

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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NOVEMBER 2023

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

An Attitude of Gratitude

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness;...

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. (Psalm 100:1-2a, 4 NKJV)

It is November, the month of Thanksgiving. But as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can be thankful a lot more than one month a year! Below is an example and model for us as we seek to follow Paul's instructions to the church in Thessalonica (and the psalmist's above) *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thess. 5:16-18).*

The Catholic philosopher and teacher, Alice von Hildebrand, died last year at the age of 98. She and her husband, Dietrich, were well-known as Christian philosophers in a field less friendly to the faith than it once was. A website known as The Hildebrand Project is dedicated to their legacy. Dietrich von Hildebrand (1889-1977) is described there as "an original philosopher, ardent Christian, fierce foe of Nazism, and fervent champion of beauty." What an amazing way to be remembered!

In a celebrated talk Alice gave at her 90th birthday celebration, she quoted an axiom that her husband lived by: *the key to happiness is gratitude*. The Hildebrands chose to spend their very long lives living and spreading the simple but profound Biblical message of being thankful.

We can choose each day to say, "Thank you, Lord, for waking me up this morning." Or we can arise in poor moods and spread negativity rather than genuine cheer. The Apostle Paul was very clear about what happens to human beings who refuse gratitude: *Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened (Romans 1:21).*

I am not suggesting that we just grin and bear hard times. In fact, I am personally convicted as I write this. We are not thankful due to life being easy. After all Jesus said, *In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world (John 16:33b)*. I simply invite you to join me as I seek to join the psalmists, St. Paul, and the late Hildebrands in saying, "Thank you Lord, we bless your name."

PRAYER: Dear Lord, at this very moment some of us are happy, others are sad, and others maybe angry or frustrated at the sin and difficulties of life in this world. We thank you, Jesus, for overcoming the world. And we ask you to help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, to have attitudes of gratitude. In Jesus's name, Amen.

enter his gates with
THANKSGIVING
and his courts with praise
PSALMS 100:4

NOVEMBER 2023



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1 <u>Fellowship</u> : 6pm <u>Study/Prayer</u> : 6:15pm	2	3	4
5 <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> <u>International Day of Prayer</u> <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am	6 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am <u>Anniv</u> : Ray & Melanie Evans	7 <u>Election Day</u> <u>WM Circle Study</u> : 9:30am and 6:45pm	8 <u>Fellowship</u> : 6pm <u>Study/Prayer</u> : 6:15pm <u>B-day</u> : Stephen Cannon	9	10	11 <u>Veterans Day</u> <u>B-day</u> : Elliot Stanford
12 <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Deacon Meeting</u> <u>Communion</u>	13 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am <u>B-day</u> : Judah McNutt	14 <u>WM Circle Study</u> : 9:30am and 6:45pm	15 <u>Fellowship</u> : 6pm <u>Study/Prayer</u> : 6:15pm <u>Session Meeting</u> : 7pm	16 <u>B-day</u> : Joy Mackin	17	18
19 <u>Meeting</u> : 8:30am <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Fellowship Potluck</u> <u>Christmas Cards for the Troops Due</u>	20 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am <u>B-day</u> : Ruth Symon <u>B-day</u> : Mia McNutt <u>B-day</u> : Nathaniel Coddington	21 <u>WM Circle Study</u> : 9:30am and 6:45pm	22 <u>No Wed. Activities</u> <u>B-day</u> : David Coddington	23 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> <u>B-day</u> : Andrea Ward <u>B-day</u> : TJ Keasler	24	25
26 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am	27 <u>Game/Fellowship</u> <u>Time</u> : 9:30am <u>B-day</u> : Cindy Keasler	28 <u>WM Circle Study</u> : 9:30am and 6:45pm	29	30		

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Ann Resto

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall; 6:45 pm at Ann Resto’s house.
- Wednesday Night Fellowship, Study, and Prayer time. Fellowship is at 6:00 pm and study and prayer time is at 6:15 pm.

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

<u>2023</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,387.30	\$ 87,374.54
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 9,098.08	\$ 83,407.34
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 289.22	\$ 3,967.20
<u>2022</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,560.85	\$ 75,415.47
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 6,861.85	\$ 71,483.56
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 699.00	\$ 3,931.91

SEPTEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 41

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 5:

- Daylight Savings Time Ends.
- International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

November 12:

- Deacon Meeting
- Communion.

November 15: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

November 19:

- Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Cannon and Basinger Families.
- Deadline to submit your Christmas Cards for the Troops.

November 23: Thanksgiving holiday.

