

Faith Speaks

In the first message I gave from the book of Jonah, I mentioned that Jonah is a very different prophetic book from the others in the Old Testament. The main difference is that the book of Jonah focuses on the messenger rather than the message. But another significant difference is that Jonah is a book chock-full of miracles!

There is the obvious one about a fish swallowing a man, but that's just one of many! We also see God do the following: hurl a great wind to cause a storm at sea, cause the fish to vomit up Jonah, cause a plant to grow and provide shade, cause a worm to eat the plant, and cause a scorching east wind to blow. You could almost retitl this book: "Jonah and the Many Miracles"

But, what is a miracle? In the 18th century, the Scottish skeptic and naturalist philosopher, David Hume, attacked the very concept of the miraculous by positing that unless an event can be proven possible through science and natural law, then it should not be taken seriously. Hume's ideas have stampeded through our culture and educational systems. Today, if you were to visit almost any college campus and ask professors and students alike, "Do you believe in miracles?" the majority answer you would receive would almost certainly be something akin to, "No, I believe in science."

But are science and the mi-

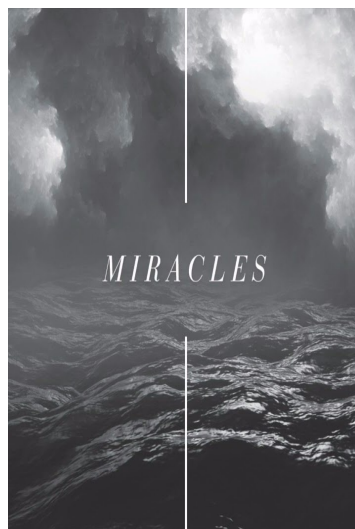
raculous really opposed to each other? As Christians, we believe God is the Creator, the maker of all things. And under the umbrella of "all things," we would say that God has created the laws of nature. Gravity, relativity, entropy, thermodynamics - we observe a consistency in all these things that says to us, as Christians, that there must be some intelligent designer behind these truths. As well we would say that God also has performed miracles - events that seem to supersede the laws of nature.

Now, skeptics, like Hume, would argue that it's all well and good to think there is a god who designed everything, including the natural laws. However, the skeptic says we should not think that this god bypasses the laws of nature because then they would cease to be laws we could trust. Today, "progressive Christians" or "naturalistic Christians" who want to follow after Hume will say that they believe in God, but they don't believe he does miracles. For the progressive Christian, all the miracles in scripture are simply allegories meant to teach us some other lesson.

C.S. Lewis battled these ideas in his day in his book, simply titled "Miracles." Lewis states

the biblically obvious. "If we admit God, must we admit miracle? Indeed. Indeed, you have no security against it. That is the bargain."

Lewis and many other scholars and philosophers have pointed out the mistake in Hume's thinking. Miracles, by definition, do not break the laws of nature. Here is a great quote from Lewis to explain. "We are in the habit of talking as if (the laws of nature) have caused events to happen; but they have never caused any event at all. The laws of motion do not set billiard balls moving. The laws analyze the motion after something else (say a man with a cue) has provided it ... A miracle, therefore, is emphatically not an event without cause or without results. Its cause is the activity of God: its results then follow according to natural law." (continued to natural law." (continued to page 2)



August

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. John Cleveland

Church Administrator

Melinda Hawkins

Music Director

Nancy Lowry

Financial Secretary

Brooke Echols

Treasurer

Ronnie Burch

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2023

Session Members

John Cleveland
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Dan Patterson
Mark Watts

Deacons

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian

Ask the Lord to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit for counsel, wisdom, understanding, and the fear of the Lord, that we may share in our Savior's life and grace.

For the following, pray for health, comfort and fellowship with God during a period of sickness, that the Lord will give them faith, patience, joy and submission to his will.

