

A Message from the Pastor:

The school year has arrived, and the fall is quickly approaching. That means that soon the busyness of the summer will give way to the busyness of the fall. It seems like no matter what season of the year we are in, we can always guarantee that it will be busy one. This fall I want to encourage you to take time each day for God's Word. In Psalm 19, David gives us six reasons that show us why we need God's word each day.

The first reason that David tells us that we need God's word, is that God's Word **revives the soul**. In verse 7 David says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul." A lot of us have souls that feel tired, that feel care worn, and that feel anxious and sad. David tells us that the cure for this is God's word. God's word brings life to our souls.

James Montgomery Boice has this to say about it, "Therefore, no matter what our sins may have been or our problems are, the Bible is able to turn us from our sins, lead us through our problems, and both feed and enrich us so that we are able to enjoy the full benefits of spiritual life." When we feel tired, worn out, and like we don't have anything left to give, David tells us to go to God's word because it revives our soul in a way that nothing else will. Or as Jesus says in Matthew 4:4, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The second reason that David tells us that we need God's word, is that God's Word **makes wise the simple**. The second half of verse 7 says, "The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." We need God's word to teach us and to instruct us. There are a lot of moments in our lives where we may not be sure what to do, or how to understand what is happening in our lives. The good news is that God knows, and He has spoken to us through His word.

The third reason that David tells us that we need God's word, is that God's Word **makes the heart rejoice**. Verse 8 says, "The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart." A lot of the time, when we think of the Bible we think of rules. We think of restrictions. We think of God crashing our party. And here David tells us that God's laws make our heart rejoice. We were created to be in a right relationship with God. We were created to walk in His ways and to represent Him on the

earth. When we go our own way, when we pursue sin and rebellion, what we find is death. But when we return to Him, we find abundant life.

Think of the goldfish that wants freedom, and jumps out of his bowl onto the counter top. That's what we're like when we choose to break God's laws. We don't have the technology yet, but I assume that if the goldfish could talk to us, it would tell us that its heart was glad when it got put back into the water. As we read God's word and allow it to shape us and our lives, it's kind of like being put back into the water. We were made to know God and to love Him and to obey Him. And His word through the power of the Holy Spirit works in us, and as it does; it feels like coming home, and it rejoices our hearts.

The fourth reason that David tells us that we need God's word, is that God's Word **gives light to the eyes**. The second half of verse 8 says, "The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." God's word brings light into a dark world, because it's pure, it's not tainted by the darkness. God's word directs us, it guides us. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." We need God's word to pierce the darkness of sin, and to show us the right way to go.

The fifth reason that David tells us that we need God's word, is that God's Word **endures forever**. Verse 9 says, "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever." We live in a time when truth is believed to be relative. We live in a time when you can have your truth, and I can have mine. We live in a time where truth can change every few minutes.

David tells us, that God's truth endures forever. There is no change in God, and there is no change in God's word. Isaiah 40 verse 8 says, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." We need God's word in our daily lives, because it never changes. It's so easy to feel like a ship caught in the waves during these tumultuous times. We need God's unchanging word to anchor our souls.

The sixth reason that David tells us that we need God's word, is that God's Word **is better than the best things this world has to offer us**. Verse 10 says, "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

(continued to page 3)

September 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Sunday School & Youth Communicant's Class: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Katie Basinger	2 Labor Day Holiday	3 B-day: Vickie Cannon	4 Anniv: Dennis & Karen Davidson	5	6	7 B-day: Carter Bules B-day: Baby William Symon
8 Sunday School & Youth Communicant's Class: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Nadine Coddington Diaconate Meeting: 8am Communion Joint Officer Meeting: 4:30pm B-day: Olivia Tripp	9	10	11 Dinner: 5:30pm Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club: 6:15pm Choir Practice: 7pm	12	13 Mom & Me: 9:30am B-day: Bernice Cork	14
15 Sunday School & Youth Communicant's Class: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Chonda Griffith Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting: 4:30pm	16	17 B-day: Josh Huizinga B-day: Adam Mackin	18 Dinner: 5:30pm Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club: 6:15pm Choir Practice: 7pm	19 B-day: Eli Grant Basinger	20 B-day: Gabe Lawrence	21 B-day: Glenn Basinger
22 Sunday School & Youth Communicant's Class: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Jackie Tripp HOP: 2pm	23 First Day of Fall	24	25 Dinner: 5:30pm Prayer Partner Night: 6:00pm Choir Practice: 7pm B-day: Anna Caroline Dukes	26 Anniv: Peter and Beth Niehoff	27 Mom & Me: 9:30am	28 B-day: Emma Kate Atkins
29 Sunday School & Youth Communicant's Class: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Ruth Symon Deacons Fund Offering	30					

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Deacons of the Month: Glenn Basinger and Trey Griffith.

