

The Link



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Altavista Presbyterian Church

Our vision, our hearts, and our doors are always open

Pastor's Message.....

In worship this Lenten season, we're journeying through a series on forgiveness. Forgiveness is a timeless topic and discipline. And a discipline it is. Offering and receiving forgiveness can be quite difficult, but it is also a major doctrine of the Christian faith. Doubtlessly, forgiveness is an essential tenet of Jesus' ministry. Jesus forgave the sins of the paralytic man (Matthew 9:2), an adulterous woman (John 8:11), and even commanded his disciples to forgive often (Luke 17:4). Forgiveness is also a central theme of God's work. God never broke the covenant He made with Israel, even though His children would often forget God. They received punishment, but God never left them, forgiving their sins when they repented. Let us not forget the very cross itself! There is no greater sign of forgiveness of our sins than Christ's dying in our stead. This month we will celebrate Easter. In this age of commercialism and materialism, Easter and Christmas have lost their religious significance in the greater population. Christ's work on our behalf is the very work of forgiveness. My challenge, therefore, is for all of us to practice forgiveness more; to hone the discipline of offering and receiving forgiveness.

A special thank you to Caroline Peerman for all the time and efforts she has given over these past months finding supply pastors and keeping us informed about Sunday services and other happenings at APC.

Much thanks Caroline!

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I hope you are able to join us as we continue with our Lenten series "The Way of the Cross" and as we enter Holy Week. If you are unable to come to worship for whatever reason, I have some exciting news for you. Our new website is up and running! We will continue to add current sermons and services, and to archive them for a year. The new site is easier to navigate and more user friendly. You can also like us on Facebook by logging into www.facebook.com/altavistapc. Facebook is a fantastic mission tool, so please check it often and subscribe to receive updates, events, and words of prayer and Scripture.

This month we will celebrate Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord. Palm Sunday starts us off with celebrating Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. I'll also end my sermon series on forgiveness that day. That Wednesday, April 12, will be the final in the AAMA Lenten Luncheon Series. I'll bring the Word that particular day. April 13 is Maundy Thursday. We will have worship at 7:00 PM, which will include partaking of the Lord's Supper. I hope you are able

April 2017 Adult Sunday School class

Can you think of five things that our life storm cannot destroy? Anne Graham Lotz, a daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham, dealt with this topic in her Bible study “Five things a storm can’t destroy” in Decision magazine, November 2004 issue. Her first three questions are:

Give a phrase from Mark 6:45 that shows that the disciples were in God’s will when the storm struck.

From the following verses, list other storms that swept across the lives of those Jesus loved, who also were in God’s will: John 11:1-3; Acts 4:1-3, 7:55-60, 14:19-20, 16:22-24, 27:1-44; Revelation 1:9.

Because storms come into the lives of everyone, what unique promise is given to those who belong to God by faith in Jesus Christ when they experience storms? See Romans 8:28.

The class meets from 9 to 9:45 every Sunday morning in the adult Sunday School room. Please come and join us to enjoy fellowship and to receive God’s guidance and abundant blessings as we study His precious Word.

Date	Facilitator
April 2	Ron Coleman
April 9	Sang-il Lee
April 16	No class, Happy Easter
April 23	Ron Coleman
April 30	A video

**Parents and Grandparents
Mark you calendars:**

**Camp Peaks
July 17-21 9-3 at the Janiak’s Farm**

It’s sure to be another great day camp experience for children ages 5-12!

Altavista Presbyterian Church

Session highlights

March 19, 2017 meeting

- ◆ Decided to collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on April 9, 2017 & match it with ACT for Mission funds; to collect the Children’s Thanksgiving offering on November 19, 2017 & match it with ACT for Mission funds; & to collect the Christmas Joy offering on December 17, 2017 & match it with ACT for Mission funds.
- ◆ Decided to award a \$1,000 scholarship to a 2017 Altavista Combined School graduate from ACT for Mission funds.
- ◆ Decided to hold a Maundy Thursday Worship service on April 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm & to include the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion.
- ◆ Approved minutes of the January 15, 2017 Stated meeting, the January 29, 2017 Congregational meeting & the February 12, 2017 Called meeting as presented.
- ◆ Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed.

	February-2017	YTD
Pledges	9,223	20,042
Non-Pledges	1,337	2,822
Plate Offering	27	121
Total Expenses	6,755.20	11,407.28

to join us that night. We will not have Good Friday service, but I do encourage you to visit a church that is. I plan to visit St. Victoria Catholic Church; maybe I’ll see some of you out there. I am really excited for Easter Sunday. We are having a breakfast before worship and then during the service we will hear the Passion story through song in *Praise the God of Resurrection, An Easter Cantata*. Bring your family and friends as we celebrate and commemorate the saving death of our risen Lord!



With grace and in peace,
Ed Soto

2017



MONTH of APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 AM Breakfast and Spring Cleaning Day at APC
2 9 AM -Adult SS 10 AM -Worship/ Communion/ Children's Church Choir Practice	3 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	4 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – Hibachi Grill (Lynchburg) 6 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg. @ Church 7 PM Minstry W. Mtg. @ Church	5 12:10 PM Lenten Service	6	7	8
9 9 AM -Adult SS 10 AM -Palm Sunday Worship/ Children's Church/ Receive OGHS Off. Reception in memory of Bob Steele after Worship Choir Practice	10 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	11 First National Bank Stockholder's Luncheon in FH	12 12:10 PM Lenten Service	13 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	14	15
16 9 AM -Koinonia Breakfast No Adult Sunday School 10 AM -Easter Sunday Worship No Children's Church	17 Church Office Closed 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	18 11:30 AM Women's Fellowship Mtg. @ the Main St. Cafe 12 Noon – Men's Lunch –Applebee's	19 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch 9:30 AM –APC Serve at Lynchburg Daily Bread 1PM DAWN Board Mtg.- Adult SS	20	21 7PM Session Meeting	22
23 9 AM -Adult SS 10 AM-Worship/ Confirmation/ Luncheon No Children Church	24 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH May Link Deadline	25	26 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	27	28	29
30						

THE LINK

Congratulations to...



Altavista

Presbyterian Church

Sunday School— 9:00 am

Worship Service

&

Children’s Church —

10:00 am

Children’s Nursery—

10:00 am



	Birthdays	Anniversaries
4		David & Sally Sease
7	Janelle Larkin	
8	Mark Younkin, Annie Shelton Shirley Vuncannon	
9		
11	Georgie Roark	
12		Kevin & Kelly deBernard
13		John & Cynthia Erb
14	Ted Phillips	
15	Beth Steele	
16	Dennis Janiak, Jane Strebel	
18	Katy May Kauffman, Travis Taylor	
19	Sally Sease, Frank Podrebarac	
30	Alice Barkdoll	



Our mission as members of the Body of Christ is to be His voice and hands helping all people .

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