

THE SESSION'S MESSAGE

October brings us within 30 days of the national election. An election that, for all intents and purposes, will decide the direction of this great nation for the next four years and possibly even longer. We have been witnesses to the division of our elected officials. However, remember that it is we the people that select or reject a particular candidate. So many times, we see that the politician is long on promises and short on delivery of those promises.

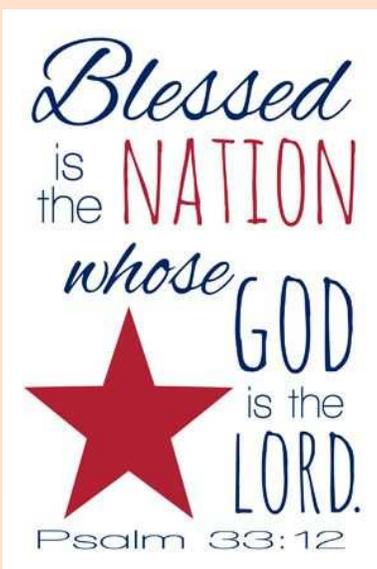
In the Capitol of Washington D.C., there was a quiet little chapel with only a dozen or so chairs. Soft light glowed through a miniature stained-glass window to shine on the Altar of all Faiths. It was here that was reported in a late 1960s newspaper column, Eugene Carr told of how two congressmen of different political parties and opposing viewpoints sat in the chapel one afternoon in such deep meditation that they were unaware of each other. Then, as if on a signal, they rose almost simultaneously, and without speaking to each other went to the floor of the House.

Later that same day, one of the men proposed an amendment to a heatedly debated bill. To his surprise, the other congressman stood in enthusiastic support of the change. The amendment passed, a decent bill was improved, and needed legislation became law.

Now, more than ever we need the calming, uniting force of the Holy Spirit among our men and women on Capitol Hill. In quiet stillness, people can be so "filled with God's spirit, with wisdom, understanding, and ability" that they are enabled to forget self, forget polarizing divisions and material interests, and determine to do what is best for all.

Pray for willingness to serve God as a good and faithful servant, seeking peace with others in as far as it depends on you. After prayerful consideration go and exercise your right to vote in November.

God bless you all,
Dennis



"Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

1 Kings 3: 9

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

1 Timothy 2: 1-2

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|-----|--|------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 B-day: Allison Ward | 10 |
| 11 Diaconate Meeting: 9am Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Communion | 12 Columbus Day Holiday | 13 Women's Ministry Council Meeting: 4:30pm | 14 | 15 | 16 B-day: Tyree Tripp | 17 |
| 18 Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Session Meeting: 4:30pm | 19 B-day: Alan Lashley B-day: Eloise Coddington | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 B-day: Melanie Evans | 24 Anniv: Alan & Karen Lashley |
| 25 Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 B-day: Sadie Atkins Anniv: Jeff & Amanda Bryant | 30 B-day: Tiffany Mackin | 31 Reformation Day |

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Stephen Cannon and TJ Keasler.

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Ruth Symon.

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS: Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

| <u>2020</u> | <u>AUGUST</u> | <u>2020 YTD</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Gen. Fund Contributions | \$ 10,348.00 | \$ 68,809.86 |
| Gen. Fund Expenses | \$ 4,691.08 | \$ 62,444.57 |
| Net Gain (Loss) | \$ 5,656.92 | \$ 6,365.29 |
| <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) |

OCTOBER 31: REFORMATION DAY

What is Reformation Day? It is the day the light of the gospel broke forth out of darkness. Martin Luther, a scholar, took quill in hand, dipped it in his inkwell and penned his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. These were intended to spark a debate, to stir some soul-searching among his fellow brothers in the church. The 95 Theses sparked far more than a debate. The 95 Theses also revealed the church was far beyond rehabilitation. It needed a reformation. The church, and the world, would never be the same.



One of Luther's 95 Theses simply declares, **"The Church's true treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ."** That alone is the meaning of Reformation Day.

(excerpt taken from Ligonier Ministry: What Is Reformation Day? from Stephen Nichols Oct 31, 2019 Category: Articles)
<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-is-reformation-day/>

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

We hope you will help support our Christmas Cards for the Troops annual event. Start planning now to prepare your cards. All cards will need to be delivered to the church by November 22nd.

Let family and friends know about our annual project! We welcome cards from everyone.

(For homemade cards: please do not use glitter.)



Support First Presbyterian Church.

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

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazon
smile

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 2020 our church has received **\$45.00** 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.

10 Things to Do During Tumult

The only constant in missions is change. The only certainties in life are death, taxes, and suffering. Though I know these things, the storms of change and suffering catch me unawares every time.

Why am I so unprepared?

The COVID-19 crisis has baffled most of us. We live from day to day reading travel alerts, government posts, and work-related updates. From the realists among us I hear a collective, "I told you it would be like this. This is just the beginning." Though I am an optimist, I still find myself crying, "How long, O Lord? When will this end?"

In order to be more prepared, I've composed a top 10 list of things to do when storms hit, tumult overwhelms, and I feel anchorless.

1. Look around. Suffering shouldn't surprise us (1 Peter 4:12). We follow in the footsteps of Christ. His path was marred by suffering. When He invited us to follow Him, He invited us to participate in His mission, life, hope, grace, glory and, yes, suffering.

