

FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace to all of you from our Lord and Savior,

Matthew 4:1-2: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry."

Lent is a 40-day journey of reflection, prayer, and penance leading up to Easter, inspired by Jesus' time in the wilderness. This season encourages believers to engage in self-examination and spiritual renewal in preparation for celebrating Christ's resurrection. Originating in the early Christian church, Lent's practices include fasting, which symbolizes selfdiscipline and reflection on Jesus' sacrifice; prayer, deepening one's relationship with God; and

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER



Prayer Requests: Cook's Church/Playschool, family of Lyle Pace, Jill Griffin (now home), Rick Greene (recovering from 2/5 surg), Tom McClure (Stanley Total Living Ctr, Rm 502), Jack McClure, Steve Self, Sara Yarbrough, Allyne Gant, Dale Luckey, F.D. & Pat Hager, Sarah Justice, Dennis Abernathy, Jerome Abernathy, Jimmy McClure, Steve (@ Univ Rehab & welcomes visitors!) & Sharon Gilmore, Nancy & Richard Smith, Debbie White, Nicolas Wilson (teenage grandson of Ed & Nancy w/brain tumor), Betty McClure, Jo Price, Jerry Hunter, Melody Mathews, Judy & Richard Bogan, Judy Rozzelle, Angie Ross, Ann Drake, Baby Carson, Al & Frances Lancaster, Mark Lackey, Dr. Jeff Ruskusky, Nancy Mummaw, Andy Burge, Ned &

almsgiving, emphasizing compassion and generosity towards others. Culminating in Holy Week, Lent is not merely a tradition but a profound opportunity for growth and renewal. As we observe this sacred time, let us draw closer to God, embracing the transformative power of His love and grace. This year, as you move through Lent, do so with an eye very directly upon those areas of your life that are not under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. What do I mean by that? Think of the places and areas in your life where you wouldn't really want Biblical instruction. We all have areas like that. Sometimes, with eating, I especially don't want to be reminded of. When I'm about to plow down a Big Mac, the last

thing I want on my mind is Proverbs 23:20-21 – "Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags." Think about similar areas which might be present in your life. Seek to surrender them to the Lord Jesus Christ during this Holy Season of Lent. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Pastor Jason**

Join us this Sunday, <u>Feb. 18</u>, @ 10am for a message from Pastor Jason on **'Necessary Traumas – Suffering'** (James 1:1-4)}!

Thank you to all that have graciously made an additional contribution to our church since the first of last year. It is very much appreciated. Please note, <u>our financial need remains this</u> year. If you have available funds, Carolyn Beatty, Sherry Wasek, Nancy Brammer, Chrissy Hart, Jack Byers, Kurt Hollar, Al Thompson, Bobby Hotaling, John Park, Michael Matrone, Joe Picard, Jim & Dawn Thompson, Lisa Roth, Colette Roberts, David Luckey, KCH/Kenya, NC School System/Students/Teachers/Administ ration, victims of natural disasters, those suffering from long-term illnesses, families who grieving the recent loss of loved ones, and all those in need of our prayers of intercession

{*Names are left on for 4 weeks, so if they are still in need of 'extra' prayer after that, please let the church office know.}

<u>Homebound List</u>: Jill Griffin, Steve Gilmore, Sarah Penninger, Tom McClure, Sara Yarbrough, Allyne Gant, Jack Parker

<u>Soldier List</u>: Austin McCrary, Clara DeFeo, Turner Salm, Anne Ledford, Eddy Self, Andy Dula, Chris Dula, Seth Seal, John Makahilli Jr., ALL Vets & families.

Please pray for all daily; to make changes to any of these lists, contact the church office @ 704/399-7735.

* WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BE ABLE TO MINISTER TO YOU!

Please don't hesitate to notify the church office (704-399-7735 / office@cookschurch.org) or Pastor Jason Bryant (704-607-4162 / Jason@cookschurch.org or jaydbryant@gmail.com) of any deaths, sickness, surgeries, births, etc. that you and/or a family member may be experiencing so that we can let our Elders and Deacons know so that they can minister to you and/or your family.

please consider making an overand-above contribution to our general fund. Thank you for considering this request.



****Please note that our **"FELLOWSHIP ON THE LAWN"** will be set-up in the lobby of the Education Building for the month of February, and possibly into March, depending on the 'cold/rainy' weather. Join us there after worship to *fellowship with your brothers & sisters in Christ* and *enjoy a quick treat while you do!*



*** Please make plans to help with the trimming, cleaning and mulching along the street beside our Education Building THIS Saturday, <u>February 17</u>, from 9am-1pm. Our rain date (or possible second cleaning day) is Saturday, 3/2, 9am-1pm. Bring rakes,



Looking for a class that will help you grow in your knowledge of what God's Word is saying to each of us?

You are always invited to join us at one of our Sunday School classes (for all ages!) each Sunday at 9am to study His Word and what it means for our daily living! For more info, contact Paige Benson at 704/488-7417. **The <u>Viewpoint Sunday</u> <u>School Class</u> will meet this Sunday, <u>Feb. 18</u>, at 9am in Rm #207...all adults are invited to attend!



