

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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MAY 2024

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Roman Road of Salvation

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures—concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh and was appointed to be the powerful Son of God according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead. ...

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith" (Romans 1:1-4, 16-17 CSB).**

The gospel is not good advice about how to live. It is good news about a person. As both John the Baptist and Jesus preached: the kingdom of heaven is at hand; repent and believe the gospel. Jesus has come for us and for our salvation. Our congregation has patiently worked through the first eight chapters of Romans during our Sunday morning worship service. In those chapters Paul explains many of the aspects or components of the good news of what Jesus has done for us. We have learned about sin and rebellion, faith and repentance, justification and sanctification, and union with Christ (being *in Christ*) and the incredible work of the Holy Spirit.

This reminds me of another of the Apostle's epistles, 1st Corinthians. Read 1:18-31 slowly:

"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. For it is written,

**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.**

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached. For the Jews ask for

signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence. It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption—in order that, as it is written: **Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**

The world does not care much for Jesus—well, that is, the real Jesus of the Scripture. In fact it despises him. However, Jesus is the focus of our preaching. Jesus is the object of our faith. Jesus is the hope of our lives—from today into eternity. Do you know him? Do you love him? Have you responded to the call of his Father? Does the Holy Spirit dwell within you? If yes, then you have everything! If no... We will shortly get to Romans 10. In anticipation I close with this offer of the gospel:

"This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, **Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame**, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:8b-13).**



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1 Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm	2 National Day of Prayer 12-Hour Prayer Vigil: 8am-8pm B-day: Ali Basinger	3	4
5 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Showers of Blessings Offering B-day: Anna Caroline Coburn B-day: Emma McCaskill (Lessmann)	6 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	7 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	8 Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm	9	10 B-day: Bill Weltin B-day: Ruthie Mackin	11
12 Joint Officer Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Communion Showers of Blessings Offering	13 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am Anniv: Kris & Mary Harbin	14 WM Circle Study: 9:30am B-day: Henry Lessmann	15 Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm Session Meeting: 7pm	16 B-day: Josh Carmichael	17	18
19 Pentecost Sunday Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Showers of Blessings Offering Fellowship Potluck B-day: Angie Solliday B-day: Sterrett Lessmann B-day: Owen Lessmann	20 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	21 WM Circle Study: 9:30am B-day: Lily Mackin	22	23 B-day: Andy Coburn	24 B-day: Eloise Harris	25 B-day: Ryan Basinger
26 Trinity Sunday Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Showers of Blessings Offering HOP: 2pm B-day: Melissa Weltin	27 Memorial Day Holiday Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	28 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	29 B-day: Betsy Carmichael	30 B-day: Lillian Cannon	31	

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Glenn Basinger, Mike Cork

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Melissa Weltin

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.
- Wednesday, Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time. Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm.

SESSION: Dr. Josh Carmichael, Teaching Elder. Ruling Elders: Dennis Davidson, Scott Kirkpatrick, Jimmy Mackin, and Billy Symon.

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

	<u>2024</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions		\$ 12,073.95	\$ 31,684.27
Gen. Fund Expenses		\$ 11,481.63	\$ 30,731.52
Net Gain (Loss)		\$ 592.32	\$ 952.75
	<u>2023</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions		\$ 11,243.02	\$ 27,754.88
Gen. Fund Expenses		\$ 10,889.58	\$ 26,867.32
Net Gain (Loss)		\$ 353.44	\$ 887.56

MARCH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 54

MAY EVENTS

May 2:

- National Day of Prayer.
- 12-Hour Prayer Vigil, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

May 5: The annual Showers of Blessings offering will be held each Sunday in the month of May.

May 12:

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

May 15:

- Last Wednesday fellowship, study, and prayer time before the summer break.
- Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

May 19:

- Pentecost Sunday.
- Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Coddington, Evans, and Lessmann families.

May 26: Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

May 27: Memorial Day Holiday.



12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL / NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Our annual 12-Hour Prayer Vigil will be held on Thursday, **May 2, 2024**, as a way to participate in the National Day of Prayer. The goal is to have our congregation pray continuously for 12 hours.

How it works: a sign up sheet will have 30-minute prayer time slots between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm for May 2nd.

All it takes is your commitment to pray during the 30-minute time slot you select. Because this is an informal event you will need to remember your time slot.

We hope you will sign up for a time slot and join our congregation in a time faithful prayer.



DAY OF PENTECOST

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. (Acts 2:4)

SHOWERS OF BLESSING

The Warrior Presbytery Women’s Ministry annual Showers of Blessing offering will be held each Sunday through the month of May. This year’s offering will go to support Brent Mission PCA and UnBound216 Prison Ministry (formerly known as JumpStart Alabama).



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MAY 2024

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):

Acton, Beth	Hux, Karen
Allinder, Kate	Johnson, Glenda
Anderson, Kirsta	Lawrence, Lisa
Bazuin, Caiden	Lessmann, Linus
Beale, Amy	Ligon, Brandon
Beeler, Peggy	Mackin, Jimmy
Belcher, Samuel	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Chrissy	Margo, Chrissy
Brooker, Jan	McIntier, Jodie
Brown, Walt	Morgan, Laura
Busby, Rhae	Morris, Seth
Bynum, Linda	Petite, Maddie
Davidson, Karen	Phillips, Ronnie
Desmond, Huey	Ramey, Carrie
DeWitt, Robert	Renner, Andy
Duncan, Conner	Renner, Elizabeth
Dyer, Doug	Reynolds, Christy
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Stewart, Lee
Finley, Betty	Townsend, Laura
Gardner, Greg	Tulipan, Hansen
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Turner, Becky
Hall, Jimmy	Twist, Ty
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	VanderMolen, Popko
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Headley, David	Womble, Caleb
Hocker, Jeannie	
Hogle, Judy	
Huizenga, Fran	

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
Eliza Horton

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
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.

