

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

300 N. Strawberry Avenue

Demopolis, AL 36732

334-289-3895

www.demopolispresbyterian.com

fpcdemopolis@gmail.com

MARCH 2022

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

In January we noted that we are Bible people. The word of God is our only rule for faith and obedience. The Bible has numerous verses wherein it speaks of itself. For example, 2 Timothy 3: 16 *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."* Or from another angle, Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* Each of these statements come in the midst of a letter. The psalmist also spoke of God's word and how practical it is. *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word"* and *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you"* Psalm 119: 9 and 11.

One of my favorite subjects to teach is hermeneutics. That big word simply means the doctrine of interpretation. And the first thing we need to do to use God's word effectively and appropriately is to understand the various literary genres we find in the 66 books of the Bible. I love to ask what kinds of literature we find in the Bible and then to write them each on the board as students, young and old, answer. Well what do we have? Law. History. Prophecy. Poetry. Wisdom. Gospel. Narrative. Letters (Epistles). Apocalyptic literature. And others.

Let me ask a question and then I will briefly define each of these types of biblical literature. Do we take the Bible *literally*? Well, yes and no. R.C. Sproul put it like this: "The Bible should be interpreted according to its literal sense. ... To interpret the Bible literally is to interpret it as *literature*. That is, the natural meaning of a passage is to be interpreted according to the normal rules of grammar, speech, syntax, and context" (*Knowing Scripture*). We interpret a passage according to the kind of literature within which it is written."

Starting with the Old Testament, law has both a general and specific meaning. Specifically, God's laws are his commands that are expected to be obeyed by all people at all times. A proverb, on the other hand, is a general principle of how things *usually* work in the world created by God. Biblical history is truly history. But it is also told with a divine lesson and practical application in mind. It takes thinking and meditation to discern these sometimes. Biblical prophecy can mean at least two things. It may be predictive, as of the coming of the Messiah. But it also can be a word of instruction and admonition—God's people and the world had better listen!

As the old covenant gives way to the new, we have an entirely new genre of literature created: gospel. There are four, and only four, gospels. These are books that proclaim the good news of the birth of the anointed One, the Messiah, and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Acts of the Apostles tells us the history of the New Testament church and the coming of the Holy Spirit in his fullness. The New Testament is filled with epistles, that is, letters inspired by the Holy Spirit to be written to the church for instruction and edification. And we have the Revelation of John, apocalyptic literature, literature that is full of symbols that proclaim the return of Jesus to judge and rule forevermore. So the Bible is a book of books – THE Book of books. *"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law"* Psalm 119:18.

Keep reading,
Pastor Josh



MARCH 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 WM Hinged Study: 9:30 am	2 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm B-day: Doug McNutt	3	4	5
6 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	7 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	8 B-day: Katie Gill	9 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm	10	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins Joint Session/Deacon Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Communion B-day: Liz Bond B-day: Luke Mackin	14 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am Anniv: Glenn & Katy Basinger	15	16 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm Session Meeting: 7pm B-day: Ava Grace Basinger	17	18	19 Anniv: Scott & Patty Kirkpatrick
20 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Fellowship Potluck B-day: Patty Kirkpatrick	21 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	22	23 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm	24	25	26 B-day: Liz Huizinga B-day: Theodore Symon
27 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	28 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Grady Atkins	29 B-day: Landon McClure	30 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm	31		

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

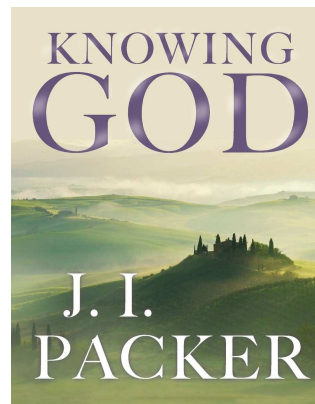
DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Joel Coddington and Trey Griffith

