

THE SESSION'S MESSAGE

Looking back, all I can say is, "What a year!" A pandemic, a very contentious presidential election, even as I write this, it has yet to be decided. Worship via Zoom. We never missed a Lord's Day. God has always made a way for us to gather together and offer up our praise and adoration. Our pastor, Jeff Bryant, felt led by the Spirit to accept a position in another church, and we were once again left without a full-time pastor. But God always provides, and He made a way for Doug McNutt to fill in as our pulpit supply. We are truly blessed. God has protected us from this virus. I do not know of anyone in our congregation that has contracted COVID-19, Praise God. I for one am looking forward to the day when we can resume those activities that we enjoyed so much like, potluck dinners and Sunday school, and having our choir once again filling the sanctuary with praise and worship. We human beings need that interaction with other humans. It is not in our nature to be solitary creatures. We heed the guidelines of the medical professionals and we social distance, we wear the masks, and we wash our hands frequently. Not because we fear the virus but because we want to do our part in slowing the spread of this pandemic.



*And suddenly there was with the
angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.*

Luke 2:14



Putting all that aside Max Lucado gives us this perspective:

"The announcement went first to the shepherds. They didn't ask God if he was sure he knew what he was doing. Had the angel gone to the theologians, they would have first consulted their commentaries. Had he gone to the elite, they would have looked around to see if anyone was watching. Had he gone to the successful, they would have first looked at their calendars. So, he went to the shepherds. Men who didn't have a reputation to protect or an ax to grind or a ladder to climb. Men who didn't know enough to tell God that angels don't sing to sheep and that messiahs aren't found wrapped in rags and sleeping in a feed trough.

A small cathedral outside Bethlehem marks the supposed birthplace of Jesus. Behind a high altar in the church is a cave, a little cavern lit by silver lamps.

You can enter the main edifice and admire the ancient church. You can also enter the quiet cave where a star embedded in the floor recognizes the birth of the King. There is one stipulation, however, you have to stoop. The door is so low you can't go in standing up.

The same is true of the Christ. You can see the world standing tall, but to witness the Savior, you have to get on your knees.

So... while the theologians were sleeping and the elite were dreaming and the successful were snoring, the meek were kneeling. They were kneeling before the One, only the meek will ever see. They were kneeling in front of Jesus."

May God bless you all.
Dennis

J  **OY**
to the world



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2	3 B-day: Nadine Coddington	4	5 B-day: Beth Lashley
6 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Deacon Nominations: deadline to submit your nomination B-day: Jimmy Dukes	7 B-day: Dennis Davidson	8	9	10 B-day: Ellie Bryant Anniv: Rodney & Lydia Buroker	11 B-day: Laura Katherine Morgan B-day: Thomas Johnson	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent Diaconate Meeting: 9am Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Women's Ministry Christmas Party: 2-4pm Joint Officer Meeting: 4:30pm	14 B-day: Janice Wallace	15	16 B-day: Rodney Buroker	17 B-day: Alice Symon	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom) Session Meeting: 4:30pm Candlelight Communion Service: 6pm	21 First Day of Winter B-day: Austin Griffith	22	23 Anniv: Tim & Jackie Tripp	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27 Worship: 11am (in sanctuary and via Zoom)	28 Anniv: Phil & Joyce Huizinga	29	30 B-day: Nick Symon B-day: Trey Griffith	31		

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Mike Cork.

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Joyce Huizinga.

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

<u>2020</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 6,695.00	\$ 81,610.86
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 6,361.55	\$ 72,964.68
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 333.45	\$ 8,646.18
<u>2019</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2019 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 6,380.00	\$ 79,082.44
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,549.32	\$ 94,664.29
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,169.32)	\$ (15,581.85)

Congratulations

- Congratulations to Glenn and Katy Basinger and their family on the birth of their granddaughter, Isabelle Hanson Basinger. She was born on October 13th. Parents are Seth and Janie Basinger.
- Congratulations to the Dennis and Karen Davidson and their family on the birth of their great-grandson, Elliot Stanford. He was born on November 11th. Parents are Madison and Heath Stanford.

Deacon Nominations

We are accepting nominations for the Deacon class of 2021-2023 and will continue collecting nominations until December 6th. Please take some time to read over the qualifications for church officers that are found in 1 Timothy 3 and in Titus 1, and then spend some time prayerfully considering potential candidates that you would like to nominate.

Poinsettias

This year we are not purchasing poinsettias collectively, instead please supply your own to decorate the sanctuary. If you would like to have your poinsettia to be in honor or memory of a loved one, please email or text Ann with your information, and it will be published for the bulletin at our Christmas Candlelight Communion Service.

Christmas Events

- Women's Ministry Christmas Party and Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13th in the Fellowship Hall, 2:00-4:00 pm.
- Candlelight Communion Service will be held on Sunday, December 20th at 6:00 pm.
- Christmas Morning Fellowship/Service will not be scheduled this year due to the COVID-19 virus.

2021 Pulpit Supply

Doug McNutt will be our Stated Pulpit Supply Minister for January 1 to December 31, 2021. During this year, Doug will fill the pulpit, provide unlimited phone counseling, perform visitation as needed, and will lead four (6-8 week series) Bible studies to be held on Sunday nights.

Christmas Cards for the Troops

Thank you to all who participated and supplied Christmas Cards for the Troops. We had 805 cards to send!

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Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com



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 **\$57.00** 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.

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	The Lighthouse Women's 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, Norbourn
Dyer, Doug
Eshee, Judy
Finley, Betty
Fleming, Joe
Harstad, Paula

Hart, Sarah Elizabeth
Haubert, Chloe Belle
Hayes, Betsy
Hocker, Jeannie
Hogg, Ian
Hoggle, Judy
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
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:

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.