

A Message from the Pastor:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23, is a Psalm written by King David, and David was a man, who throughout his life faced some tremendous hardships and faced a number of powerful enemies. He knew what it was like to fear and as the Lord continued to sustain him and to protect him, he learned to trust God to provide for him. Psalm 23 is a declaration of that trust and confidence in the Lord. And it's the strength of David's declaration of trust in the Lord in this Psalm that has made Psalm 23 so incredibly popular.

Psalm 23 is quoted by soldiers on battlefields, it's read over the ill or dying, it's memorized by children, and it comforts the elderly. This Psalm gives comfort to those who are confronting some of the most difficult experiences or seasons of their lives. And since we live in a world that is unfortunately full of reasons to be afraid, we need to learn from David to find comfort and peace in the knowledge that our God will provide for us. As we consider the truths of Psalm 23, I want to give us two ways that this knowledge shapes how we live.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

First, when you are confident that the Lord is your shepherd, you can stop trying to be your own shepherd. The reality is that you and I aren't qualified to be our own shepherds. When we try to be, we are filled with fear and anxiety because we don't actually have the power to provide for our own physical needs. We don't have the ability to know all things and aren't able to lead ourselves down right paths. We aren't powerful enough to keep ourselves safe from harm. We aren't able to keep ourselves from being overwhelmed by the fear of harm. We certainly have no control over the future. Psalm 23 tells us that we can stop trying to be our own shepherds. We have a shepherd, who loves us, and who has all the power to take care of us. We can stop trying to be our own shepherd.

Second, Psalm 23 tells us to place our trust in our good shepherd. One of the beautiful things about this Psalm is that in John 10, Jesus takes up the language of this Psalm, and calls himself the Good Shepherd. In John 10:11-14 Jesus says, **“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”**

Jesus came, and is our Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. Our merciful and gracious Lord, who we are told is slow to anger, abounding in



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <u>Dinner:</u> 5:30pm <u>Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club:</u> 6:15pm <u>Choir Practice:</u> 7pm	3	4	5
6 <u>Sunday School:</u> 10am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>Nursery:</u> Amanda Bryant	7	8 <u>WM/WIC AM Circle:</u> 9:30am <u>Lunch Bunch:</u> 11:15am <u>WM/WIC Council Meeting:</u> 4:30pm <u>WM/WIC PM Circle:</u> 7pm	9 <u>Dinner:</u> 5:30pm <u>Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club:</u> 6:15pm <u>Choir Practice:</u> 7pm <u>B-day:</u> Allison Ward	10	11	12
13 <u>Sunday School:</u> 10am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>Nursery:</u> Allison Ward <u>Officer Appreciation Breakfast:</u> 8am <u>Diaconate Meeting:</u> 8am <u>Communion</u>	14	15	16 <u>Dinner:</u> 5:30pm <u>Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club:</u> 6:15pm <u>Choir Practice:</u> 7pm <u>B-day:</u> Tyree Tripp	17	18	19 <u>B-day:</u> Alan Lashley <u>B-day:</u> Eloise Coddington
20 <u>Sunday School:</u> 10am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>Nursery:</u> Joy Mackin <u>Fellowship Luncheon</u> <u>Session Meeting:</u> 4:30pm <u>B-day:</u> T.M. Culpepper III	21	22 <u>B-day:</u> Sam Yeager	23 <u>Dinner:</u> 5:30pm <u>Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club:</u> 6:15pm <u>Choir Practice:</u> 7pm <u>B-day:</u> Melanie Evans	24 <u>Anniv:</u> Alan & Karen Lashley	25 <u>Anniv:</u> Stephen & Vickie Cannon	26
27 <u>Sunday School:</u> 10am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>Nursery:</u> Katie Basinger <u>HOP:</u> 2pm	28	29 <u>B-day:</u> Sadie Atkins <u>Anniv:</u> Neil & Jaimee Bules <u>Anniv:</u> Jeff & Amanda Bryant	30 <u>B-day:</u> Tiffany Mackin	31		

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Deacons of the Month: Ray Evans and TJ Keasler.

