

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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MAY 2022

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Every other month we have been focusing on some aspect of the Word of God and our relationship to it. We considered that we are Bible people. It is our only rule for faith and life. We looked at the variety of the genres of Scripture and how each should be read and interpreted according to what the author intended – that the Holy Spirit may apply it to our lives. This month, inspired by our recent discussion of *Knowing God*, I want to think about how our meditation on the Scripture deepens our relationship with God.

How *do* we know God? How *can* we know God? We know him because he has revealed himself to us. We know him through his written word, his divine revelation to us. While the creation declares his glory, displaying for all human beings made in his image his invisible attributes to perceive, it is only through the Bible that we come to know him personally. It is through the Holy Spirit applying the word of God to us that we are born again to new life in Christ.

God's word sustains us throughout our lives. Paul wrote, *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope* (Rom 15:4). Our ongoing growth in the Christian life is dependent upon our appropriation of God's word to our lives. As we read, study, listen (spiritually and physically), hear, and meditate on the Scripture our *love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment* (Phil 1:9). Further, as we delight ourselves in the Lord through Scripture, the Holy Spirit shines *in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ* (2 Cor 4:6b).

Let's prayerfully meditate together on God's word through some verses from Psalm 119, the majestic, but practical, acrostic poem dedicated to God's word and its impact on us. *Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day* (97). Lord, it is my prayer that this would be true of me. I love your word; Lord help me love your

word. *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (105). Your word leads me to Christ where there is life forevermore. And when I fail you, it leads me back to you, where I can find forgiveness and restoration. Thank you, Lord.

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you* (9-11) Father, your word is my weapon against my great enemies-the world, the flesh and the devil. It protects me for you, for you are my great treasure. *This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life....I know O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me* (50, 75). My life is in your hands, O Lord. I do believe that you work out all things in my life for good, for I am called according to your purpose.

We live in a sinful world, among people in rebellion against you. *It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken....My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law* (126, 136). Give me the convictions of the psalmist. Let me know you, God, in your awesome holiness. And as our church family meditates on your word together, *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law* (18). Amen and amen.

Prayerfully,  
Pastor Josh



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)</p> <p><b>Showers of Blessing Offering</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Ali Basinger</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>National Day of Prayer</b></p> <p><b>12-Hour Prayer Vigil:</b> 8am-8pm</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Anna Caroline Coburn</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>Mother's Day</b></p> <p><b>Deacon Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)</p> <p><b>Communion</b></p> <p><b>Showers of Blessing Offering</b></p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>Game/Fellowship Time:</b> 9:30am</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30 am and 6:30pm</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Bill Weltin</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Ruthie Mackin</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)</p> <p><b>Showers of Blessing Offering</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship Potluck</b></p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>Game/Fellowship Time:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Pastor Josh Carmichael</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Angie Solliday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Lily Mackin</p>
<p>22</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)</p> <p><b>Showers of Blessing Offering</b></p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Game/Fellowship Time:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Andy Coburn</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:30pm</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Eloise Harris</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Session Meeting:</b> 7pm</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Ryan Basinger</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Day of Ascension</b></p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Melissa Weltin</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)</p> <p><b>Showers of Blessing Offering</b></p> <p><b>Deacons Fund Offering</b></p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Betsy Carmichael</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b></p> <p><b>Game/Fellowship Time:</b> 9:30am</p> <p><b>B-day:</b> Lillian Cannon</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:30pm</p>				

# 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, Mondays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Women’s Ministry Circle Study, Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or at 6:30 pm at Ann Resto’s home. The study is from the 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.

<u>2022</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 26,007.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 9,342.96	\$ 25,925.34
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,257.04	\$ 81.66
<u>2021</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 6,045.00	\$ 25,340.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,737.77	\$ 21,889.15
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,692.77)	\$ 3,450.85

**MARCH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 38

**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

## MAY EVENTS

**May 1:** Showers of Blessings offering through the month of May. (See page 4 for more information.)

**May 5:** National Day of Prayer/12-Hour Prayer Vigil, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. (See page 4 for more information.)

**May 8:**

- Mother’s Day.
- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

**May 15:** Fellowship Potluck, immediately following the worship service.

**May 22:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP), 2:00 pm. (See page 5 for more information.)

**May 25:** Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**May 29:** Deacon’s Fund Offering.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Graduation:** Congratulations to our 2022 High School Graduates! We want to recognize our 2022 graduates and pray for God’s rich blessings on the next chapter on their lives. Congratulations to Jones Colgrove and Milledge Carmichael.

**Wednesday Dinner/Study:** Our regularly scheduled Wednesday dinner and study is taking a break for summer. This weekly activity will resume in September.

*Let all  
that you do  
be done in  
love*

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

## **SHOWERS OF BLESSING OFFERING**

The Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry has selected Sacred Roots Farm, Choices Pregnancy Clinic of Tuscaloosa and The Lighthouse Women's Center of Demopolis (formerly known as Sav-A-Life) to be the recipients of this year's special offering. This offering will be accepted throughout the month of May. Thank you for supporting these ministries that are vital to women in need.



**SACRED ROOTS FARM** is a sustainable farm in Gainesville, GA, that provides long-term recovery for trafficked and sexually exploited women and their children. Here they experience safety and healing of mind, body and spirit; they discover and develop trust; and they find the hope that God has created for them.

**CHOICES PREGNANCY CLINIC OF TUSCALOOSA** — AND — **THE LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S CENTER OF DEMOPOLIS**: Both of these agencies provide free and confidential pregnancy services which include medical services that are provided by licensed medical personnel.

## **12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL: May 5, 2022 (8am-8pm)**

In observance of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, **May 5th**, 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.

To sign up go to: <https://signup.com/go/nFOsFuW>

### **Suggested prayer points:**

- 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: Pastor Josh, the Session, the Deacons, 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.



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MAY 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
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
U.S. Military 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	Huizenga, Fran
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Bazuin, Caiden	Ivy, Kendall
Beale, Amy	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beard, Ken	Kelly, Dale
Beard, Ronnie	Lane, Barbara
Beeler, Peggy	Lawson, Connie
Belcher, Samuel	Lewis, Kathy
Brantley, Maggie	Ligon, Brandon
Brooker, Chrissy	Mackin, Jimmy
Brooker, Jan	McIntier, Jodie
Busby, Rhae	Morgan, Laura
Bynum, Linda	Mutisya, Cecilia
Chastang, Kristy	Parr, Higley
Coker, Jean	Plummer, Kaegan
Craig, Noah	Reynolds, Christy
Curry, Walter	Sakon, Ethan
Davidson, Karen	Sall, Terry
DeWitt, Robert	Sharp, Chris
Duncan, Conner	Sims, Anna Katherine
Dyer, Doug	Thornton, Alaina
Emerson, Sandra	Tipton, Carolyn
Espy, Emily	Tulipan, Amelia
Finley, Betty	Tulipan, Hansen
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	
Hooks, Chesnee	

**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  
Kristy Chastang

#### Illness:

Laura Morgan  
Neal Bules  
David Headley  
Linda Dunning

#### Special Needs:

Liz Bond  
The Hutton Family  
Sharon Farst

#### Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison  
Abigayle 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.