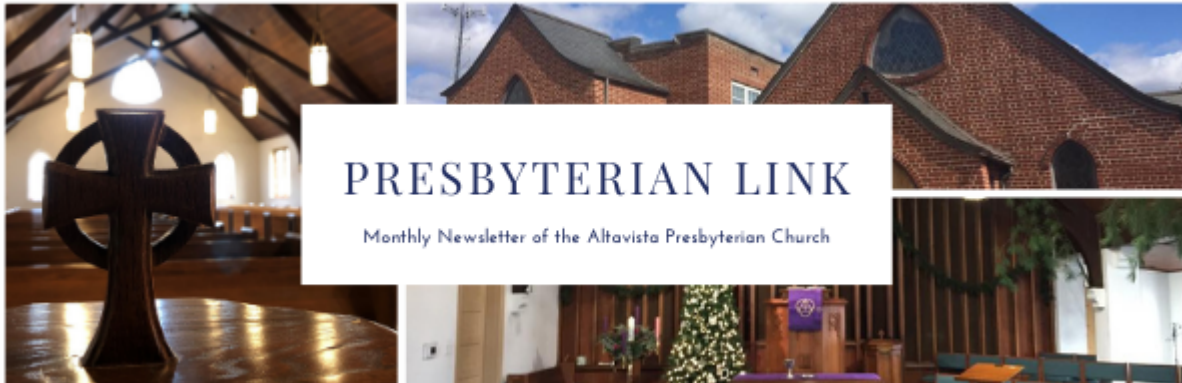


JANUARY 1, 2021



PRESBYTERIAN LINK

Monthly Newsletter of the Altavista Presbyterian Church

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



PASTOR

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a year 2020 turned out to be! I feel confident that not a single one of us could have predicted what transpired. I remember when 2020 first rolled around and I saw posts on Facebook that went something like this: 2020, the year of new vision / good vision / God's vision, etc. Whoever created those posts also didn't expect the 2020 we had because by April, not a single one of those posts were being shared. But there is truth in that. Two things come to mind.

First, God has, does, and will continue to see everything clearly. If there is one thing Scripture teaches us, it's that God is sovereign and in control. If you've participated in or watched the Bible studies on The Westminster Confession, you know that's a prominent theme present in the document. Which means the absolute sovereignty of God is a prominent theme of Reformed theology. This past year has proved to me that you and I have no control over anything in this life. The pandemic, our miscarriage, and a strange election have pushed me time and

again to the 27th Psalm: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” I find comfort knowing that my good and gracious God has my best interests in heart. I hope you do, too.

Second, God wants us to refocus on Him. It’s one thing to know God is sovereign, it’s something else to live into it. Many non-believers and nominal Christians are okay with God being sovereign, so long as He’s sovereign over there. Not only must we believe He is sovereign, but we must also submit to His sovereignty. I believe 2020 has been a constant call from God to refocus our attention onto Him. There are too many distractions in our lives. Life itself is a fragile distraction. When we lose sight of eternity, we lose all hope. To that end, I started a Wednesday evening fellowship in the middle of a pandemic. A small core of people came and supported that ministry. I thank you and I hope you were nourished.

Church, we must reform our attention onto God. Justification by faith alone in Christ alone through grace alone does not mean we are alone to do as we will. If we are going to be a Reformed congregation in the heart of Altavista, then we need to start thinking, breathing, acting, and living as Reformed Christians. 2021 will be year of reformation for our church. To that end, I will continue to offer Tuesday morning Bible study on The Westminster Confession of Faith, youth group will study the book of Revelation, I will continue to exposit the Gospel According to Mark, and I will add two small groups. These groups will start small on purpose (2-4 people), but my hope is they will grow and multiply.

The year 2021 will be a year of renewal for our congregation. Are you ready for the journey?

Winter Weather Policy

In the event of winter weather, please check your email, the church’s Facebook page (facebook.com/altavisapc), and the WSET ticker for closures.

Announcements from the Church Office:

- ❖ The Church Office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 31 in observance of New Year,
 - ❖ The 2021 Flower calendar has been posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary for the Sunday morning of your choosing,
 - ❖ The Session would like to thank everyone who submitted a pledge for 2021, and
 - ❖ Thank you again for all you do to support the ministry of Altavista Presbyterian
-

Sunday Sermons this Month

January 3rd · Second Sunday after Christmas

Mark 10:28-31

“Eternal Riches, Earthly Denial”

January 10th · First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:32-45

“Leadership Outline”

January 17th · Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:46-52

“Bartimaeus, the Persistent”

January 24th · Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 11:1-11

“Triumphant Entry”

January 31st · Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 11:12-19

“False Fruit (False Reli

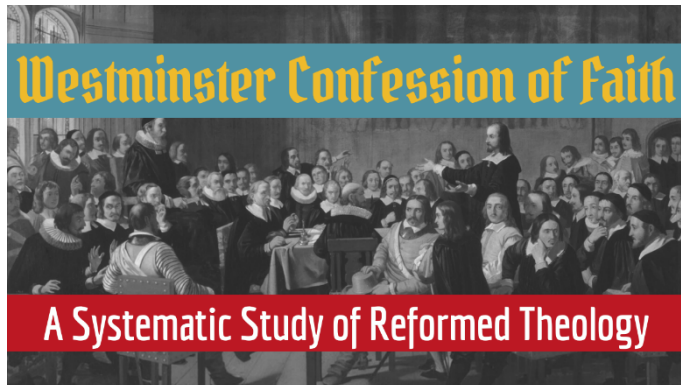
A collection of Pastor Ed’s sermons and studies can be accessed on his new website: revsoto.weebly.com

	November-2021	YTD
Pledges	8,446	100,223
Non-Pledges	5,412	25,035
Plate Offering	37	291.50
Total Expenses	16,626.17	127,145.35

The Session did not meet in December

Happening This Month!

Bible Study — Jan. 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th



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

Youth Group — Jan.

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st



Youth Group meets every **Sunday at 6:00 PM** at the church. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. Pastor Ed starts a Bible study on John's Revelation of Jesus Christ.

JANUARY

Birthdays

Anniversaries

5	Caroline Peerman	
11	Billy Robertson	
18	Holly Roark	
20		Mark & Stephanie Moehlenkamp
24		Glenn & Shirley Jefferson
29		Alex & Beverly Eubank



Month of January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 AM Worship Children's Church Communion Collect Two Cents- A-Meal Offering 6 PM Youth Group Mtg. at the Church	4 5:30 PM C.E. Mtg.	5 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary 6 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg.	6	7	8	9
10 10 AM Worship Children's Church 5 PM Youth Group Mtg. at the Church	11	12 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	13	14	15	16
17 10 AM Worship Children's Church Session Meeting after Worship 6 PM Youth Group Mtg. at the Church	18	19 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	20 1 PM DAWN Board Mtg. in the Fellowship Hall	21	22	23
24 10 AM Worship Children's Church 6 PM Youth Group Mtg. at the Church	25 February Link Deadline	26 10 AM Bible Study in Sanctuary	27	28	29	30
31 10 AM Worship Children's Church 6 PM Youth Group Mtg. at the Church						