

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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JULY 2023

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Back to Fundamentals

*Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. (Psalm 119:97-99 ESV)*

From the late 1800s into the early 1900s a debate raged within the northern Presbyterian Church. German higher criticism was taking root in the seminaries which called into question the veracity of the Scriptures and the necessity of ministerial candidates being required to affirm the “five fundamentals.” Originally being labeled a “fundamentalist” had nothing to do with drinking, dancing, movies, or playing cards! The five fundamentals that all ministerial candidates were expected to affirm: 1. The inerrancy of the Scriptures, 2. The virgin birth and deity of Christ, 3. The doctrine of substitutionary atonement, 4. The bodily resurrection of Jesus, and 5. The authenticity of Christ’s miracles.

In 1924 the Auburn Affirmation from Auburn Theological Seminary (NY) declared among its six affirmations: none of the five essential doctrines should be used as a test for ordination. One year prior to that in 1923 Princeton Seminary professor and ordained Presbyterian minister, J. Gresham Machen published his monumental book, *Christianity and Liberalism*. In it he courageously declared that biblical Christianity (as summarized in the church’s historic creeds and confessions) and liberalism (as taught at places such as Auburn Seminary) were in fact two altogether different religions. He went on to take a giant leap of faith as he left Princeton to found Westminster Theological Seminary in 1929 and then the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) in 1936. His book is being reprinted in hardback by Westminster Seminary Press this year to mark its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continuing relevance for us today.

I affirmed these fundamental doctrines when I was ordained into the PCA on September 7, 2003. During the course of our examination of ministerial candidates in both committee and on the floor of Presbytery, ruling and teaching elders have opportunity to ask questions of candidates concerning their views of the Bible, theology, church history, and Presbyterian polity. This leads us to ask further questions regarding the candidate’s personal piety and his practical application of the Bible and theology in his practice of ministry.

Every generation must dig further into the Bible and our confessional documents and reaffirm our fundamentals. Previous generations saw many Christian doctrines as common sense by believer and unbeliever alike. You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. These are no longer common sense beliefs in our world!

What might be some “fundamentals” we need to emphasize today? We already have confessional writings that help us here. Let me illustrate. *Westminster Shorter Catechism (WSC) Q. 10. How did God create man? A. God created man, male and female, in His own image and in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, to rule over the other creatures.* A lot of cultural hot-button issues are addressed briefly and clearly in that sentence!

*WSC Q. 68. What does the sixth commandment require? A. The sixth commandment requires making every lawful effort to preserve one’s own life and the lives of others. Q. 71. What does the seventh commandment require? A. The seventh commandment requires us and everyone else to keep sexually pure in heart, speech, and action.* Again, we have our biblical requirements concerning life and sexuality succinctly described.

Let me offer one more answer from the *Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC)*. It’s a doozy. And it is worth our consideration. *Q. 139. What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment? A. The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks; impudent or light behavior; immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews, and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life; undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious songs, books, pictures, dancing, stage plays; all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.*

What poignant wisdom for our time! It seems they knew in the 1640s what we would be tempted by in the 2020s. Our denomination is now 50 years old. Our motto is: “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed faith, Obedient to the Great Commission.” As we seek to stand firm in our faith today, let us not forget we have a deep reservoir of resources to encourage, exhort, and, when needed, rebuke us toward that end.

