

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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NOVEMBER 2024

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

MARTIN LUTHER & SOLA SCRIPTURA

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. The son of a miner, he turned from a profession in law to the monastery. In 1505, in the midst of a frightening thunderstorm and nearby lightning strike that threw him to the ground, he screamed, "Help me, St. Anne. I will become a monk." Making a deal with God through his belief at the time in the intercession of St. Anne, patron saint of miners, Martin survived and kept his end of the bargain.

Luther's spiritual distress continued in the monastery. He knew he was a sinner. He knew God was holy. He could never get past the sense that the judgement of God always lay before him. His mentors in the monastery tried to solve his problem first by sending him to seminary and then to a teaching position at the newly formed University of Wittenberg. He taught theology and Bible.

In 1516, during the time of Renaissance and a "return to the sources," the Dutch Christian humanist, Erasmus of Rotterdam, published his monumental scholarly edition of the Greek New Testament. Prior to this, teachers and scholars only had access to Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible, the Vulgate. The return to the original Greek text would truly change the world.

In God's providence, Luther was assigned to teach the Psalms, Galatians, Romans, and Hebrews. When the new Greek text became available, he began reading the NT in its original language. His spiritual distress would soon find relief. The Greek word properly translated as "repent" or "repentance," *metanoia*, was translated differently in the Latin Bible. It was translated as "do penance." Think about this. Both Jesus and John preached, "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the gospel." That is, turn away from your sins and to God in faith. Do penance means: do acts of contrition, confess to a priest, accept punishments for your sin, and finally, seek absolution. Spiritual distress indeed!

Luther's study of the Bible eventually led to one of the "solas" of the Reformation: *Scripture Alone*. It also led to his own spiritual breakthrough. When he realized we are justified by grace through faith he said it was as if the gates of paradise were opened and he walked through!

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther famously nailed his *Ninety-five Theses* to the church door (i.e., public bulletin board) in Wittenberg. Remember *metanoia*? Here are the first three theses:

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" [Matthew 4:17], he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. 2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy. 3. Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortifications of the flesh.

Luther helped get these ideas back into the right order. The change in our lives grows out of the new birth and new life we have in Christ. We might say, "We are justified by faith alone. But the faith that justifies is not alone." God delivers us from the power and guilt of sin through our faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit now dwells within us. Having been born from above, "I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16 CSB). After all, "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (2:20). Amen.

Pastor Josh

grace alone
SOLA GRATIA
faith alone
SOLA FIDE
Christ alone
SOLUS CHRISTUS
scripture alone
SOLA SCRIPTURA
glory of God alone
SOLI DEO GLORIA

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends International Day of Prayer Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am	4 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	5 Election Day	6 Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time: 6pm Anniv: Ray & Melanie Evans	7	8 B-day: Stephen Cannon	9
10 Joint Officer Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Communion B-day: Martin Luther (1483)	11 Veterans Day Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Elliot Stanford	12	13 Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time: 6pm B-day: Judah McNutt	14	15	16 B-day: Joy Mackin
17 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Fellowship Potluck Christmas Cards for the Troops Due	18 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	19	20 Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time: 6pm Session Meeting: 7pm B-day: Ruth Symon B-day: Mia McNutt B-day: Nathaniel Coddington	21	22 B-day: David Coddington	23 B-day: Andrea Ward B-day: TJ Keasler
24 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am HOP: 2pm	25 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	26	27 B-day: Cindy Keasler	28 Thanksgiving Holiday	29	30

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

MEAL MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Ann Resto

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
- Monday Game Time at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday Fellowship, Study, and Prayer Time at 6:00 pm 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>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 13,223.70	\$ 94,972.87
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,699.98	\$ 81,505.38
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 5,523.72	\$ 13,467.49
<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	\$ 74,792.40
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 289.22	\$ 12,582.14

SEPTEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 42

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 3:

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

November 10:

- Joint Officer Meeting.
- Communion.

November 17: Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Cannon, Basinger and Lessmann Families.

November 20: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

November 24: Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris' home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY — PUDDLE JUMPERS:

Our Women's Ministry Council is seeking someone to serve as the coordinator for the 2025 Puddle Jumpers (PJ) event. If you are interested in filling this roll, Ann Resto will provide assistance to ease into this transition. It was decided that this request for a volunteer will be open until February 1, 2025. If we don't have anyone who wants to serve, we will contact local churches who might be interested in taking this over. This will likely mean that all future rights to hold this annual fundraiser for our women's and children's ministries will be dissolved.

The funds we receive from our annual Puddle Jumpers have been used for children's Sunday School and VBS material and any other needs to benefit our children as well as funding the videos for our women's Bible studies and other Women's Ministry needs. If there is money remaining from the previous year's PJ sale, those funds are rolled over into our "Special Funds" line item, which are used at the discretion of the Council. Recently, our special funds were used to pay for part of the kitchen renovation.

