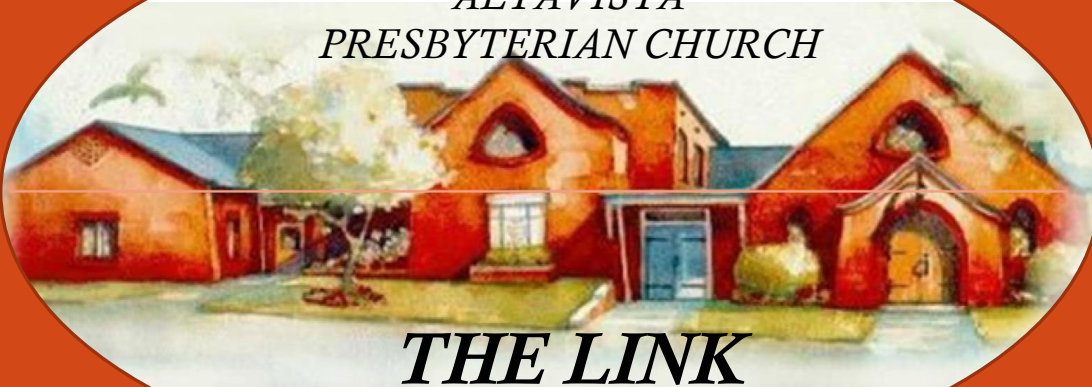


*ALTAVISTA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



THE LINK

September 1, 2020

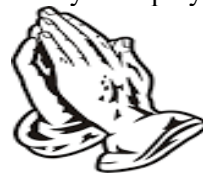
OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN



ALTAVISTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

707 BROAD STREET
P O BOX 126
ALTAVISTA, VA 24517
434-369-5286 – Office phone
434-369-1101 – FAX
office@altapres.org - email
www.altapres.org - web site
Rev. Eduardo Soto, Jr.
434-369-5286, office
434-219-5648, mobile

“I strongly encourage each of you to pray and read the Bible daily”



This summer has truly been an unusual, stressful, and tiresome one. I hope you were able to find rest in Christ during all the goings on. As we look forward to the Fall, here at APC we want don't want to shut down and cease doing ministry. Things will be different, that is for sure, but things will not stop. To that end, here's what you can expect to see in September.

Due to the pandemic, we cut out all unison readings and corporate singing in worship. As we continue to be diligent in our precautions, we can begin reintroducing some of these elements, which so many of us have missed dearly. Starting Sunday, September 6, we will add back the unison Prayer of Confession and the Lord's Prayer. Let me remind you, if adding these elements makes you uncomfortable or weary, it is totally acceptable to participate in the recorded service from home. We will continue to record our services just as we had long before the pandemic.

For those who participated in the last year's Bible study video series on the attributes of God will recall that the speaker was Dr. Steven Lawson, whom I studied under in a seminar back in February. Well, I will once again get to participate in another conference of his on September 14-16 in Richmond entitled "Preaching with Precision and Power." Because of this conference, our weekly events will resume after I get back.

The weekly Tuesday morning Bible Study will reconvene September 22 at 10:00 AM. For health and safety reasons, we will meet in the sanctuary, to better allow for social distancing. Moreover, the Bible study will be recorded, since our camera is in the sanctuary, and will be posted online Friday mornings (in lieu of the weekend Bible studies during the summer). This fall I will lead us through the deep waters of Reformed theology.

Long before the pandemic started, a vision of mine was to have more opportunities for involvement in the life the church. Consequently, we will start a Wednesday evening gathering. This gathering will look different each Wednesday, but will be an opportunity to fellowship and worship in a more casual setting. The first gathering will be September 23 at 6:30 PM.

Related to the previous change, the Youth Group will begin meeting weekly, rather than twice a month. The youth will meet every Sunday evening, starting September 13, only this time we will rotate our meeting place. Though, our first meeting will be at 5:00 PM at the church.

These increases in frequency are to help us all better establish habits of spiritual nourishment. As we think missionally—thinking of ways we can better impact the community around us—we need to offer ways to connect and grow more than just Sunday mornings. My hope is to get into a rhythm for small group ministry and midweek worship.

