# First Presbyterian Church, P.C.A.

November 2019

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# A Message from the Pastor:

When we think of November, we tend to think of the Thanksgiving Holiday. For many of us, that might mean spending a day watching football and eating too much food with our extended family. For some of us, it means long car trips to see distant relations. For some of us, it means remembering family and friends as we gather together. For some of us, it means getting up in the middle of the night in the hopes of getting some good deals on Christmas gifts.

Thanksgiving can mean many different things to us, but one thing that it means for all of us, is that it reminds us to give thanks for all that we have. We give thanks for another year of life. We give thanks for the Lord's provision. We give thanks for the arrival of cooler weather. We give thanks for our friends and family. At Thanksgiving, we stand up and tell each other what we're thankful for. And for some of us this is easy, but for others of us, we may be in a place where it is difficult to find something for which we're truly thankful.

This summer we studied the story of Ruth on Sunday mornings, right now we're studying the book of James, and on Wednesday nights we're learning about living with a "Forever" mindset. And in each of these studies we have seen in these passages, that the Bible is clear that we are guaranteed hardship and suffering as we go through this life. And unfortunately, very few of us need much convincing of this truth, because we are all living this truth.

We're living this truth in our homes, or in our work, or in our relationships, or even just in our awareness of the world around us. When the Scriptures tell us that we should expect to suffer in this life, it is easy for us to agree with this truth. However, it isn't easy for us to be thankful for this truth. This past Wednesday night in our study, Paul Tripp told us that Jesus will take us places where we never intended to go in order to produce in us what we could not achieve on our own. But he also told us that when Jesus brings us to these moments, of what he calls "uncomfortable grace," Jesus remains with us. In our hardest moments we can know that Jesus Christ is still in charge and that He has not abandoned us.

This November, we can be thankful for the truth, that in every hard moment we have faced in the past 12 months, there has not been a second when Jesus Christ has lost control of this universe or abandoned His people. This Thanksgiving, when it's our turn to stand at the table and to share what we're thankful for, remember that we can always be thankful for Jesus who has said in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Grace and Peace, Jeff

# **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has
blessed us in the heavenly realms with
every spiritual blessing in Christ.
Ephesians 1: 3



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11m Nursery: Nadine Coddington International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church	4 <u>B-day</u> : Joel Coddington	5	6 <u>Dinner</u> : 5:30pm <u>Prayer Partner Night</u> : 6:15pm <u>Choir Practice</u> : 7pm <u>Anniv</u> : Ray & Melanie Evans	7	8  Youth Fun Night  B-day: Stephen Cannon	9
10 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Chonda Griffith Diaconate Meeting: 8am Communion Baby Shower for Baby Coddington: 2pm	11  Veterans Day	12 WM/WIC AM Circle: 9:30am Lunch Bunch: 11:15am WM/WIC PM Circle: 7pm	13  Dinner: 5:30pm  Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club: 6:15pm  Choir Practice: 7pm B-day: Judah McNutt	14	15 <u>Deadline</u> : Christmas  Cards for the Troops	16 B-day: Joy Mackin
17 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Jackie Tripp Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting: 4:30pm	18	19	20 Dinner: 5:30pm Adult Bible Study, Covenant Kids & Catechism Club: 6:15pm Choir Practice: 7pm B-day: Ruth Symon B-day: Mia McNutt B-day: Nathaniel Coddington	21	22 <u>B-day</u> : David Coddington	23 <u>B-day</u> : TJ Keasler <u>B-day</u> : Andrea Ward
24 Sunday School: 10am Worship: 11am Nursery: Ruth Symon HOP: 2pm	25	26	27 <u>B-day</u> : Cindy Keasler <u>Church Office Closed</u>	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	29  Church Office Closed	30 <u>B-day</u> : Stephanie  Dukes

### **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER**

**Deacons of the Month**: Ray Evans and T.J. Keasler.

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

Food Ministry Leader of the Month: Ruth Symon.

### Wednesday Night Gatherings:

- <u>Dinner</u>, 5:30 pm. PLEASE NOTE: sign up for dinner each week by <u>Monday</u> 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.