Nursery Workers: Please arrive in the nursery by 10:30 am.

Food Ministry Leader of the Month: Patty Kirkpatrick.

September 2: Labor Day Holiday.

September 8:

- Diaconate Meeting, 8:00 am.
- Choir resumes to the worship service from the summer break.
- Communion.
- Joint Diaconate and Session Meeting, 4:30pm.

Wednesday Night Gatherings:

- Our regular Wednesday Night Gatherings will resume on September 11 after the summer break. The study will be Paul Tripp's DVD series, "Forever — Why You Can't Live Without It." Please join us as we enjoy the fellowship with each other and study God's word. See page 4 for more information on this study.
- Dinner, 5:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE: sign up for dinner by Monday to ensure there will be enough food for all. Dinners are \$6.50 each or \$15.00 per family.
- Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids and Catechism Club, 6:15 pm.
- Choir Practice, 7:00 pm.

September 13 & 27:

- Mom & Me, 9:30 to 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This event is held each month on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. It is a time of fellowship for moms in the community and their kids (ages 10 and under). If you feel led to help provide a small activity for the kids, such as leading in a craft, coloring, story telling, teaching songs or playing a game, a sign up sheet is available.

September 15:

- Fellowship Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Leader: Kirkpatrick family; Committee: Davidson family and Resto family.
- Session Meeting, 4:30 pm.

September 22:

- HOP — Hooked on Prayer Meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris' home. If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you. For more information about HOP, please contact Joy Mackin.

September 25:

- Prayer Partner Night, 6:00 pm. This is a ministry that partners an adult and a child in the church where you will sit with your prayer partner at dinner, be a partner/team at game time, and then pray together. This is a wonderful way for us to strengthen the faith of our youth as we pray with and for our partner. We also will build meaningful and fun multi-generational relationships with each other. Come join the fun!

September 29:

- Deacons Fund Offering This offering is collected each 5th Sunday of the month and provides assistance to those from our church and the community who are in need.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:
IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO
SERVE FOR THE NURSERY
OR FELLOWSHIP
LUNCHEON,
PLEASE MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS TO
ENSURE THERE IS
ADEQUATE COVERAGE.**

The
WORD
of **GOD** is
LIVING
and **ACTIVE**
Hebrews 4: 12

Pastor's Message (continued from page 1)

sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb." David, who as king knew a good deal about gold and good food, tells us that God's word is better than the best things this world has to offer. And this is a challenge for us. It's easy to get up in the mornings when we know we have to go to work to make money to provide for our families. It's easy to make sure that we eat every day. It's harder to wake up 30 minutes earlier to read the Bible or to think about God's word during the day. But David tells us that God's word in our lives is more important than the money we can make and even the best food that we could eat.

The Bible is clear that we need it. But it is also clear that, we don't need it just because God told us to do it, we need it like a fish needs water. It revives our souls, it brings us joy, it makes us wise, it shows us our path, it is truth in a world that has given up on truth, and it's better than anything this world can give us. This fall we have some great opportunities to learn God's word together. We have some great opportunities to come together as His people, to learn what God's word says, and to encourage each other in it.

It's not always easy to get up for Sunday School on Sunday mornings. It's not always easy to want to go to church on Wednesday nights after a full day of work. But I want to encourage all of us, to make studying the Bible with other believers an important part of this fall. Because what we will find in God's word, is better than anything that we will find anywhere else.

Grace and Peace,
Jeff

	<u>2019</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,069.00		\$ 55,612.59
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 10,781.33		\$ 68,714.74
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (3,712.33)		\$ (13,102.15)
	<u>2018</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>2018 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 10,029.43		\$ 64,411.75
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 13,328.98		\$ 53,284.96
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (3,299.55)		\$ 11,126.79

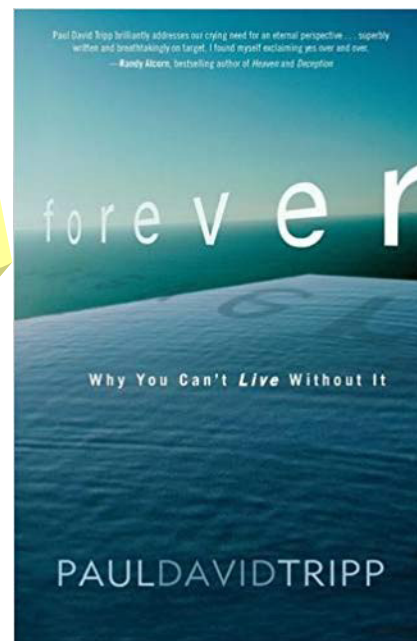
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

The Adult Bible Study will be a DVD series, "Forever: Why You Can't Live Without It," by Paul Tripp. This study will help us face the disappointments of everyday life by giving us practical insights on how eternity impacts our deepest struggles.