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Melissa Weltin

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Game/Fellowship Time, Mondays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Women’s Ministry Hinged (Ephesians) Study, Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or at 6:30 pm. As this study concludes, see the information below on what we are studying in April!
- Dinner/Bible Study, Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall; dinner is at 5:30 pm and the Bible study is at 6:00 pm. A new Wednesday Night Study will begin. The study will be from J. I. Packer’s book, “**Knowing God.**” This book will lead us to a better understanding of who God is while gaining a closer relationship with Him as a result.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,168.00	\$ 9,168.00	\$ 9,168.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 9,651.17	\$ 9,651.17	\$ 9,651.17
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (483.17)	\$ (483.17)	\$ (483.17)
	<u>2021</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,775.00	\$ 9,775.00	\$ 9,775.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,041.38	\$ 8,041.38	\$ 8,041.38
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,733.62	\$ 1,733.62	\$ 1,733.62



JANUARY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 31

DEACONS CLASS OF 2023:

David Coddington and Mike Cork

DEACONS CLASS OF 2024:

Ray Evans and Joel Coddington

DEACONS CLASS OF 2025:

Glenn Basinger and Trey Griffith

MARCH EVENTS

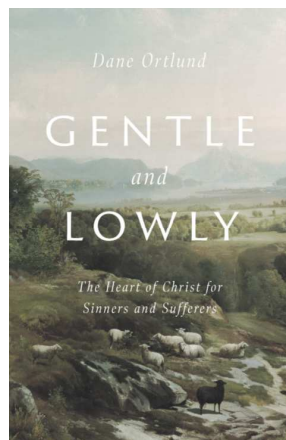
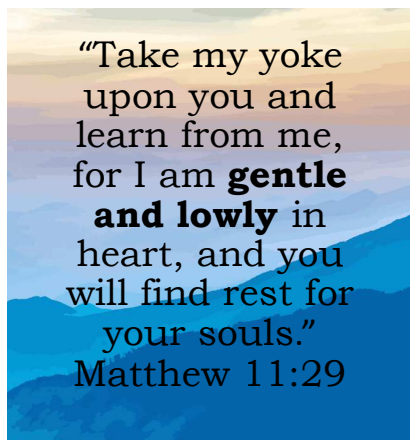
March 13:

- Daylight Savings Time Begins.
- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.
- Joint Deacon/Session Meeting.

March 16: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

March 20: Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Potluck, immediately following the worship service.

March 27: Hooked on Prayer (HOP), 2:00 pm.



FAITH PROMISE

The Faith Promise pledges will continue to be collected through the month of March. The submissions received will determine our church’s giving to our Faith Promise missionaries for the year.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Faith Promise supported missionary, Beth Acton, was in her 40th year of missions work with Wycliffe Bible Translators where she served with Bible translations and literacy efforts to the people of Papua New Guinea. Beth has recently announced her retirement, and we are extremely grateful for the work she did in the missions field. Our prayers continue to be with her.

NEW WOMEN’S CIRCLE STUDY

Beginning April 5th, the Women’s Ministry Circle morning and evening study groups will start a new book, “**Gentle and Lowly,**” by Dane Ortland. The theme of this study is to learn the truth of Jesus’s “gentle and lowly” heart and how it applies to sinners and sufferers today. This will be a video study which will accompany the book and study guide.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MARCH 2022

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
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):

Acton, Beth	Hooks, Chesnee
Allinder, Kate	Huizenga, Fran
Bazuin, Caiden	Hux, Karen
Beale, Amy	Ivy, Kendall
Beard, Ken	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beard, Ronnie	Kelly, Dale
Beeler, Peggy	Lane, Barbara
Belcher, Samuel	Lawson, Connie
Brantley, Maggie	Lewis, Kathy
Brooker, Chrissy	Ligon, Brandon
Brooker, Jan	Mackin, Jimmy
Busby, Rhae	McIntier, Jodie
Bynum, Linda	Mize, Bethany
Chastang, Kristye	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
Emerson, Sandra	Sims, Anna Katherine
Espy, Emily	Sims, Sarah
Finley, Betty	Thornton, Alaina
Foshee, Barbara	Tipton, Carolyn
Griffith, Michelle	Turner, Becky
Hall, Jimmy	VanderMolen, Popko
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Womble, Caleb
Hayes, Betsy	Zimmerman, Steve
Hocker, Jeannie	
Hoggle, Judy	

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
Jimmy Mackin
Rick Wilson
Kendall Ivy
Jimmy Hall
Kristye Chastang

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley
Linda Dunning
Bethany Mize

Special Needs:

Liz Bond
The Hutton Family
Sharon Farst

Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison
Abigail Kircharr

Military Personnel:

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

Pregnancies:

Katie Gill (due 6/22)

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.