### November 3:

- Daylight Saving Time Ends.
- <u>International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church</u>. More information from the Mission to the World (MTW) and their 30-days of Prayer Calendar are provided on pages 4 and 5.

### November 6

- Prayer Partner Pizza Dinner, 5:30 pm.
- Prayer Partner Game Time, 6:00 pm.
- What is Prayer Partner Night? This is a ministry that partners an adult and
  a child in the church. Partners sit together at dinner, are partners at game
  time, and then pray together. This is a wonderful way to strengthen the
  faith of our youth as we pray with and for our partners as well as build fun
  multi-generational relationships with each other. Come out and join the
  fun!

### November 8:

 Youth Fun Night — The boys will go camping and the girls will have a sleepover.

### November 10:

- Diaconate Meeting, 8:00 am.
- Communion.
- Baby Shower for Courtney and Joel Coddington, 2:00 to 3:30 pm.

### November 12:

- Women's Ministry/WIC Morning Circle Study, 9:30 am.
- <u>Lunch Bunch</u>, 11:15 am at Pizza Hut.
- Women's Ministry/WIC Evening Circle Study, 7:00 pm.
- Both the Morning Circle and Evening Circle studies will continue in the book, "Identity Theft: Reclaiming the Truth of Who We are in Christ." This month's study will be on the final chapter of the book. Our next study material will be announced.

### November 15:

• <u>Christmas Cards for the Troops</u>. Don't forget to get the cards for the troops turned in to the church office! We want to have these in the mail before Thanksgiving so they are received overseas before Christmas.

### November 17:

- <u>Fellowship Luncheon</u>, immediately following the worship service. Leader: Symon family; Committee: Cannon family and Basinger family.
- Session Meeting, 4:30 pm.

### November 24:

• <u>HOP</u> — 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.



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

# Support First Presbyterian Church.

When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

# amazonsmile

Thanks for supporting our church!

If you shop with Amazon please remember to shop through **smile.amazon.com** and select First Presbyterian Church, Demopolis, AL as your charity.

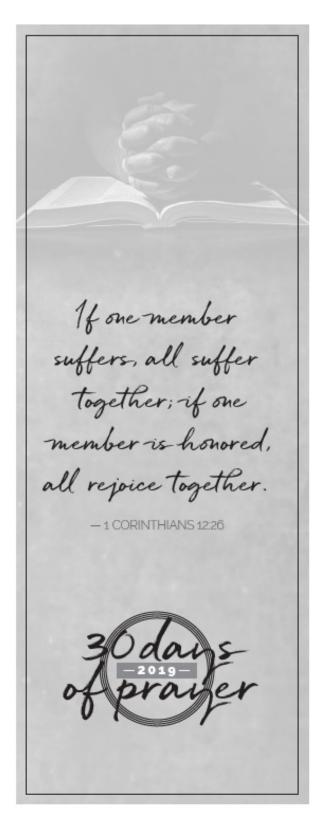
Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to your selected charity.

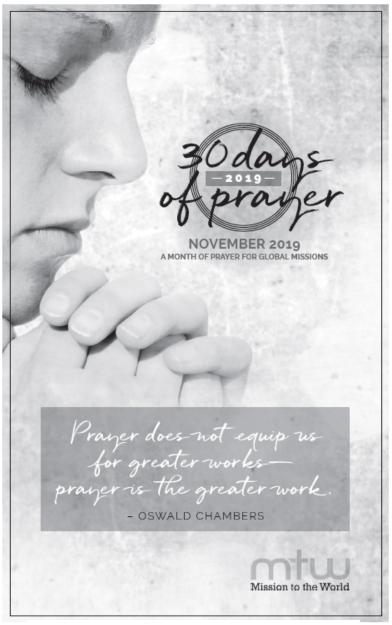
To date in 2019 our church has received \$46.00 from AmazonSmile. Every donation helps!

If you want more information or need help getting your charity set up, please contact Ann at the church office.