- ◆ **Myra Echols:** cancer
- ◆ **Miles Pass:** 5y/o with leukemia
- ◆ **Jordan Israel**
- ◆ **Kay Horvath:** In Memory Care Center for Alzheimer's
- ◆ **Sandra Echols:** recovering from kidney stones
- ◆ **Russ Miller:** upcoming surgery for thyroid cancer
- ◆ **Zohrab Najarian:** herniated disc
- ◆ **Donna Criger:** Corticobasal Degeneration
- ◆ **Paula Patterson:** recovery from fractured pelvis
- ◆ **Nancy Burch:** rotator cuff surgery recovery
- ◆ **Bob Brown:** having procedure to relieve lower back pain. Pray for success.
- ◆ **Wilson Station EPC in Tennessee**
- ◆ **Children in Foster Care**
- ◆ **Our Shut-Ins**
- ◆ **The Lost**
- ◆ **Our Elders and Deacons**
- ◆ **President Biden and Congress**
- ◆ **Supreme Court**
- ◆ **Persons serving in our Military**
- ◆ **Law Enforcement Officers**
- ◆ **Emergency Responders**
- ◆ **Our Nation**

Sympathy:
Family of Rod Ayers

Please pray for our missionaries:

- ◆ **Phil and Diane Thrash**
- ◆ **Gary and Jackie Burnett**
- ◆ **Santosh John**
- ◆ **Keith and Rachel Keller**
- ◆ **Jeff & Veronique Kim**
- ◆ **Jenny Coon**
- ◆ **Mike Rasmussen**

**Whatever the LORD
pleased, that did he in
heaven, and in earth, in
the seas, and all deep
places.**

—Psalm 135:6

**If you have a prayer
request or a praise report
that you would like to have
included in the next
newsletter, please email
them to:**

**faithepcrus@gmail.com
by Thursday,
August 31st.**

**This would include any
NEW or OLD requests that
you would like to have
included. This section is
renewed monthly.**

(Continued from page 1)

Lewis' definition of miracles perfectly aligns with what we see in the book of Jonah. A great wind that causes a storm at sea is not a breaking of the natural law, but it is a miracle if it is God who hurls that wind in such a way and at such a time that we wouldn't naturally expect the wind. A plant could naturally grow tall enough to provide shade, but it is miraculous if God appoints the plant to do so for a purpose or at a time we would not normally expect. The same is true of the worm, and the same is true of the fish! Miraculously God can use the laws of nature to make a fish big enough to swallow a man and its internal conditions so that man could survive for three days.

So, let's abandon the notion that science and the miraculous are opposed to each other. As the Psalmist says, "Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps." (Psalm 135:6) ... and he does so in accordance with the very rules He created.

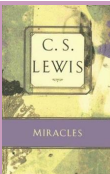
Pastor John

**Christianity is a
faith that is
based upon and
rooted in
miracles.
Take away
miracles, and
you take away
Christianity.**

RC Sproul

HE ALONE IS YOUR
GOD, THE ONLY ONE
WHO IS WORTHY OF
YOUR PRAISE, THE ONE
WHO HAS DONE THESE
MIGHTY MIRACLES THAT YOU
HAVE SEEN WITH YOUR OWN
EYES.
DEUTORONOMY 10:21

From the Pastor's Shelf...

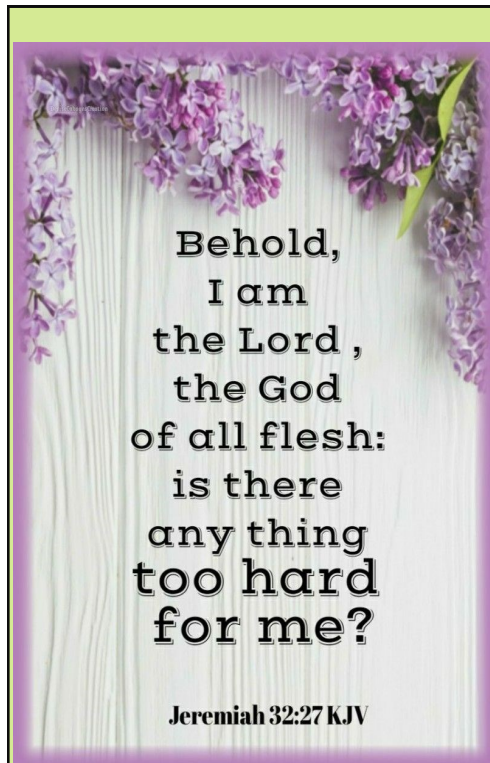


**“Miracles”
- C.S. Lewis**

Lewis is a very broad author; by that, I mean he can write well at multiple levels. He can write enchanting and educational children's fantasy and deep, thought-provoking science fiction. He can write personal and emotional memoirs and dense theological treatises. And that's what “Miracles” is: it's dense, theological, philosophical ... but also ... really, really good! In Miracles, Lewis defends the idea that miracles do indeed exist and that they serve an important purpose. Namely, they testify to the unique personal involvement of God in his creation. This book is a blessing to the church. You should definitely give it a read.



