00 a.m. Prayer Ministry

Tuesdays:

9:30 a.m. ESL Class
 6:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training

Wednesdays:

7:00 p.m. Worship Band

Thursdays:

7:00 p.m. Lenten Study

Monday - Thursday

Church office open
 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A Note About The Pineville Connection:

The Pineville Connection seeks to share the stories of our church as we fulfill our mission. If you would like to submit an article for next month's newsletter, please send it to mmcgill@pinevilleumc.org by February 15th!

Pineville UMC
PO Box 3
Pineville NC, 28134

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 6

7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7

7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 9

Sunrise 7:00 a.m. Front Steps of Church

Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

Worship in the Crossroads Center at 11:00 a.m.