<u>2019</u>	<u>SEP</u>	2019 YTD	
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 10,008.35	\$ 72,702.44	
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,743.97	\$ 86,114.97	
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,264.38	\$ (13,412.53)	
<u>2018</u>	<u>SEP</u>	2018 YTD	
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,823.27	\$ 81,344.02	
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,757.55	\$ 71,723.62	
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,065.72	\$ 9,620.40	

# Mission to the World





# We at MTW covet your prayers. They're even more vital than what we do on the field.

This calendar provides guidance for praying for the work of the gospel, especially in restricted-access countries.

Keep praying—don't stop. We encourage you to use this calendar month after month. And visit mtw.org/pray throughout the year for more prayer requests.



International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church – November 3, 2019

"You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry. — PSALM 10:17

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.

### The Invisible Workers

For their safety, our missionaries who work where there is great opposition to the gospel rarely publicize their needs or names. But they yearn for your prayers. As you pray through the calendar, please pray for these workers, asking God to use them in the strategic places where He has placed them and to protect their families.

Please note that in the calendar, prayer requests with 

this icon are for restricted access ministries.

East Asia: For missionaries from multiple organizations who have had to leave the country because of denied/ revoked visas and increased pressure from authorities.

Pray for an end to the extensive violence in Cape Town, South Africa. Ask God to protect our workers and ministries there.

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Pray for believers in réstricted-

Ask God to give

them persever-

and boldness.

ance, protection,

that ministry through the arts will continue to blossom, and French people access countries would see the being persecuted beauty of God. for their faith.

France:

Pray for church-planting efforts in the Arab world. Praise God for many new believers. Pray for their commitment to the church and for God to raise up pastors.

New leadership development training has been launched in Europe. Pray that it would provide field personnel with necessary tools for effective gospel ministry.

Iranian refugees are going all over Europe and often seek out Christian churches wherever they go. Please pray for MTW efforts to minister to these new believers. (2)

Bogota, Colombia: that the gospel would pierce the hearts and minds of university students through our partnership with RUF.

Pray for God to call people who are willing to use their job skills among unreached people groups in the Middle East. @

Pray for the new churchplanting work in Nagoya, Japan: for many contacts and relationships, and wisdom for our missionaries as they estab-

Ask God to call many new workers for opportunities in the Muslim world. The fields are ripe for harvest, but more workers are needed!

Zimbabwe: Pray for our missionaries, national partners, and churches who are dealing with severe political and economic distress, making ministry difficult.

Pray for our workers to develop good friendships with Muslims who are interested in learning about the gospel and are being called to Christ.

Bulgaria: for spiritual growth, church revitalization, and new churches being planted. Also pray for strong national pastors with servants' hearts.

Pray for new workers on the field in the Far East and West Africa: for encouragement and for quick adjustment in these new contexts.

Pray for the advance of God's kingdom and church growth among First Nations and Native American people. Pray for relationships of trust to grow.

Pray for healing for several families working with Muslims who are facing serious health issues. 🕖

lish it.

Pray for two families as they begin ministry in Belize. Pray for church planting, church nurture, theological training, and leadership development.

Ask God to work within PCA churches to send workers to serve with church partners in Asia, to establish & strengthen Presbyterian churches in Muslim areas.

Pray for a newlyformed Oceanic partnership to reach Central Polynesia and Melanesiathat God would provide financial resources and new missionaries.

For the Indigenous church in East Asia undergoing persecution: churches and theological libraries torn down, leaders questioned and imprisoned. 🕖

Ethlopia: Pray as our team plants a church and expands its mercy ministry. Ask for wisdom as they work to help people spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Middle East: Pray for newly arrived workers to quickly acquire language and culture and develop new relationships. (6)

Greece: for wisdom and discernment in the multifaceted ministry to refugees.

Pray for new believers in the Arab Gulf who want to share their faith but struggle with fear.

Pray for the theological training and leadership development of national church leaders taking place in the **Dominican** Republic, Halti. Cuba, Bahamas, and Grenada.

Ask God to bless the work of MTW member care team members who are helping to support and encourage workers in the Muslim world.

Pray for our Next team as they serve around the world to engage the next generation with the gospel and equip them for service in the Church.

Pray for the Rohingya **Initiative** as we partner with a local church to begin a community center for Rohingya refugees in their Southeast Asian city.