Nancy Lowry
will be teaching piano lessons on Wednesday afternoons in the choir room at the church after school begins. If you have an interest for your child or you know someone else who might be interested, please call Nancy at 631-838-8323. Beginners are very welcome!!



Are you a 4th to 12th grader?
You don't want to miss out on the fun and excitement of our hangouts!
Our next hangout August 5th and 19th at 6:00 pm
Bring a friend!

Fellowship News

Girlfriends in Faith
We are breaking for the Summer. We will begin meeting again in the Fall! We hope that you will join us then! Watch for details!

Men's Book Study
Our Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday's at 7:00 pm. We are studying 1 Corinthians. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with other men around God's Word, fellowship, and prayer. Contact Mark Watts for more information.

Ladies Bible Study
Our Ladies Bible study will begin a study of Psalm 31-60, “Wait” on August 8th. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Contact Sara Cleveland if you have any questions. Join us!

BOOK NOOK

Check out the bookshelf in the Narthex. We have excellent books available for your Christian growth.

The July regular Session Meeting was held on Thursday, July 6th, at the Church. The Session discussed reading chapters 1 through 6 of "Gentle and Lowly."

Mark Watts reviewed the expenditures for Vacation Bible School, which will be added to the 2024 budget.

Our Biscuit Day giveaway and prayer will be moved to Friday, August 4th, due to vacation plans for many members.

On July 30th, John and Sara Cleveland will not be at Church, so Grady Davidson will be our guest preacher, and Greg Coniglio will lead the service.

The Session discussed a proposal by Dody Morris to lead a financial class at Faith. If there is interest, the curriculum will be discussed for approval.

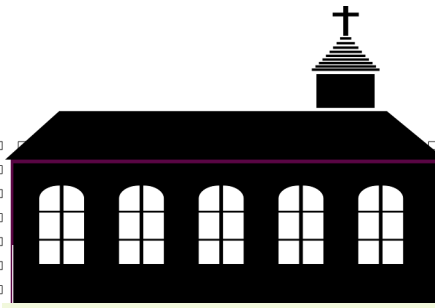
Nancy Lowry will tutor piano lessons at Faith as an Outreach Ministry.

The Session reviewed our current missionary ministries. There are a couple of new ministries that we are considering for 2024. The Session discussed the Georgia Right to Life dinner, one of our ministry missions. If Faith has no attendees, we will only make an additional donation of \$350 and not be a table host.

The annual Homecoming service was discussed, and the date was set for Sunday, August 6th, with a covered dish luncheon and hot dogs and burgers provided by the Church. The Session reviewed the congregation's care needs and prayed for each need.

The next Session meeting will be on August 3rd at 5:30 PM.

John Cleveland, Moderator
Dan Patterson, Clerk
Gregg Coniglio
Keith Lovern
Mark Watts



Calendar

- ♦ August 3 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ August 4 Biscuit Giveaway
- ♦ August 5 Youth Hangout
- ♦ August 6 The Lord's Day
- ♦ August 6 Communion
- ♦ August 6 Homecoming
- ♦ August 8 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ August 10 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ August 13 The Lord's Day
- ♦ August 15 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ August 17 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ August 19 Youth Hangout
- ♦ August 20 The Lord's Day
- ♦ August 22 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ August 24 Men's Bible Study
- ♦ August 27 The Lord's Day
- ♦ August 29 Ladies Bible Study
- ♦ August 31 Men's Bible Study



July 2023 Financial News

Donations:
\$29,001.00

Expenses:
\$30,164.66

P.O.P. Fund:
\$8,200.00

Mortgage Principal:
\$787,586.49

A miracle is God's direct, sovereign intervention into the natural world. It is an event so contrary to the normal course of events that there is no scientific or naturalistic explanation for it other than the power of God. There is no natural insight to explain the parting of the Red Sea, restoring the sight of those blind from birth, or raising people from the dead.

John MacArthur

Reference: Taken from Philippians, Moody Publishers, Copyright 2001, p. 298. Used by Permission.

HE PERFORMS
wonders

THAT CANNOT BE
FATHOMED,

miracles

THAT CANNOT BE
COUNTED.

