

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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MAY 2021

THE SESSION'S MESSAGE

On May 6th 2021, we will observe the National Day of Prayer. In 1775 the Continental Congress established a time for prayer while they were forming a new nation. Over the years there have been calls for a day of prayer. President Lincoln called for one in 1863. If ever we needed a day of prayer, it was in the middle of the civil war. On April 17, 1952 President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming the National Day of Prayer into Law. In 1988 President Ronald Reagan amended the law, designating the first Thursday in May of each year as the National Day of Prayer.

The National Prayer Committee was formed in 1972. They created a task force with the purpose of coordinating events for the National Day of Prayer. The President would issue a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States would go to God in prayer and meditation at churches and groups and as individuals praying for our country and its leaders.

All this was not without controversy. Many secular groups have taken issue with the concept of a day of prayer. Groups and individuals have worked to remove God from all parts of our government, stating the separation of Church and State. But the glue that holds our nation together is in fact the belief that there is a sovereign God and creator. People have been trying to supplant God and insert themselves in His place since the beginning. I happened to come across an article from the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF). This is an excerpt from that article:

"Since 1989, the National Day of Prayer Task Force, housed in Focus on the Family's headquarters, has written presidential proclamations with a yearly theme and scripture verse. Presidents, governors and other public officials have often used the National Day of Prayer Task Force wording or themes. The evangelical Christian group exists to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership in the seven centers of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family. Its chairperson, Shirley Dobson, has spoken at eight White House prayer services on the National Day of Prayer. It organizes between 30,000 to 40,000 prayer gatherings across the country for that date, which was 'specifically limited to the Judeo-Christian heritage and those who share that conviction as expressed in the Lausanne Covenant (such as that the bible is the only written word of God, without error in all that it affirms" and that there is only one Savior and only one gospel)."

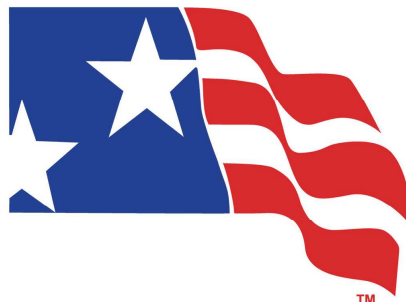
It would seem that the FFRF would be saying that we are not inclusive enough. I would say that as reformed Christians we are very inclusive, as long as you believe that the Bible is the word of God and is without error and that there is only one Savior and only one Gospel. Having said that I would only add that we will continue to pray for our country, our leaders, our military, our schools, and the lost who have not yet found saving grace in Jesus Christ.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Dennis

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

MAY 6, 2021



Let the words of my mouth and
the meditation of my heart be
acceptable to you, O Lord, my
rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) B-day: Ali Basinger	3	4 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	5 B-day: Anna Caroline Coburn	6 National Day of Prayer FPC 12-Hour Prayer Vigil: 8am-8pm	7	8
9 Mother's Day Sunday School: 9:30am Diaconate Meeting Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Communion	10 B-day: Bill Weltin B-day: Ruthie Mackin	11 Session Meeting: 9am Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am Women's Ministry Morning Circle: 9:30am Women's Ministry Evening Circle: 6:30pm	12	13	14	15
16 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	17	18 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	19 B-day: Angie Solliday	20 B-day: Tim Tripp	21 B-day: Lily Mackin	22
23 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) B-day: Andy Coburn	24 B-day: Eloise Harris	25 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Ryan Basinger	26 B-day: Melissa Weltin B-day: Nathan Bryant	27	28	29
30 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Deacons Fund Special Offering B-day: Lillian Cannon	31 Memorial Day Holiday					

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Ray Evans.

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Karen Davidson.

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Game/Fellowship Time, Tuesdays 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

DEACONS CLASS OF 2022: Glenn Basinger and Trey Griffith

DEACONS CLASS OF 2023: David Coddington and Mike Cork

DEACONS CLASS OF 2024: Ray Evans and Joel Coddington

<u>2021</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 6,045.00	\$ 25,340.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 8,737.77</u>	<u>\$ 21,889.15</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,692.77)	\$ 3,450.85
<u>2020</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,556.05	\$ 24,471.55
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 10,588.38</u>	<u>\$ 26,834.83</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,032.33)	\$ (2,363.28)

MAY EVENTS

May 6:

- 12-Hour Prayer Vigil. Our goal is to have our congregation pray continuously for 12 hours. See page 4 for more information.

May 9:

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.
- Rev. Doug McNutt's last Sunday to fill our pulpit.

May 11:

- Session Meeting, 9:00 am.
- Women's Ministry Morning Circle Study, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Women's Ministry Evening Circle Study, 6:30 pm.
- Both morning and evening Circle Studies will focus on Chapter 7 of Jerry Bridges' book, "True Community." If you are interested to learn how we can dig deeper into what a Christian community should look like, please join us as we embark on this journey together. For more information on obtaining this book, please contact Ann Resto or Vickie Cannon.

May 30:

- Deacon's Fund Special Offering. This offering is collected each 5th Sunday of the month and is used to help those from our church and in the community who are in need.



OTHER NEWS/NEEDS:

- **July 4th Cookout:** Does the congregation want to have a church-wide 4th of July cookout? If anyone is willing to coordinate a cookout event at the church, please contact Allison Ward. The Women's Ministry will assist, but someone is needed to plan the event.
- **Women's Ministry:** Any woman (member of the church) who is willing to serve on the 2022-2024 Women's Ministry Council, please contact Karen Lashley.

THANK YOU!