Scotland: Pray for spiritual awakening among the Scottish people. Ask God to raise up new pastors to serve the church there.

PLEASE DO NOT POST. Requests with this icon are about sensitive fields and workers.

God works through your prayers.





There are about 15 days left to get your Christmas Cards for the Troops ready!

### **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.





### **OUR VETERANS**

U.S.	Air	Force

Victor Resto 2015-present 1982-1989 Keith Yeager

### U.S. Army

Neil Bules (Rangers)

T.M. Culpepper 1953-1955 **Dennis Davidson** 1970-1979 Jimmy Mackin 1966-1969 Ozzy Resto 1984-1990 Ann Resto 1987-1991 Bill Weltin 1970-1972

### **U.S. Marine Corps**

**Christopher Gill** 1995-2006

### **U.S. Navy**

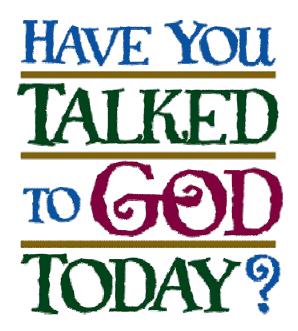
Phil Huizinga 1966-1970 Phillip Huizinga 1992-2000 2002-2008 Josh Huizinga Alan Lashley 1970-1972



### **Five Ways to Pray for Veterans:**

**To feel honored** — let no one feel forgotten. **To be understood** — let no one feel alone. **To be healed** — for mental and physical healing. **To be rewarded** — to be blessed for sacrifice and service. To have a saving knowledge of Jesus — that they might have joy in God's presence and have the peace that passes all understanding.

> "Be strong and courageous, for the Lord will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



## Please Pray for our Faith Promise Missionaries

**Robert & Lisa Stewart** Andy & Bey Warren Doug McNutt

Aaron & Leticia Zapata Chaplain Ministry Jimmy & Nadia Dukes

Beth Acton Joy Ayabe

Clete Hux

Jonah & Jennifer **General Support General Support** 

**Sewing Project** 

Mission to the World — Japan Mission to the World — Ethiopia

Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist

Mission to North America — Mexico

Mission to North America

Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL

Frontiers - Nineveh

Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL

Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS

Isaiah 55 — Reynosa, Mexico

# **Hooked On Prayer (HOP):**

Allinder, Ike Allinder, Kate Bazuin, Caiden Beeler, Peggy Belcher, Samuel Boggs, Ben

Brantley, Maggie Brooker, Chrissy Brooker, Jan

Bryant, Jessica Bules, Jaimee Busby, Rhae

Chambless, Sherri

Coker, Jean Collins, Brandon Cook, Patricia

Copeland, Roy Cross, Margaret Crispin, Michelle

Curry, Walter Daughtery, Jody

Davidson, Karen Duncan, Conner

Dunning, Norbourne

Dyer, Doug Eatmon, Megan

Eshee, Judy

Farst, Dick Finley, Betty Grace, Hope

Harstad, Paula

Hart, Sarah Elizabeth Harvey, John

Hayes, Betsy Hocker, Jeannie

Hogg, lan Hoggle, Judy Holman, Joann Hooks, Chesnee

Husbands, Jennie Hux, Karen

Ivy, Kendall

Jennifer (Missionary)

Jowers, Walter Lane, Barbara Leascher, Chad Leascher, Jim Lessman, Linus Lewis, Kathy Ligon, Brandon

Lockett, Joanne McCraw, Beverly McIntier, Jodie

Miller, Tommie

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.

Mills, Angel

Morgan, Laura

Pendegrass, Lois Pickerill, Paula

Plummer, Kaegan

Reeves, Bob

Reynolds, Christy Sakon, Ethan

Sall, Terry

Sharp, Chris

Sims, Anna Katherine

Sims, Sarah Stemple, Nita Stephens, Kay Stephens, Ronnie

Taylor, Marie TenHaaf, WM Thornton, Alaina Tipton, Carolyn VanderMolen, Popko

West, Beth Wise, Naomi

Witherspoon, Mary Stewart

Womble, Caleb Wright, Hettie



### **OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

### 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 Francis Mahaffey 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**