2024 Flower Calendar dates that are AVAILABLE: If you'd like to supply our sanctuary flowers in honor and/or in loving memory of a loved one, these dates are available at this time (there may be more forthcoming): <u>April 14; May</u> 12; June 2; Sept. 15; Nov. 3; Dec. 29. Contact the blowers, string trimmers, hedge clippers, gloves, trash bags, your own water/snack, and a readiness to make a difference. Equipment should be battery powered or manual due to no electrical outlets close by.

Thank you for helping to make our church look it's best!



YOUTH / COOKIE MAKING EVENT for Kairos Prison Ministry SUNDAY, MARCH 3,

after worship in FH kitchen *ALL Youth - please plan to join us!

*<u>MEMBERS</u> - if you'd like to donate packs of cookies, please bring them to worship on <u>March 3</u> and give them to Clayton. Thanks so much for your help!



Mark your calendars now for our 'Maundy Thursday' service on <u>March 28</u> – Sam Nadler will be our guest speaker for this service – church office if you'd like to reserve a date!



*Anyone who would love to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" is invited to join Cook's Adult Choir! Contact Clayton for questions at claydeacon@gmail.com. **Cook's NURSERY is available each week (for SS at 9am & worship at 10am) for our youngest members, ages birth thru 4 yrs old!



...that **IF** your picture is posted in our online church directory (to access go to ww.cookschurch.org and

at the very bottom of that page you will see "Church Directory"...click on that button), you can go into your information and make changes such as address, phone #'s, if in military past or present, the different groups you have been a part of at the church, etc. If you have any problems and/or questions on how to do so, please contact Gaye List at gayelist@gmail.com. Also, if your picture (or families') is not currently in our directory, please send a photo to the church office (office@cookschurch.org) and we'll see about getting it and your information included asap!

NEWS FROM FINANCE MINISTRY

The Finance Committee would like you to know that we now have another way to donate funds to Cook's Church...you can use your debit/credit card and the "app" is available to download from our website...

www.cookschurch.org. If you have any questions, call Ginger

more details to come and we hope all of you will join us! **ALL children are invited to join us for our "Easter Egg Hunt" that will be held on Saturday, March 30 watch for more details to come! We will have an 'Easter Sunrise Service' Easter morning, March 31, at 7am on the front sidewalk! Please bring a chair from home if you'd like to sit for this 30 min service, and doughnuts, pastries, coffee & juice will be served afterwards. We would love for you to bring 'flowers from home' to help in "flowering the small cross" on our front steps *Easter Sunday morning*! You, and your entire family, are invited to join us for our Easter Sunday Worship Service on March 31 @ 10:00am!



Cook's MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Cook's **SESSION will meet on the <u>2nd Sunday</u> of each month at 7pm in Rm #113.

**<u>ALL Ladies</u> are invited to join our Presbyterian Women's <u>CIRCLE</u> <u>meeting</u> on the <u>second Tuesday</u> @ <u>10:30am</u> and <u>7:00pm</u> in Rm #113 in the Ed Bldg. Contact Pede Self with questions.

Cook's **MEN OF THE CHURCH** will have their monthly breakfast meeting on the <u>third Sunday</u> at <u>7:30am</u> (Ed Bldg lobby) and <u>ALL men</u> at Cook's Thompson, Treasurer @ 704/562-7558.



The Digital Ministry of Cook's is working on all things that you need to stay connected with Cook's as well as resources to grow in your faith. Check out our *REFRESHED* website -<u>CooksChurch.org</u>. Join us today and be a part of our online community!

** We're *now* on 'Instagram' so be sure to check it out and "Like" and share!



Cook's Church has a FACEBOOK page! Come check us out and stay connected! www.facebook.com/pages/Cooks-Memorial-Presbyterian-Church



are invited to attend! Contact Dale Luckey with questions.

Cook's **PROPERTY Ministry** meets on the <u>second Thursday</u> at 6:30pm in Rm #113 - contact Mike Stanford with questions.

Cook's MISSION Ministry meets on the <u>first Friday</u> at 10:00am in Rm #113...contact Fred Cox with questions.

Cook's **WORSHIP Ministry** meets on the <u>first Thursday</u> at 2:00pm via Zoom and/or in the church office...contact Denise Vead for details.

Cook's **FINANCE MINISTRY** meets on the <u>fourth Sunday</u> at <u>11:15am</u> in Rm #113. Contact Joe Thompson if you have any questions.

SERMONS:

Did you miss worship this past Sunday? Do you ever want to listen to a recent sermon again? Recent sermons from Sunday morning worship can be found on the Cook's Church website!

> Click here: www.cookschurch.org/sermons

Have you read your recent church

newsletter? Recent issues of our Cook's Communicator can be found on our church website! Click here: www.cookschurch.org/newsletters

Contact Us!

Pastor Jason Bryant jason@cookschurch.org Church Office office@cookschurch.org Cook's Playschool cooksplayschool@gmail.com

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Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church | 3413 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road, Charlotte, NC 28216

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