We give our thanks and gratitude to Rev. Doug McNutt for filling our pulpit. May God continue to bless Doug, Kelly and their family. Congratulations to Doug on his new endeavor with Trinity Center for World Missions.

NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS: fpcdemopolis@gmail.com

Please use this new email address when communicating with the church office.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR PULPIT COMMITTEE:

Dennis Davidson
 Melanie Evans
 Trey Griffith
 Scott Kirkpatrick
 Jimmy Mackin

SHOWERS OF BLESSING SPECIAL OFFERING:

Every year our Women's Ministry collects a special offering to be designated as "Showers of Blessings." The Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry has chosen Sacred Roots Ministry and the Sav-A-Life of Tuscaloosa as the recipients for this offering. We will collect this offering throughout the month of May, and we appreciate your support to these ministries.

12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL— MAY 6, 2021

12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

In observance of the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 6th**, we will hold our annual 12-hour Prayer Vigil. A schedule is available to sign up for a 30-minute time segment to set aside for prayer. Sign up either individually or as a family unit. Our goal is to have our congregation pray continuously for 12 hours.

- Recognize God's holiness and give God glory and honor in all thankfulness for His mercy and love as our Creator and through which He gave us the gift of Jesus's redemptive work and the Holy Spirit working in our lives.
- Pray for humility and to help us to confess our sins, that we would seek His direction, and to rely on Him instead of ourselves.
- Pray with thankfulness for God's blessings and to help us serve one another in love, be dedicated to each other, and to help us restore broken relationships.
- Pray for the church: Session, Deacons, Pulpit Committee, Women's Ministry, our congregation and church family near and far, the Warrior Presbytery and the PCA denomination, those who serve in missions, and the Christian church throughout the world.
- Pray for our nation and government leaders: local, state and federal lawmakers, and the judicial system.
- Pray for our teachers, police, first responders, military personnel, and medical care providers.
- Pray for the family: godly parents, children, and the elderly.
- Pray for those who mourn loss, those who are emotionally and mentally ill, those who suffer from injury and those who are infirm, terminally or chronically ill. Also, pray for their caretakers.
- Pray for the imprisoned and persecuted.
- Pray for unbelievers that they will experience regenerated hearts, will repent of their sins and will come to a saving knowledge in Christ.
- Pray for our own personal renewal, moral awakening and have repentant hearts.
- Pray for protection and unity and to help us endure hardships, find joy in the midst of trials, encourage one another, and find comfort in our faith.
- Pray for wisdom and knowledge and to help us reflect godly values in our daily work, that we would seek truth and decency, be accurate and fair in all of our relationships, and make responsible decisions.
- Pray for wisdom, strength, unity and protection that we would bring God all glory, honor and praise though our daily walk with Him.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE HUIZINGA'S

To our friends:

Joyce and I recall our first visit to First Presbyterian Church in the spring of 1979; we listened to a great sermon by an Egyptian minister and had lunch with a couple who were very gracious hosts for 2 "middle thirties Yankees" with 3 kids ages 7, 2 and 1.

We had just moved from Wisconsin where we lived for 3 years and headed south to an area and culture of which we knew nothing. I had taken a job with American Can Co the previous year and commuted to the Naheola Mill until the move. It was our intention to spend 2-3 years here and move on. Those 2-3 years stretched out to be 42 years and during that time we have watched this church expand and contract, made friends who moved in and moved out, saw children (ours and others) grow up and leave but there were certain attributes that remained; preaching the Word, being open to others, lives of service, and a willingness to take chances knowing that God is in control.

For us it has been an honor to serve the Lord in various capacities, SS leader, Deacon, WIC, Elder, Choir, Youth leader as well as mission trips while being here. Each of these holds memories that will never leave our minds.

Others might find it easy to put feelings to script. I find that the heart knows how it feels but the printed text doesn't do it justice. So all Joyce and I can say is that we truly appreciate all the good experiences we have had at this church. The shift from 2-3 years to 42 years was possible because of you; because of this church.

It's only 47 miles to the new house and it's always open for visits. While in Tuscaloosa if you need a rest or coffee break, the house is open to you. If you need a place to sit and chat between doctor visits, come on over.

Our new address is: 496 Remington Circle, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MAY 2021

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	Huizenga, Fran
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Bazuin, Caiden	Ivy, Kendall
Beale, Amy	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beeler, Peggy	Keasler, Jo Anne
Belcher, Samuel	Kelly, Dale
Brantley, Maggie	Lane, Barbara
Brooker, Chrissy	Leascher, Chad
Brooker, Jan	Lewis, Kathy
Bryant, Jessica	Ligon, Brandon
Busby, Rhae	Lockett, Joanne
Bynum, Linda	Mackin, Jimmy
Cannon, Mary	McIntier, Jodie
Chastang, Kristy	Morgan, Laura
Coker, Jean	Mutisya, Cecilia
Craig, Noah	Parr, Higley
Curry, Walter	Plummer, Kaegan
Davidson, Karen	Reynolds, Christy
DeWitt, Robert	Sakon, Ethan
Duncan, Conner	Sall, Terry
Dyer, Doug	Sharp, Chris
Espy, Emily	Sims, Anna Katherine
Finley, Betty	Sims, Sarah
Harris, Dean	Snipes, Vernon & Ramona
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Taylor, Marie
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Thornton, Alaina
Hayes, Betsy	Tipton, Carolyn
Hocker, Jeannie	VanderMolen, Popko
Hogg, Ian	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Hoggle, Judy	Womble, Caleb
Hooks, Chesnee	Zimmerman, Steve

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:
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
William R. Horton
The Hutton Family

Military Personnel:
Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Joseph Wilson
Josh Tyson
Blake Ivy

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.