November 26: First Sunday of Advent.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

We hope you will support our Christmas Cards for the Troops annual event. All cards will need to be delivered to the church by **November 19th**.



MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW)



Please join millions around the world in praying on November 5, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, as we remember believers who suffer simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.” Colossians 4:3-4

A calendar for specific MTW prayer needs is provided on page 5.

For more information please visit the MTW website at <https://mtw.org/30-days-of-prayer>.

HELP NEEDED

The Demopolis Food Pantry has an on-going need specifically for 15-ounce cans of vegetables and fruit. We will maintain a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for donations to support the Food Pantry. Thanks for your support to help this vital community ministry!



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

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

Military Personnel:

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

In the Mission Field:

Lucy Lessmann — Costa Rica

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.

MTW 30-DAYS OF PRAYER IN NOVEMBER: A MONTH OF PRAYER FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Pray for the Lord to change the hearts for unbelievers in the Arab region who are studying the Scriptures for the first time.</i>	2 <i>Pray for revival in Germany—for the Spirit to inflame hearts and light up the darkness, that people would walk closely with God.</i>	3 <i>Pray the Lord would raise up new workers for Central Asia, including team leaders for three capital cities, for English teachers, and for mentors for young pastors.</i>	4 <i>Pray for the new church planting effort in El Salvador.</i>
5 <i>International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church: Pray for believers around the world who are persecuted for their faith. Ask God to give them perseverance, protection, and boldness.</i>	6 <i>Pray for RUF Global campus ministry to thrive at Makrere University in Kampala, Uganda.</i>	7 <i>Pray for pastors who are fleeing jihadist areas and connecting with MTW's Timothy House ministry in West Africa.</i>	8 <i>(Nagoya, Japan) as they develop resources to support weary, overworked pastors, weighed down by exhaustion and burnout. Pray for refreshment and gospel rest .</i>	9 <i>Pray that new people from Muslim backgrounds would join existing small groups of believers and that these would grow into churches.</i>	10 <i>Pray for the continuing ministry of the 10 Presbyterian churches in Ukraine and that the war with Russia would end.</i>	11 <i>Pray that the Lord call 25-30 year olds interested in learning multiple languages to work among unreached people groups.</i>
12 <i>Pray for the current work of the Casa Josefina in Cusco, Peru, as they care for 20 abandoned babies in the orphanage.</i>	13 <i>Pray for new missionaries preparing to serve in restricted-access countries around the world that the Lord would use them mightily.</i>	14 <i>Pray for bi-vocational opportunities for pastors in rural churches in Southern Africa who minister in dire economic conditions.</i>	15 <i>Give thanks for all that God is doing in the Muslim World to draw people to Christ. Pray that He would continue to call new workers to this work.</i>	16 <i>Pray as we seek to begin an international school for the children of migrant workers and refugees residing in South Korea.</i>	17 <i>Pray for Muslims coming to faith in Christ across Europe. Pray that they would be disciplined and find a church home.</i>	18 <i>Jean Calvin seminary in France is facing challenges; pray for new students and that courses would not have to be canceled due to low enrollment.</i>
19 <i>Pray for the church planting activity among the unreached Wolof people.</i>	20 <i>Our MKs often endure unseen grief and painful transition. Pray that they may also experience the gospel's comfort and calling.</i>	21 <i>For discipleship and development of young leaders in the Middle East and North Africa., that they would become pastors of small groups of believers.</i>	22 <i>Pray that a new plan in Kigali, Rwanda, will thrive.</i>	23 <i>Pray for God to raise up laborers to go into the harvest in the Arabic speaking world.</i>	24 <i>Australasia: Pray for the vast region covering Australia, New Zealand, and many South Pacific Island nations, for gospel power and purity.</i>	25 <i>Pray for Muslims who are investigating the truths of Christ in the Bible to come to the conclusion that He is God.</i>
26 <i>France: Pray for church planting efforts in both Paris and Toulouse. May these churches grow in number and exalt Jesus.</i>	27 <i>For the gospel of grace to outshine teaching on works and human efforts as the source of growth in Christ. Pray that it shine brightly across the Muslim world.</i>	28 <i>Pray for the ongoing growth of Iglesia Presbiteriana Gracia Soberana in Tegucigalpa and formation of the national Presbyterian denomination in Honduras.</i>	29 <i>Pray that those laboring for the sake of the gospel across the Arab world would find spiritual joy and rest.</i>	30 <i>Pray for MTW Thailand as they plant a new church in southern Bangkok.</i>		