

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

300 N. Strawberry Avenue

Demopolis, AL 36732

334-289-3895

www.demopolispresbyterian.com

fpcdemopolis@gmail.com

AUGUST 2024

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Do everything without grumbling and arguing, so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, by holding firm to the word of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run or labor for nothing. (Philippians 2:14-16 CSB).

We live in the midst of a generation similar to the one of the first believers in Christ. The Reformation Study Bible defines *this crooked generation* as "those who resist God's Word in unbelief and defiant rebellion" (cf. Acts 2:40-41). The Apostle Paul warns the church members at Philippi not to fall into the unbelief of our spiritual ancestors whom Moses led out of bondage. He warns them—and us—rather to remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ. How can we best follow and obey his admonition during these times in which we live today? I suggest we go to Acts 2:42 and Luke's description of the early church:

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.*

The early Christians were consistent participants in what we often call "the means of grace." These are instruments God provides through which God offers himself to us to be received by faith. God accomplishes his ends for us and in us through the Bible, the sacraments (or ordinances), prayer, and the body of Christ (or the church). Let's consider each briefly in the order Luke lists them.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.* The apostles were essentially explaining and applying the Old Testament Scriptures and also, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, composing the New Testament. So our earliest Christian ancestors were devoting themselves to the study of God's Word. If we are to give an answer for the hope we have within us; if we are to look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others; if we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, then we must know God's Word and have it inscribed upon our hearts. Consider two passages in the Bible about the Bible. *All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). *For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart* (Heb. 4:12). Let's stay in the Word together! It is our lamp and our light.

*They devoted themselves to the fellowship.* The Greek word for *fellowship* here is *koinonia*. It is a rich and robust word describing how Christians live with and treat one another. It means a true and sincere sharing of life together. It includes celebrating together, mourning together, working together, and witnessing together of God's work in our lives. In participating in *koinonia* we bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (see Gal. 6:2).

*They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread.* The early church shared meals together often, even as we do on the third Sundays. But here the breaking of bread likely refers more specifically to the Lord's Supper. As you know, we partake of this Sacrament together. We demonstrate our communion together as God's people. We acknowledge the necessity of personal conversion to Christ. We profess the Lord's death until he comes. And we are spiritually strengthened for the journey in this life.

*They devoted themselves to prayer.* The *Larger Catechism 178* answers the question, What is prayer? *Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit; with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.* May God give us the grace to be those who indeed live with a constant and consistent spirit of prayer. And let us thank God for these means of grace through which we come to know him better and shine like stars in this world he has made.

In Him,  
Pastor Josh



Let's be devoted...

# AUGUST 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				1 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Public Sale:</b> 3-6pm  <b>B-day:</b> Courtney Coddington	2 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Public Sale:</b> 3-6pm	3 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Public Sale/Half Off Sale:</b> 8am-12noon <b>Cleanup/Inventory:</b> 12noon-2pm <b>Consignors Pick Up Checks:</b> 2-3pm
4 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>B-day:</b> Lydia Buroker	5 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	6 <b>B-day:</b> Eleanor Gill	7 <b>B-day:</b> Sara Dukes	8 <b>B-day:</b> Heather Rimes <b>B-day:</b> Rebecca Lessmann	9	10
11 <b>Deacon Meeting</b> <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Communion</b> <b>B-day:</b> Madison (Solliday) Brown <b>Anniv:</b> David & Nadine Coddington	12 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Richard Lessmann	13	14	15	16	17 <b>B-day:</b> Evelyn Gill <b>Anniv:</b> Bill & Melissa Weltin <b>Anniv:</b> Ozzy & Ann Resto
18 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Fellowship Potluck</b> <b>B-day:</b> Ray Evans	19 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	20	21 <b>Session Meeting:</b> 7pm	22	23 <b>B-day:</b> Karen Davidson	24 <b>B-day:</b> Cooper Symon
25 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>HOP:</b> 2pm <b>B-day:</b> Laura (Krusmark) Morgan <b>B-day:</b> Lizzie Johnson	26 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Billy Symon, Jr <b>B-day:</b> Aubrey Ward	27	28	29	30	31

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH:** David Coddington and Ray Evans

**FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Lydia Buroker

**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.

**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>JUNE</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 13,402.20	\$ 67,139.30
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 11,892.57	\$ 58,372.90
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,509.63	\$ 8,766.40
<u>2023</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,921.00	\$ 56,823.14
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,210.05	\$ 51,531.48
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (1,289.05)	\$ 5,291.66

**JUNE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 46

## AUGUST EVENTS

**August 1-2:** Puddle Jumpers Children’s Consignment Public Sale, 3:00—6:00 pm.

**August 3:**

- Puddle Jumpers Children’s Consignment Public Half Price Sale, 8:00 am—12:00 noon.
- Cleanup and Inventory, 12 noon—2:00 pm.
- Consignors Pick Up Checks, 2:00—3:00pm

**August 11:**

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

**August 18:**

- Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Ward, Weltin, Carmichael families.

**August 21:** Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**August 25:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

Thank you to all who generously gave their time, talents, and donations which went toward our kitchen renovation.



Thank you to all Puddle Jumper consignors, volunteers, and shoppers!

**YOU ARE ALL GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

## PCA CDM WOMEN’S MINISTRY

**September 13-14, 2024 at COVENANT PCA, Birmingham, AL**

**Conference Focus:** We live in a culture of “not-enoughness.” We

feel the lack of not enough time, energy, relationships, or resources. Our hearts cry, “I need, I want, or I deserve more!” Are you driven to accumulate more “likes” on your social media or influence over others? Maybe you are exhausted by a never-ending quest for peace amid anxiety.



This ideology of scarcity underscores our need to consider the sufficiency or “enoughness” of God’s character and purpose. We’ll be talking about creation design, gospel identity, and the joy of inter-generational friendships. We will explore how satisfaction, significance, and sufficiency can only be found by seeking our Savior.

**Registration Cost:** \$100/person; \$40 for girls Grades 3-12 and college students. Price includes registration, Saturday lunch, and supplies for Created for a Purpose.

**For More Information:** [women.pcacdm.org/made-for-more](http://women.pcacdm.org/made-for-more)

# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

AUGUST 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	Haubert, Chloe Belle
Allinder, Kate	Headley, David
Anderson, Kirsta	Hocker, Jeannie
Aultman, Keegan	Hux, Karen
Beale, Amy	Johnson, Glenda
Beeler, Peggy	Lawrence, Lisa
Belcher, Samuel	Lessmann, Linus
Brooker, Chrissy	Ligon, Brandon
Brooker, Jan	Mader, Rebecca
Bryant, Kristie	Margo, Chrissy
Busby, Rhae	McIntier, Jodie
Bynum, Linda	Morgan, Laura
Davidson, Karen	Morris, Seth
Desmond, Huey	Petite, Maddie
Duncan, Conner	Phillips, Ronnie
Dyer, Doug	Ramey, Carrie
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Renner, Andy
Faust, Maggie	Renner, Elizabeth
Finley, Betty	Reynolds, Christy
Gardner, Greg	Stewart, Lee
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Townsend, Laura
Hall, Heather	Tulipan, Hansen
Hall, Jimmy	Twist, Ty
Harris, Julie	VanderMolen, Popko
Harris, Karen	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Womble, Caleb

**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.



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.

## OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

### Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
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  
Austin Griffith  
Kaleb Brown  
Nathan McCaskill