

# *The Lamplighter*

## **Pastor's Page by Pastor Gary**

A covenant is a promise or legal agreement. Covenants are essential to understanding the message and methodology of the Bible. The most notable biblical covenants are the Noadic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and New. Covenants come in two varieties: conditional and unconditional. The Noadic, Abrahamic, Davidic, and New Covenants are unconditional—requiring no human action; the Mosaic Covenant is conditional. Exodus 19:5 gives the condition of the Mosaic Covenant, “If ye will obey My voice indeed and keep My covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people...” The word “if” denotes a condition.

In Hebrew, the word translated make, as in make a covenant, is literally “cut.” When God's people made a covenant with each other, they “cut” a covenant. Why is this? Genesis 15 offers the explanation. In Genesis 15:5, God repeats His promise to the elderly Abram that He will be the father of a great nation—even though he & his elderly wife have no children of their own. God takes Abram outside at night and says, “Look now toward heaven and tell the stars if thou be able to number them, and He said unto him, so shall thy seed be.” In verse 7, God promises Abram land as well; that's why we call it “The Promised Land.” Abram then asks in verse 8, “...whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?” That's when God cuts a covenant with Abram the process of which begins in verse 9 in which God tells Abram to take five different animals and cut them each in half. At this point, individuals would normally link arms and walk between the animal pieces declaring that what happened to the animals would happen to them if they did not keep their end of the covenant. This was a covenant in blood.

However, God and Abram did not walk together through the pieces, because, according to verse 12, Abram fell into a deep sleep. While Abram slept, something amazing happened in verse 17: “And it came to pass that

when the sun went down and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.” God, manifested as the fire and smoke, represented Abram walking through the pieces with Himself. God made the covenant on Abram's behalf to ensure its keeping since God does not and cannot change.

Fast forward to the New Testament, otherwise known as the New Covenant. The New Testament is a covenant in Jesus' blood. Jesus said so during the Last Supper in Luke 22:20, “...This cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you.” We are not asleep like Abram was, but worse: we are dead according to Ephesians 2:1, “And you hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.” God represents us with Himself on the cross: God and man in one person, Jesus Christ.

God has cut an unconditional, eternal covenant with His people by grace through faith. Because the covenant is unconditional, no action is required on our part—just faith, and even the faith is given as a gift from God according to Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” When we receive Christ as our Savior, our sins are forgiven, and we are granted eternal life with absolutely no strings attached. How can we be assured that this is true? God said so, but He also showed so on the cross where He represented us in an unconditional covenant of blood.

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## **Library News – New and on the Shelf by Bob Mathews**

### **Fiction**

New England Romance Collection by Susan Page Davis  
Saint of the Wilderness by Jess Carr

### **Nonfiction**

A Just and Righteous God by Jonathan Edwards (NF 252.058)  
We Will Not Be Silenced by Edwin Lutzer (NF 261.7)

Matters Matter by Hermine Hartley (NF 221.8)  
God Doesn't Believe in Atheists by Ray Comfort (NF 211.8)

## **Audio**

Josh Turner: I Serve a Savior

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## **Missions & Outreach by Jennifer Miller**

You have an important role in missions work. God has gifted you with unique talents and gifts to use for His glory and the spread of the Gospel. Please consider how you can steward your time and gifts in support of Home and Foreign Missions.

Upcoming missions opportunities include:

New Orleans Mission Trip	June 12 - 17, 2022
Panama Mission Trip	July 26 - August 5, 2022

Please contact Jennifer Miller (301/335-5872) if you have an interest in either of these opportunities.

FBC of La Plata is also considering a trip to Israel in November 2023. An interest meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 15, immediately following the 11:00 am service. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

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## **Women on Mission by Carol Gill**

Women on Mission will meet on Thursday, May 5, at 11:00 am at the home of Claudine Kimmons. Please meet at the church parking lot at 10:30 am to caravan to the Kimmons' home. The ladies will have a brief mission study followed by fellowship.

If you have time to drive senior church members to the doctor or other appointments, please contact Carol Gill (301/934-9614) or sign up at the Welcome Desk.

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## 2022 VBS by Alison Bode

Be a missionary right here in our own church! Join the VBS team as we share the Gospel with the children and youth of our community! Here are some exciting opportunities to serve in this year's VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, which will be held on July 18 - July 22:

### AM

Preschool Mission Teacher	Monday – Friday	9:00 to Noon
Refreshment Distribution Helper	Monday – Friday	9:30 to 10:30
Preschool Leader	Monday – Friday	9:00 to Noon
Kindergarten Leader	Monday – Friday	9:00 to Noon
Children's Recreation Leader	Monday – Friday	9:00 to Noon
Children's Classroom Leader	Monday – Friday	9:00 to Noon
Family Picnic Lunch Coordinator	Friday only	11:00 to 1:00
Balloon Artist	Friday only	Noon to 1:30

### PM

Youth Chaperone	Monday – Friday	6:00 to 8:00
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No experience is necessary. Training and mentoring can be provided. If you would like to get involved in this important church ministry, please contact Alison Bode (301/246-4957) or message *the* [bodes@verizon.net](mailto:bodes@verizon.net).

