## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

**AUGUST 2024** 

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## 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 crookled 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...

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

**<u>DEACONS</u>**: Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans.

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

**JUNE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 46** 

## **AUGUST EVENTS**

<u>August 1-2</u>: 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.

<u>August 25</u>: 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

<u>Conference Focus</u>: 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.

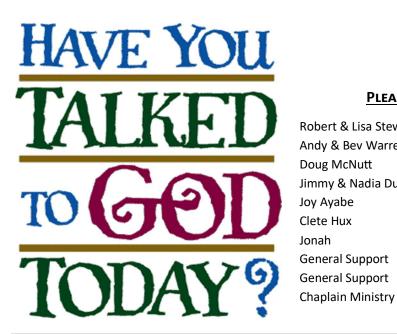


This ideology of

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 intergenerational 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



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart Andy & Bev Warren Doug McNutt Jimmy & Nadia Dukes Joy Ayabe Clete Hux Jonah **General Support General Support** 

Mission to the World — Japan Mission to the World — Ethiopia Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL

Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS

Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

# **HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):**

Acton, Beth Allinder, Kate Anderson, Kirsta Aultman, Keegan Beale, Amy Beeler, Peggy Belcher, Samuel Brooker, Chrissy Brooker, Jan Bryant, Kristie Busby, Rhae Bynum, Linda Davidson, Karen Desmond, Huey Duncan, Conner Dyer, Doug Earl, Amelia (Tulipan) Faust, Maggie Finley, Betty Gardner, Greg Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.) Hall, Heather Hall, Jimmy

Twist, Ty Harris, Julie VanderMolen, Popko Harris, Karen Wilder, Emily (Espy) Womble, Caleb Hart, Sarah Elizabeth

Haubert, Chloe Belle Headley, David Hocker, Jeannie Hux, Karen Johnson, Glenda Lawrence, Lisa Lessmann, Linus Ligon, Brandon Mader, Rebecca Margo, Chrissy McIntier, Jodie Morgan, Laura Morris, Seth Petite, Maddie Phillips, Ronnie Ramey, Carrie Renner, Andy Renner, Elizabeth Reynolds, Christy Stewart, Lee Townsend, Laura Tulipan, Hansen

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

> Can you pray? WE NEED YOU!

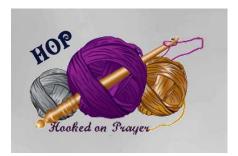
Can you knit or crochet? WE NEED YOU!

## 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 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

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.