Please contact one of our Council members for more information: Melanie Evans, Patty Kirkpatrick, Karen Lashley, Beth Lashley, Betsy Carmichael, or Ann Resto.



MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW) - 30 DAYS OF PRAYER:

Please join millions around the world in praying on November 3, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, as we remember believers who suffer simply because they confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (James 5:16)

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>.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS:

All Christmas Cards for the Troops will need to be delivered to the church by **Sunday, November 17, 2024.**

2024 Angel Tree Project:

The recipients for this year's Angel Tree will be the seven children of Rev. Mitch and Amy Haubert. Mitch is the Pastor at Brent Missionary PCA, Chaplain of the Bibb County Correctional Facility, and Director of UnBound216 (formerly known as Jumpstart Alabama) prison ministry. The Angel Tree will be set up by Thanksgiving, and the deadline to deliver gifts to the church will be **Sunday, December 15, 2024.** For more information, please contact Patty Kirkpatrick.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

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

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
Heather Hall
Adam Sharpe
Bessie Malone

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.

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 2024 PCA Global Missions Conference, that God would use the conference to reignite a passion for the Great Commission.</i>	2 <i>May the Holy Spirit give spiritual hunger to the people of Glasgow, Edinburgh, and the Moray Coast of Scotland.</i>
3 <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>	4 <i>Pray the Lord would call a team leader and additional team members to join our lone missionary in Managua, Nicaragua.</i>	5 <i>Pray for new Persian believers in Europe who are coming to faith and need to connect with healthy churches and spiritual mentors.</i>	6 <i>Pray for the establishment of RUF ministries in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Stellenbosch, Cape Town, and Johannesburg, South Africa; and Blantyre, Malawi.</i>	7 <i>May the Church in Ethiopia be a compelling gospel witness to the 40 million Muslims who reside there.</i>	8 <i>Pray for God to provide teachers for Covenant Community School International in Chiba, Japan.</i>	9 <i>Pray for church planting efforts among the unreached Wolof and Fulani people of West Africa.</i>
10 <i>Germany: May the Lord raise up more pastors and may a new church plant in Freiburg thrive.</i>	11 <i>Pray for MTW's Member Care team as they care for missionaries and help them thrive in their calling and as they encourage churches to also care well.</i>	12 <i>Pray for new churches to be planted as PCA and Mexican presbyteries build relationships and work together along the U.S./Mexico border.</i>	13 <i>Italy has a lower percentage of evangelical Christians than Iran. Pray for the move of God's Spirit in this barren land.</i>	14 <i>Pray for a new movement of Reformed church growth to flourish in Rwanda and that churches will have wisdom and conviction as they navigate government regulations and restrictions.</i>	15 <i>Give thanks to God for the hundreds of thousands of Iranians who have come to faith over the last two decades. Pray for God to protect believers and draw more to Himself.</i>	16 <i>Pray for missionary kids who started college this fall, most in countries far away from their families and homes. Pray for encouragement through learning, community, and spiritual growth.</i>
17 <i>Pray for those in Turkey continuing to rebuild from last year's earthquake, and for continuation of the spiritual growth seen as a result.</i>	18 <i>Pray for God to raise up a new generation of pastors and church leaders for Japan.</i>	19 <i>Pray for teams located in the Middle East who are striving to minister well to locals amid nearby fighting.</i>	20 <i>France: Give thanks for the 50 years of Jean Calvin Seminary and its impact; pray for guidance in addressing the current decline in residential students.</i>	21 <i>Pray that the Lord would raise up new workers in locations all over the world, including Australia/New Zealand/Pacific Islands, Japan, Mexico, the Middle East, and Slovakia, to name a few.</i>	22 <i>El Salvador: Pray that young people would hunger for the truth of the gospel.</i>	23 <i>Pray for a new family as they embark to start ministry in a new location—pray that their ministry and family would thrive in their Muslim-majority context.</i>
24 <i>Pray the church plants of the Uganda Presbytery would reach the lost in their communities with the gospel.</i>	25 <i>Pray that growing networks of believers in the Middle East would thrive.</i>	26 <i>Pray for the mission in the "wheatbelt" of Western Australia as the gospel is preached among Aboriginal and rural Communities.</i>	27 <i>There is a surge of refugees in Southeast Asia; pray for the team trying to assist and minister to them.</i>	28 <i>Pray for new church planting opportunities in Sofia and Ruse, Bulgaria. And pray for wise, mature, and bold Bulgarian leadership to be raised up.</i>	29 <i>Pray for a Bible translation project in rural North Africa.</i>	30 <i>Pray for security and stability in Haiti.</i>