NEW: Catechism Club will be for children, age 3 through 5th grade. It will be a time of music, catechism lessons and games. If you would like to help by being part of the teaching rotation for this class, please let Jeff know.

Covenant Kids will be the class for all kids not participating in the Catechism Club.

BEGINS
Wed, Sept. 11th
6:15pm



COMMUNICANT'S CLASS

This new class will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour through September 29th.

A Communicant's Class is a class that is designed to lead our young people through the basics of our faith and the gospel as preparation for their joining our church as communing members. This class is open to all youth who have expressed interest in joining our church and to others who have already joined but who have never been through a Communicant's Class. All youth are welcome to join in. If your student has already been through a Communicant's Class and does not wish to go through a second one, there will be other classes available for them to attend.

The following is a schedule of classes:

- 9/1 - Understanding Your Faith: Up Close and Personal
- 9/8 - Basic Training: A Look at the Basics of What We Believe
- 9/15 - Why do We Baptize Babies? And Other Good Questions
- 9/22 - The Church: Isn't it Just a Building?
- 9/29 - Getting Down to Business: The Organization of the Church

Please let Jeff know if your student would like to join or if you have any questions about the class.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate Nick and Lindsay Symon on the arrival of their first baby William Cooper Symon, born on August 24th; he weighed 8 pounds and was 19.5 inches long. Our joy extends to grandparents Billy and Ruth Symon for the newest addition to their family.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

It has been our tradition each year to send Christmas cards to the men and women serving in the military, who are deployed overseas and who will be away from their families during the Christmas holiday season.

Cards can be either purchased or homemade — but no glitter, please. Your personal message inside gives them encouragement and hope that the birth of Jesus brings.



Please make sure to deliver your cards to First Presbyterian Church, Demopolis, by **November 15, 2019** to process for overseas delivery.

For by
GRACE

you have been saved through

FAITH and this is not from
your own doing;

it is the gift of God

Ephesians 2: 8

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

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 Evangelist
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Beth Acton	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Nineveh
General Support	Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Sewing Project	Isaiah 55 — Reynosa, Mexico

Hooked On Prayer (HOP):

Allinder, Ike	Harstad, Paula
Allinder, Kate	Hart, Sarah Elizabeth
Bazuin, Caiden	Harvey, John
Beeler, Peggy	Hayes, Betsy
Belcher, Samuel	Hocker, Jeannie
Boggs, Ben	Hogg, Ian
Brantley, Maggie	Hoggle, Judy
Brooker, Chrissy	Holman, Joann
Brooker, Jan	Hooks, Chesnee
Bules, Jaimee	Husbands, Jennie
Busby, Rhae	Hux, Karen
Coker, Jean	Ivy, Kendall
Collins, Brandon	Jennifer (Missionary)
Copeland, Roy	Jowers, Walter
Cross, Margaret	Leascher, Chad
Crispin, Michelle	Leascher, Jim
Daugherty, Jody	Lessman, Linus
Davidson, Karen	Ligon, Brandon
Duncan, Conner	Lockett, Joanne
Dunning, Norbourne	McCraw, Beverly
Dyer, Doug	McIntier, Jodie
Eatmon, Megan	Miller, Tommie
Eshee, Judy	Mills, Angel
Ezell, Bobby	Morgan, Laura
Farst, Dick	Mutisya, Cecilia Ndunge
Finley, Betty	Pickerill, Paula
Grace, Hope	Plummer, Kaegan

Reeves, Bob
Reynolds, Christy
Sakon, Ethan
Sall, Terry
Sharp, Chris
Sharp, Newt
Sims, Anna Katherine
Sims, Sarah
Stemple, Nita
Stephens, Kay
Stephens, Ronnie
Taylor, Marie
TenHaaf, WM
Thornton, Alaina
Tipton, Carolyn
VanderMolen, Popko
West, Beth
Williams, Mary Lynne
Williamson, Trevor
Wise, Naomi
Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Womble, Caleb
Wright, Hettie



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Jody Daugherty
 Luke (Jonah's son)
 Kaleigh Craig
 Scott Kirkpatrick
 Heather Wilson
 Maggie Brantley

Illness:

Carolyn Tipton
 Ian Hogg
 Dick Farst
 Laura Morgan
 Neal Bules
 David Headley
 Allen Hammond

Special Needs:

Liz Bond
 Sarah Elizabeth Hart
 Frank Ramey
 Viola Cook
 William R. Horton
 Baby Oliver Sullivan
 The Hutton Family

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
 Sam Brasfield
 Steven Mackin
 Victor Resto
 Josh Allums
 Joseph Wilson
 Josh Tyson
 Blake Ivy

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Huizinga
 Courtney Coddington

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.