JOB 5:9 (NIV)



Outreach News

If you have a need that arises, or know of anyone that is in need, please reach out to our Deacons for assistance. They have the ability to reach out to the congregation on your behalf as well as physically meet your needs, or they can point you in the right direction for help.

Deacons of Faith

Jimmy Brock
Alan Dennis
Cameron Dennis
Zohrab Najarian



**We are having a
Big Biscuit
Giveaway!**

Friday, August 4th

7:00 am—9:00 am

**We will need volunteers!
People to help hand out
biscuits and people that
will serve in the
prayer tent.
Please be at the church
at 6:30 am if you can
volunteer!**



August Mission of the Month

Operation Christmas Child

www.samaritanspurse.org

Needs

You can find the list of approved donations on the table in the back of the sanctuary or make a monetary donation. We will gather gifts to fill our shoeboxes in November.

Please place your items in the mission box in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for always giving so generously to those in need!



Volunteers Needed For Fellowship Time!

If you would like to provide refreshments, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Speak to a Deacon if you have any questions!

Children's Sunday School

We have Sunday School classes for all ages!

We are in need of teachers!

Contact Susan Jones if you are interested in serving!



**HOMECOMING
BBQ**

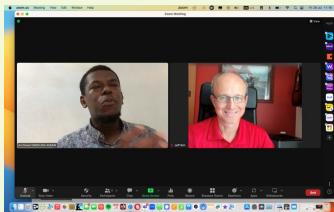
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH
@ NOON (FOLLOWING CHURCH)

- BBQ (FEEL FREE TO BRING A SIDE)
- ICE CREAM
- OUTDOOR GAMES

Come celebrate our 5TH YEAR here on East Lake!

www.FaithMcDonough.com

UPDATE FROM THE KIM'S



This February 2023 during the RMC Conference in Guebwiller, France Achimede was given the opportunity to share about the Life School (Graine de Maisha) project that is giving students in the southeast side of the island of Mayotte a chance to receive a life-changing, Christian education. Despite the 2 hour commute where Archimede and his wife live on the northwest side of the island, he is committed to moving closer to the school this summer where he can teach and eventually become the school director. It is important to know this school is run by Samuel and Anne Vernaz, two Swiss, Christian pediatricians who have a vision to see this school impact the poorest area of the island where over 5,000 children have no opportunity to attend school. It was during his speech that I (Jeff) was convicted by the incredible need on this French island territory of Mayotte between Madagascar and Mozambique. Even more, I saw this guy as a future leader of this school project.

Last week, my convictions were confirmed during a 2 hour Zoom with the Vernaz couple when they shared their desire to see Archimede become the future school director. It was amazing to hear their perspective independently of mine own convictions after meeting him. Last Friday, I had a Zoom with Archimede to get to know him better and hear of his plans to move closer to the school where he will continue his university studies in order to become a school director. Because Mayotte is a French outer-lying territory, they are governed by the same French administrative requirements as the nation of France. This means he needs to finish his Bachelor's degree to a school director position.

EducaVie will start investing in Archimede's growth and development by offering a scholarship that will finance the remainders of his studies. Our plan will be to train teachers as well in Christian world-view perspectives using a new book that EducaVie recently endorsed called the Visual Valet written by Harold Klassen. This is a great work that enables

teachers to incorporate the main themes of a Christian-world view perspective (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Structure/Direction). We will also engage in a fund-raising project incorporating their need into our overall budget to dig a well in the neighborhood where more than 5,000 children and adults live in the poorest section of the island. Currently, they survive on bottled water and rainwater captured in large plastic run off containers. Can you imagine the impact of digging a well where children and families can have fresh water in the neighborhood of the school, as well as raise up a school director that will lead this Christian School forward in the years to come ?

Below is a photo of the school staff of the Life School (Graine de Maisha) in the Mayotte language with Archimede holding a baby in his arms next to Dr. Samuel Vernaz, the current school director and his wife, Dr. Anne Vernaz. You can click here to visit their website to learn more. If you would like more information regarding digging this well for this school feel free to email me, and to make a tax-deductible contribution you can give through the Teach Beyond France website.



Would you pray for Archimede who plans to move from his family's neighborhood closer to the Life School and University where he can start his studies this fall ? Would you pray for the Lord to raise up individuals or an organization who will invest in the 25,000 USD for the digging of this well ?