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

Food Ministry Leader of the Month: Melanie Evans.

Wednesday Night Gatherings:

- Dinner, 5:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE: sign up for dinner each week 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.

October 8:

- Women’s Ministry/WIC Morning Circle Study, 9:30 am.
- Lunch Bunch, 11:15 am at Stacy’s Café.
- Women’s Ministry/WIC Council Meeting, 4:30 pm.
- Women’s Ministry/WIC Evening Circle Study, 7:00 pm.
- PLEASE NOTE: Both the Morning Circle and Evening Circle will continue in the book, “Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of Who We are in Christ,” which we did not finish before the summer break.

October 13:

- Diaconate Meeting, 8:00 am.
- Officer Appreciation Breakfast, 8:00 am.
- Communion.

October 20:

- Fellowship Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Leader: Weltin family; Committee: Tripp family and Evans family.
- Session Meeting, 4:30 pm.

October 27:

- 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.

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

(Pastor’s Message continued from page 1)

steadfast love and faithfulness, keeps steadfast love for thousands, forgives iniquity and transgression and sin, but by no means He would clear the guilty. Our Lord told us that he would visit the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation. He put our iniquity and our punishment upon His own Son. Jesus laid down His life for us, so that all of us, who like sheep have gone astray, can be forgiven for our sins, and be reconciled to our Good Shepherd.

God has proven over and over again that our fearful hearts can rest knowing that we really can trust Him to provide for us. Romans 8:32 says, **“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”** God gave us His Son, the most precious thing that He could give us to make a way for us to be forgiven; to provide us with a future where we can dwell in His house forever; to provide us with a confidence, that we are His people, and that all of His promises apply to us as well. The good news is that the Lord is our shepherd, and we have been told that we shall not want. He will provide for our needs in this life and in the next. So let us continue to rest our hearts in the care of our good shepherd.

Grace and Peace,
- Jeff

Let the peace of
Christ
rule in your hearts.
Colossians 3:15

<u>2019</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,081.50	\$ 62,694.09
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,656.26	\$ 77,371.00
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (1,574.76)	\$ (14,676.91)
<u>2018</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>2018 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,109.00	\$ 71,520.75
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 9,681.11	\$ 62,966.07
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,572.11)	\$ 8,554.68



Dear Church Family,

It is that time of the year again, classes have begun at Isaiah 55 (I55) School for the Deaf, and the Vocational Education Program has also started. This means that on October 9th I will begin my first session with the sewing students.

The project chosen by the students for this year is a romper/jumpsuit with a zippered front, drawstring casing at the waist, two styles of pockets plus a hood. Several new skills will be learned including making a hood, side seam pockets, setting in sleeves, and buttonholes at the waist to name a few. They will be making this pattern 3 times in three ways; first will be capri or short length pants, second will be long pants with long sleeves, and third will be an adaptation of the pattern making a hooded bathrobe.

In addition to the project for this year, we are continuing to make several items that are for resale in the USA. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, a church in Nebraska has partnered with I55 to have the students make certain products that the church will sell in their annual sale. This went well last year, and the students have made quite a few more dog toys, sets of veggie bags, toy bags for traveling, and catnip mice.



Please pray for myself and the team there as we witness Christ's love to those who we are blessed to serve. Pray also for all the prep work that needs to be done, for all the students, for my ability to switch from a non-hearing class to a faster paced hearing class, for my energy level, for Phil and I as we are separated, and for health and safety. Phil and I will leave October 2 to drive the 5th wheel to McAllen so that I have a place to stay on weekends.

Needs for the 2019-2020 school year include the following: clean worn jeans, clean worn work pants (these are used to make dog toys), thread in any color but especially white spools for both the sewing and serging machines, 3+ yards of long pieces of fleece fabric.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Phil and I as well as the Isaiah 55 ministries.

As ever, in Christ,
Joyce Huizinga

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.



There are about **45 days** left to get your Christmas Cards for the Troops ready!

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.