Ed Soto, Pastor

Online Services During Pandemic

As we return to weekly events for study and worship, our online offerings will shift slightly.

Pastor Ed's Tuesday morning Bible study will be recorded and posted online on Friday morning.

The new Wednesday evening fellowship will also be recorded and posted online the following week.

Both of these can be found at www.altapres.org/pandemic-bible-studies.

Sunday's service will continue to be recorded, though they will be posted later in the day or early Monday. These can be found at www.altapres.org/worship-services. There you can also watch past services going back to 2017!

You can also interact with us by liking our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/altavistapc) and sharing posts, pictures, and prayers



HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Bible Study — Sept. 22nd & 29th

Bible Study meets every **Tuesday** morning in the Sanctuary **at 10:00 AM**. All are welcome to join as Pastor Ed leads us through various studies and discussions of Scripture, theology, and church history.

Pastor Ed begins a series on Reformation theology.

Midweek Fellowship — Sept. 23rd & 30th

Midweek Fellowship meets every **Wednesday** in the Sanctuary **at 6:30 PM**. All are welcome to join us in a time of worship, prayer, study, and fellowship.

Youth Group — Sept. 13th, 20th, & 27th

Youth Group meets every **Sunday at 5:00 PM**. Our locations will rotate and will be decided at their first meeting. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. The Youth will be treated to a meal and will fellowship throughout the evening.

- Sept. 13 at Church
 - Sept. 20 TBD
 - Sept. 27 TBD
-

Sermons This Month

September 6th • Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Mark 7:31-37

“The Syrian Mute”

September 13th • Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 50:15-21

Mark 8:1-10

“Feeding Four Thousand”

September 20th • Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Mark 8:11-26

“Having Eyes, Do You Not See?”

September 27th • Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-32

Mark 8:27-9:1

“The Son of Man”



Month of September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg.	2	3	4	5
6 10 AM Worship	7 Labor Day - Office Closed	8 5:30 PM Christian Ed. Mtg.	9	10	11	12
13 10 AM Worship 5 PM Youth Group Mtg. at Church	14 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH Pastor Ed Out of Town	15 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room Pastor Ed Out of Town	16 Pastor Ed Out of Town	17	18	19
20 10 AM Worship Session Meeting after Worship 5 PM Youth Group Mtg., Place TBD	21 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	22 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	23 6:30 PM Midweek Fellowship in Sanctuary October Link Deadline	24	25	26 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser (Curve Side Pick-up) for the 2021 Mission Trip,
27 10 AM Worship 5 PM Youth Group Mtg., Place TBD	28 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	29 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	30 6:30 PM Midweek Fellowship in Sanctuary			

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays		Anniversaries
1		Al & Jeannie Smith
4	Keegan deBernard, John Roark	Dennis & Linda Janiak
15	Karen Blaesing	
22	Carolyn Lees	Jeffrey & Samantha Janiak
25	John Larkin	



TEDDY SOTO WANTS YOU TO KNOW

He's Going to Be a
Brother!

ED & BETSY EXPECT THE NEW ADDITION
MARCH 2021

CONGRATULATIONS
BETSY, ED and TEDDY

**Altavista Presbyterian Church
Session highlights
August 16, 2020 meeting**

- Decided to have a Bible Study each Wednesday night, beginning in September, 2020.
- Approved two fundraising dinners this fall to help raise money for next summer's Puerto Rico Mission trip.
- Decided to collect the Children's Thanksgiving offering on November 15, 2020 & to collect the Christmas Joy offering on December 13, 2020 & to match both offerings from ACT for Mission funds.
- Approved minutes of the June 21, 2020 Stated Session meeting as presented.

	July-2020	YTD
Pledges	10,508	19,785
Non-Pledges	1,505	3,302
Plate Offering	88	166
Total Expenses	10,616.84	22,090.63

Don't forget...

when you're out doing school shopping or on your weekly trips to Walmart please keep Operation Christmas Child in mind. Later in October we'll be doing our OCC Tree as usual, but for now when you see crayons, notebook paper, solar calculators, etc please add a few to your cart for OCC. We can store them in the OCC closet at the church. Just remember, no liquids or toothpaste.

Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful ministry!

Barbie Andrews
Ministry Beyond the Congregation Committee