Last week, our EducaVie team assembled from different corners of France for our annual team retreat. This was a chance for each of us to develop deeper relationships by spending time meditating on God's word as we studied Isaiah 30:15-28 together, we had an official board meeting, and took time to reflect on what

God enabled us to do this past year as we look to the projects that are developing for 2023-2024. Our team had the privilege of welcoming new team members from Lyon and Pierrelatte. This week, we will receive another family that arrives from Oregon who will be teaching at BFA (German side) and at the Collège Daniel (Guebwiller, Alsace). We welcomed Nicolas Laurent who joined our retreat as our personal chef, a long-time friend of our board treasurer, Jean-Marc Grisot. We were able to sample two evening meals that Nicolas prepared for our team, what a treat!

Nicolas will be joining Jeff as they travel to the southeast USA for two weeks late September to bring a "taste of France" to certain fund raising dinners our France Champions will be hosting. We are excited about what the Lord is doing through EducaVie and the plans we have as we will be launch a bi-monthly podcast to our French network of Christian Schools as well as help in the development of several new school projects in France and in the Congo and Mayotte.

Please take a minute to thank the Lord for the good meeting of our board president, Jérôme Garnier who spoke to a group of 9 churches in the Basque Country mid-June. He has been invited back to speak later this fall to continue vision casting amidst these churches that are engaging in more meaningful relationships with non-Christian families in their region as they look to start a Christian school in Tarnos, France.



Would you pray for the 8 to 10 French dinners confirmations that Jeff is putting into place across the southeastern USA to raise funds for EducaVie's operational costs as well as one-time projects during the last two weeks of September ?

We are grateful for your friendship and partnership with us for the Gospel. Each of you play an important role through your prayers and financial gifts that enable us to serve the King here in France.

In His Grace,

Jeff and Véronique Kim



To the glory of God,
Faith Presbyterian Church
has been called together to
faithfully proclaim the
Gospel, to make and equip
disciples for Christ, and to
advance God's Kingdom
in our families, community,
and world.



Faith Presbyterian Church is a
congregation of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
(www.epc.org)
and the Presbytery of the Southeast
(www.epcsoutheast.org).

Our Church Website:
www.FaithMcDonough.com

Church Email:
faithepcrus@gmail.com

Church Phone Number:
770-648-5288

Mailing Address:
Faith Presbyterian Church EPC
1185 East Lake Road
McDonough, GA 30252

*God of
Miracles*

*Praise the Lord!
Praise the name of the Lord,
give praise, O servants of
the Lord,
who stand in the house of
the Lord, in the courts of the
house of our God!
Praise the Lord,
for the Lord is good;
sing to his name,
for it is pleasant!
For the Lord has chosen
Jacob for himself,
Israel as his own possession.
For I know that the Lord is
great, and that our Lord
is above all gods.
Whatever the Lord pleases,
he does, in heaven and on earth,
in the seas and all deeps.
He it is who makes the clouds
rise at the end of the earth,
who makes lightnings for the rain
and brings forth the wind from
his storehouses.
Psalm 135:1-7*

CHOIR NEWS

If you would like to join
our choir, contact Nancy Lowry!
We would love for you to join us!

If you are interested in joining Faith Presbyterian Church (EPC), you may do so
by a profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, by a re-affirmation of your faith,
or by a transfer of your membership from another church.
Please speak with the an Elder concerning your desire.

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!



Chris Harper	8/01
Garrett Burch	8/02
Sandy Jo Hilgefard	8/03
Tina Coniglio	8/06
Kipp Echols	8/09
Laura Clotfelter	8/09
Ayla Burch	8/14
Kinsley Leake	8/19
Myra Glinski	8/20
Chevinie Echols	8/27
Sydney Norton	8/28
Rhett Cooper	8/29
Linda West	8/29



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

August 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3 7:00 Men's Bible Study	4 Biscuit Giveaway 7:00—9:00 am	5 Youth Hangout 6:00 pm
6 Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 12:00 HOMECOMING	7	8 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	9	10 7:00 Men's Bible Study	11	12
13 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	14	15 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	16	17 7:00 Men's Bible Study	18	19 Youth Hangout 6:00 pm
20 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	21	22 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	23	24 7:00 Men's Bible Study	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	28	29 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	30	31 7:00 Men's Bible Study		