



# The Center Chronicles

April 2025



## HUMILITY

IS NOT THINKING  
LESS OF YOURSELF,  
IT IS THINKING  
OF YOURSELF LESS.

-C.S. Lewis

As we conclude our Lent sermon series on Humility, and being reminded of what Paul writes in Philippians 2: 8, “And being found in appearance as a man, he (Jesus) humbled himself by becoming obedient to death- even death on a cross”, the question I leave you with as we make final preparations for Easter celebrations is how are we going to be humble as we live everyday following in the footsteps of

Jesus? Joel Muddamalle, in his book, **The Hidden Peace**, offers some suggestions and tips on cultivate humility in our faith journey.

First and always, we need to be aware of the presence and power of God in our lives. It is vital for us to realize everyday how great God is. As the Psalmist says in 33: 8-9, **“Let the whole earth fear the Lord; let ALL the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he (God) spoke, and it came into being; he (God) commanded, and it came into existence.”**

Second, let us maintain a sense of self-awareness so that in humility, we realize how much we need God knowing that God is more than able to take care of our needs.

Third, it is important to be on guard against sin. As Muddamalle points out, **“Sin threatens humility at every turn. The corruption first shows up inside us, then works itself out of us.”** Sin tempts us to focus more our own desires and how we can fulfill those desires that we become so self-centered that we think there is no need to be God centered. Humility reminds us of the empty and temporary promises sin offers vs. the eternal, joy-filled promises that the Savior offers.

Fourth, humility enables us to look beyond ourselves to see others as God sees them. Thus, part of our call is to help others to humbly turn to God so that they can become better people. As it is written, **“Our humility becomes the platform for someone else’s greatness.”** Eugene Peterson reminds us that **“humility enables us to be in relationship with other people without competing with them.”**

Fifth, practicing humility is to be a daily goal we should strive for every day so that we can experience more fully God’s peace in our lives. It shows us how we are progressing in our desire to be like Jesus.

Sixth, be persistent. Don’t give up when you are worn out or weary. Don’t stop when you go through sinful setbacks and sorrow filled sufferings. Remember, our faith in Christ reminds us that though imperfect we are, we are a work in progress that will be perfected when we see Christ Jesus face to face.

Seven, be who God created you to be. Embrace who you are as a child of God, knowing there will be another you in human existence. Your upbringing, the high and lows of your life, the sin mistakes you made and faith steps you have taken testify to who you are in Christ.

Humility reminds us that we are whom God created us to be and that we don't need to compare ourselves to anyone else. God just wants you to be you- a forgiven, joy filled, spirit filled you whose life has been touched and transformed by the Love of God.

Happy Easter,  
Jon

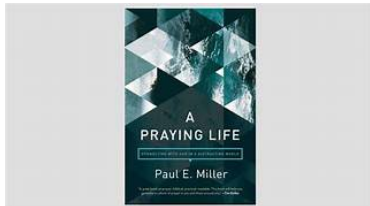


## Holy Week Activity schedule

**Lent Meditations** will continue to be offered at 8pm every night up to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Community Cantata and Easter Sunday.



- **April 13- Palm Sunday.** As we hold palm branches, we are also reminded.  
of the passion of a humbled Jesus who was riding into Jerusalem to die.
- **April 17 @7pm-** Maundy Thursday, remembering that final night and what the cross does for us.
- **April 18 @7pm-** Community Easter Cantata. Invite a friend and join us for worship.
- **April 19 @ 2pm-** Community Easter Egg Hunt. Bring as many kids as you can 😊.
- **April 20 @ 7am-** Sunrise outdoor service in the pavilion.
- **April 20 @ 10am-** Easter Cantata Celebration with Easter brunch following immediately after worship in the fellowship hall. There will also be a church easter egg hunt following Easter brunch.



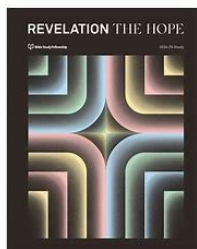
## Wednesday Night Bible Study resumes at 5pm

We will continue our study on Paul Miller's book, The Praying Life. We meet in the upstairs Sunday School classroom.



## Thanks to the Children's bell choir!

Thank you to Becky Stone and all the parents and volunteers who have made the children's bell choir possible. Their music has been a blessing for all who hear.



## Men's Bible Study on Revelations

### Saturday's at 9am

Have you ever wondered about the end times, God's judgement, or how Jesus Christ will come to judge the "quick and the dead"? You are

invited to join us for a study in the hope of Revelation as we use BSF's study guide to help us process John's visions recorded in Revelation. We meet every Saturday at 9am in the upper Sunday School classroom.



### Youth Group on Sunday at 4:00pm

They meet in the fellowship hall. Come and bring the kids for this time of fellowship and study.



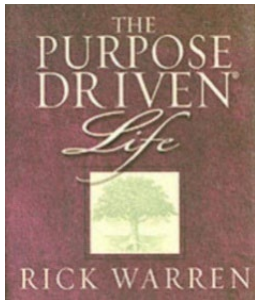
### Without Limits start their season

Without Limits season is starting and we invite you to come out and join the fun a fellowship of watching kids, with special needs have one of the best experiences in their lives.



### Adult Sunday School Update

Donald Bivens continues his class studies on Rick Warren's classic, The Purpose Driven Life. Adult Sunday Class meets at 9:15am on Sunday morning.



### Dorcas Ministry meets every first and third Wednesday at 9:30am

The Dorcas Ministry is a vital ministry of Center Church. What a blessing! If you want to get involved, please contact Sandra Black at 423-253-3876



The session will meet Thursday, April 17 at 5:45pm prior to Maundy Thursday service.

### Mission trip Opportunity

On the Del Rio mission front, thanks to the volunteer help, Samantha's Hurst has been completely rewired and now she waits for inspection. She will contact us when the inspection is completed, and we will plan one day mission trips to insulate her house and get it ready for sheetrock.

Until then, we have been given another mission opportunity to clear debris the Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center in Banner Elk, N.C. I serve on the Presbytery Disaster Response Team and was given the assignment to organize a Presbytery wide mission trip. The following information talks about this mission opportunity.



## **Presbytery Wide Mission Trip Opportunity,** **May 7- 9 (10?), 2025**



It has been 6 months since Hurricane Helene devastated parts of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. One of the places impacted by the storm was our sister Holston Presbytery's Church camp located in Banner Elk, NC. As they prepare for the summer season, we have been given an opportunity to help them with hopes of clearing their road to one of the group rope course areas.

**Who do they need?** People who can safely manage chain saws, loppers, and have the ability to pile brush. We have volunteers who will take a skid steer and a tractor with Grappler to move the trees and piled brush. Another skid steer would be great to have.

**Where will we stay and what about food?** We will stay at the camp at the retreat center. Be sure to bring bed items (sleeping bag, sheets, blankets, etc. and pillows) for your stay. In addition, the camp will provide food for us because of our willingness to help clear debris.

**Is there a cost?** There is no cost except for fuel to get there.

**How and when are we going to get there?** Each volunteer can invite other volunteers to go and carpool together to the mission site. It would be hard to coordinate a meeting place for us to caravan together, so we will **meet at the camp on Wednesday, May 7 at 6pm to get settled in and start work Thursday morning at 9am.**

On **Saturday, May 10**, they will be having their own Presbytery wide cleanup day and we can either stay and work with them or we can head back Friday Evening. Please prayerfully consider joining us for this mission opportunity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone via email or cell phone.

In Christ Service,

Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone

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