2. Look through. To see by faith means you've got the right glasses on. Hebrews 2:2 reminds us we need to see the unseen. Normal eyesight isn't enough. Your natural gaze will convince you that you are *Waiting for Godot*. The truth is He is nearer than you can imagine. No tear falls without His notice. His affection runs deep for those who suffer.

3. Look in. Circumstantial storms like a global pandemic are like a crucible—they burn away all the masks and makeup I've applied to my heart and reveal what I'm really made of. James calls this the testing of our hearts (James 1:2). When tested, where do you turn? Are you shocked by the state of your heart, or shocked by the radical love of Christ for you?

4. Look up. Remember God's reminder to Job (Job 38-42). God is God. You're not. Clenched fist needs to give way to bent knees. Humility before the Sovereign One can quiet the most restless soul.

5. Look behind. Look behind the curtain of your life and confess the sin you see. This should be a daily discipline. When we fail to do this with sincerity, we diminish the significance of the cross—we yawn at rather than yearn for Jesus' cleansing work.

6. Look back. Read the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 39-53 and John 10-21. The astounding thing about the King you follow is that He entered into your suffering and you can enter into His.

7. Look clearly. Speak honestly and frequently to the Lord. It may be a weak groan, an exasperated sigh, or a loud scream. Sometimes it's a simple "amen" you speak when someone you love reads a psalm. That may be all you can muster. Keep speaking.

8. Look expectantly. I love the reminder that Michael Card gives us in his song "In the Wilderness." God doesn't just call the wayward and wandering to the wilderness—He calls His sons and daughters. Then comes the line I love. Tumult doesn't mean you are lost. In fact, "wandering in the wilderness is the best way to be found." Look expectantly for God to meet you in wilderness we call tumult. He often meets His children there.

9. Look searchingly. Seek out those who have suffered and listen to their stories. Read their books. Download their podcasts. Watch their movies. Tumult isolates us. COVID-19 is distancing us. Don't let it. You are never alone. In listening to others' stories let your heart be moved to tears of compassion. Let their stories remind you the great Story of Redemption is still true.

10. Look ahead. Psalm 84 reminds us that we are on a journey. Your footsteps may be sprinkled with tears and blood, but they lead down a path which ends at a temple. In Revelation the temple gives way to the Garden City of our God, in which His presence and power drives out all tumult forever.

I tend to go deaf and blind in storms. I hear my own words as spoken through a megaphone and ignore the words of Scripture, the sacraments, from listening prayer, from fellow believers, and the community of faith. We were never meant to weather storms alone. We have been given people both modern and ancient to help us see rightly.

David Stoddard is MTW's international director for Europe. David Stoddard, [Reflection](#) Sep 1, 2020

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 — Undisclosed Muslim Country |
| General Support | Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center — Demopolis, AL |
| General Support | Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS |

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

- Allinder, Ike
 Allinder, Kate
 Bazuin, Caiden
 Beale, Amy
 Beeler, Peggy
 Belcher, Samuel
 Brantley, Maggie
 Brooker, Chrissy
 Brooker, Jan
 Bryant, Jessica
 Burkett, Holly
 Busby, Rhae
 Bynum, Linda
 Coker, Jean
 Craig, Noah
 Curry, Walter
 Dale, Kelly
 Daugherty, Jody
 Davidson, Karen
 DeWitt, Robert
 Duncan, Conner
 Dunning, Norbourne
 Dyer, Doug
 Eshee, Judy
 Farst, Sharon
 Finley, Betty
 Fleming, Joe

- Harstad, Paula
 Hart, Sarah Elizabeth
 Haubert, Chloe Belle
 Hayes, Betsy
 Hocker, Jeannie
 Hogg, Ian
 Hoggle, Judy
 Holman, Joann
 Hooks, Chesnee
 Husbands, Jennie
 Hux, Karen
 Ivy, Kendall
 Jennifer (Missionary)
 Keasler, Jo Anne
 Kelly, Dale
 Lane, Barbara
 Leascher, Chad
 Lewis, Kathy
 Ligon, Brandon
 Lockett, Joanne
 Mackin, Jimmy
 McCraw, Beverly
 McIntier, Jodie
 Morgan, Laura
 Mutisya, Cecilia
 Parr, Higley
 Pickerill, Paula

- Plummer, Kaegan
 Reynolds, Christy
 Sakon, Ethan
 Sall, Terry
 Segura, Chris
 Sharp, Chris
 Sims, Anna Katherine
 Sims, Sarah
 Spree, Thed
 Taylor, Marie
 TenHaaf, WM
 Thornton, Alaina
 VanderMolen, Popko
 Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
 Womble, Caleb
 Wright, Hettie



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

- Jody Daugherty
 Luke (Jonah's son)
 Scott Kirkpatrick
 Maggie Brantley
 Jimmy Mackin

Illness:

- Ian Hogg
 Laura Morgan
 Neal Bules
 David Headley

Special Needs:

- Liz Bond
 Sarah Elizabeth Hart
 Viola Cook
 William R. Horton
 The Hutton Family

Military Personnel:

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

Expectant Mothers:

- Janie Basinger
 Kristen Resto

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.