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## General Information

### Sermon Topics (Subject to Change)

<b>May 01</b>	<b>AM</b>	“Tried but True”	Matthew 4: 1
	<b>PM</b>	“Living by the Spirit”	Galatians 5: 22-25

<b>May 08</b>	<b>AM</b>	"God Speaks Through His Word" Psalms 124-128	
	<b>PM</b>	No Evening Service	
<b>May 15</b>	<b>AM</b>	"Lord's Prayer Part 1"	Matthew 6: 9-13
	<b>PM</b>	"Christians Gone Bad"	Galatians 6: 1-2
<b>May 22</b>	<b>AM</b>	"Lord's Prayer Part 2"	Matthew 6: 9-13
	<b>PM</b>	"Sowing and Reaping"	Galatians 6: 7-10
<b>May 29</b>	<b>AM</b>	"Lord's Prayer Part 3"	Matthew 6: 9-13
	<b>PM</b>	"Priorities"	Galatians 6: 13-15

### **Tellers**

Month of May - Sharon Bruce and Jody Miller

### **Greeter of the Week**

<b>May 01</b>	Dave Bode	Ken Doyle
<b>May 08</b>	Bob Gill	Patrick Hancock
<b>May 15</b>	Glenn Miller	Dean Irwin
<b>May 22</b>	Nick Papanicolas	Billy Moore
<b>May 29</b>	Dave Bode	Scott Nupson

### **Children's Worship**

<b>May 01</b>	Debbie Schneider, Becky Bucher, Gloria Schneider
<b>May 08</b>	Stephanie Walton, Caitlin Hancock, Hannah Pankhurst
<b>May 15</b>	Jennifer Cooke, Xaris Schneider, Callie Hancock, Corbin Cooke
<b>May 22</b>	Ellen Nupson, Alison Bode, Jessica Miller
<b>May 29</b>	Unavailable

## Sunday Morning Security Team

	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>SS &amp; 11:00 AM</b>
<b>May 01</b>	Donna Duehring Marion Simpson	Sheri Bresnahan Terry Mathews
<b>May 08</b>	Norma Stump Sheri Bresnahan	Al Law Betty Lou Moore
<b>May 15</b>	Courtney Harbin Donna Duehring	Bob Mathews Jennifer Miller
<b>May 22</b>	Marion Simpson Norma Stump	Jerry Pruitt Kevin Guiffre
<b>May 29</b>	Sheri Bresnahan Courtney Harbin	Melvin King Paul Miller

## Sunday Morning Nursery

<b>May 01</b>	Norma Stump, Patrick and Jill Hancock
<b>May 08</b>	Norma Stump, Dave and Alison Bode
<b>May 15</b>	Norma Stump, Debbie Schneider, Becky Bucher
<b>May 22</b>	Norma Stump, Gerald and Kay Hancock
<b>May 29</b>	Unavailable

Volunteers are still needed for Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

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## **MAY FAMILY NEWS**

### Birthdays

May 06	Chloe Cooke
May 07	Rachel Jewell

May 09	Cookie Wilsey
May 11	Anthony Guiffre
May 12	Nevida Ebrahimi
May 13	Edward Lilly Tookie Orndorff
May 14	Soilla Oliver
May 16	Joey Curtis
May 19	Michelle Simpson
May 21	Cathy Thompson
May 25	Joan Donaldson Samuel Jewell
May 26	Al Law Dakota Parker
May 27	Courtney Harbin
May 29	Rebecca (Kay) Hancock
May 30	Jacob Deal
May 31	Camden Cooke

### **Anniversaries**

May 03	Nathan & Sarah Hancock
May 25	Ron & Thelma McConkey
May 26	Dean & Jeni Irwin
May 30	Brian & Cathy Thompson

**NOTE:** If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here and would like to have it included, please call the church office. Also, notify the church office if you find an error.

### **MOMMY AND ME**

Check out this great opportunity for Mommies and their toddlers on Mondays at 5:30 pm beginning April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>. See Kristen Gibson for information or message [fbclpsoccer@gmail.com](mailto:fbclpsoccer@gmail.com). The link to register is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FA9AD2BA3FAC43-mommy>.

## **XARIS SCHNEIDER BRIDAL SHOWER**

Please join us for a bridal shower/tea honoring the bride-to-be Xaris Schneider on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 2:00 pm at the First Baptist Church of La Plata Fellowship Hall. You may RSVP Kimberly Burgess at 301/653-3325 with your number of guests and an optional hors d'oeuvre. The couple is registered at Target and Amazon under Ashton and Xaris McCartney.

## **SPRING MEANS GRADUATION**

Class of 2022 graduation will soon be here, and in order to recognize our graduates in the June issue, we need the following information: Name of School or College, date of graduation, honors or special accomplishments, and future plans.

Please submit this information to the church secretary **no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>** to be included in the June issue of The Lamplighter.