To God be the glory!  
Pastor Josh



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

						1
2 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	3 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	4 <b>Independence Day</b> <b>Holiday</b>	5	6	7	8 <b>B-day:</b> Kristy Johnson
9 <b>Joint Officer Meeting</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	10 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Claire Coddington	11 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm <b>B-day:</b> Ansley Basinger	12 <b>Anniv:</b> Mike & Bernice Cork	13	14	15
16 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <b>Fellowship Potluck</b>	17 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	18 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm	19 <b>Session Meeting:</b> 6pm	20 <b>B-day:</b> Clay Mackin	21 <b>B-day:</b> Kami Basinger	22
23 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <b>HOP:</b> 2pm <b>B-day:</b> Scott Kirkpatrick <b>B-day:</b> Liam Rimes	24 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	25 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm <b>B-day:</b> Makenna McNutt	26 <b>B-day:</b> Thomas Carmichael	27 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Consignor Registrations Due</b> <b>B-day:</b> Merry Coburn <b>Anniv:</b> Jimmy & Joy Mackin	28 <b>B-day:</b> Joe Morgan	29
30 <b>Deacon's Fund Special Offering</b> <b>B-day:</b> Genevieve McNutt	31 <b>Puddle Jumpers:</b> Consignor Check-In Begins					

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH:** Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

**FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Patty Kirkpatrick

**RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:**

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study. The morning group will meet at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and the evening group will meet at 6:45 at Ann Resto’s house. The study will feature the book, “Saints and Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus,” by Nancy Guthrie. If you are able, please join us.

<u>2023</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,442.00	\$ 47,902.14
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,174.13	\$ 49,936.37
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,267.87	\$ (2,034.23)
<u>2022</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,562.00	\$ 43,085.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 6,994.30	\$ 40,000.24
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,567.70	\$ 3,084.76

**MAY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 52

**DEACONS:** Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans

## JULY EVENTS

**July 4:** Independence Day Holiday.

**July 9:**

- Joint Officer (Session and Deacon) Meeting.
- Communion.

**July 16:** Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Cork and Resto families.

**July 19:** Session Meeting, 6:00 pm.

**July 23:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) will meet at 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. Please see page 4 for more details on this activity. For more information, please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin.

**July 30:** Deacon’s Fund Special Offering. This offering is collected every 5th Sunday of the month to be used for those in our congregation and community who are in need.

## NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: BICYCLE ADOPTION

For food, you need money. For money, you need a job. For a job, you need transportation. We are starting a new outreach ministry in which we will accept donated bicycles, renew them, and adopt them out to people in our community who need transportation. This ministry will involve interviews and home visits to the “adoptive family.” This will allow us to be invited into their homes, see their needs, and share the Gospel view of adoption. Please pray consistently that God clearly shows to us His plan for this ministry.

Erik Lessmann is leading this and is asking for everyone's involvement. We not only need to find and fix bikes, but we also to find "adoptive families," schedule meetings, do home visits, and source cheap or donated parts. We'll do this as a family from June 1 to January 31, and then reevaluate God's plan for this ministry.

Please contact Erik for more information and tell him how you want to be involved (before he volunteers you). erik.lessmann@gmail.com

**REGISTER TODAY**

See Page 5 for more information.



**2023 Puddle Jumpers Children’s Consignment Sale**

Registration Due: July 27  
Inventory Check-In: July 31 and August 1  
Sale Dates: August 3-5



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

JULY 2023

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

## HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Abrams, Riddell	Huizenga, Fran
Acton, Beth	Hux, Karen
Allinder, Kate	Jennifer (Missionary)
Bazuin, Caiden	Lane, Barbara
Beale, Amy	Lawrence, Lisa
Beard, Ronnie	Lessmann, Linus
Beeler, Peggy	Ligon, Brandon
Belcher, Samuel	Mackin, Jimmy
Brantley, Maggie	Mader, Rebecca
Bridges, Ida Lee	Margo, Chrissy
Brooker, Chrissy	McIntier, Jodie
Brooker, Jan	Morgan, Laura
Brown, Walt	Morris, Seth
Busby, Rhae	Mutisya, Cecilia
Bynum, Linda	Parr, Higley
Cooper, Dr. Clarence	Phillips, Ronnie
Curry, Walter	Ramey, Carrie
Davidson, Karen	Renner, Elizabeth
DeWitt, Robert	Reynolds, Christy
Duncan, Conner	Sharp, Chris
Dyer, Doug	Sims, Anna Katherine
Espy, Emily	Thornton, Alaina
Finley, Betty	Tipton, Carolyn
Gardner, Greg	Townsend, Laura
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Tulipan, Amelia
Hall, Jimmy	Tulipan, Hansen
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Turner, Becky
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Twist, Ty
Headley, David	VanderMolen, Popko
Hocker, Jeannie	Womble, Caleb
Hoggle, Judy	Zimmerman, Steve

**If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.**

**Can you pray?  
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?  
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?  
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.

### OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

#### Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
Jimmy Mackin  
Rick Wilson  
Jimmy Hall

#### Illness:

Laura Morgan  
Neal Bules  
David Headley  
Linda Dunning

#### Special Needs:

The Hutton Family

#### Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison  
Abigayle Kircharr  
Harry Jeong

#### Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick  
Sam Brasfield  
Steven Mackin  
Victor Resto  
Joseph Wilson  
Josh Tyson  
Blake Ivy  
Austin Griffith  
Kaleb Brown  
Nathan McCaskill



If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.



# 2023 Puddle Jumpers Children's Consignment Sale

First Presbyterian Church  
 300 N. Strawberry Avenue  
 Demopolis, AL 36732  
 (334) 289-3895 / fpcdemopolis@gmail.com

**Registration Fee and Application Due: Thursday, July 27, 2023; Non-Refundable Fee \$5.00, please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church.** Payment is also available through PayPal; please contact us about this alternate payment arrangement. If the registration fee has not been paid by July 27<sup>th</sup>, it will be deducted off the final consignor check. To participate as a consignor a minimum of 20 items in excellent condition in your inventory is required. Please note that registration is limited to the first 50 registered consignors.

**Consignor Packet:** Upon receipt of your completed registration application, you will receive the Consignor Packet, which will include your consignor number, event rules, inventory sheet, sale tags, and check-in/pick-up times. Your past consignor number is not guaranteed unless you request it early.

**Sales Proceeds:** Consignors will receive 70% of their sales proceeds but can earn an additional 5% in sales for each 3-hour shift worked (limited to 2 shifts or up to a maximum of 10%).

**Half-Off Sale:** The Half-Off Sale is optional and will be based on the items that you specifically designate on your sale tags. Please mark your items accordingly if you intend to participate.

**Pre-Sale Tickets:** All consignors will receive 1 Consignor pass and 2 Guest passes to the Pre-Sale.

## 2023 Puddle Jumpers Sale Schedule:

Consignor Check-in (Last Name: A-G)	Monday, July 31	4 - 6 pm
Consignor Check-in (Last Name: H-Z)	Tuesday, August 1	4 - 6 pm
Pre-Arranged Check-in (by appointment only)	Monday and Tuesday, July 31 & August 1	10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Pre-Sale for Consignors	Wednesday, August 2	4 - 6 pm
Pre-Sale for Consignors' Guests	Wednesday, August 2	5 - 6 pm
Public Sale	Thursday and Friday, August 3 and 4	3 - 6 pm
Half Off Sale	Saturday, August 5	8 am - 12 noon
Clean-Up and Inventory	Saturday, August 5	12 noon - 1 pm
Consignors Pick Up Unsold Items & Pick Up Checks	Saturday, August 5	1 - 2 pm

**2023 Registration Form/Fee:** Fully complete, detach and deliver to First Presbyterian Church; include \$5 registration fee payment to First Presbyterian Church. **Registration due date is Thursday, July 27, 2023.**

## 2023 Puddle Jumpers Children's Consignment Sale Application

Name:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

**NOTE:** Puddle Jumpers will do everything possible to protect your interests; however, we cannot be responsible for fire, theft, damaged, or lost items. Pick up time is Saturday, August 5 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. I understand that if my unsold items are not picked up by 12:00 noon on Thursday, August 10, 2023, these items will be donated to a charity (i.e., Bargain Box, Sav-A-Life, etc.)

Signature:

Yes	No	I would like to work to earn an extra percentage on my sales (5% for 1 shift; 10% for 2 shifts). Each shift is 3 hours. Available shifts will be located in the Consignor Packet.