

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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SEPTEMBER 2022

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Applying Ecclesiastes: Enjoying our Labor

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. (Ecclesiastes 5:18, 19 ESV)

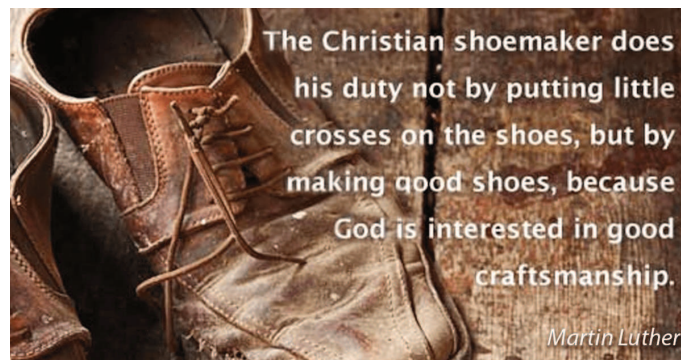
August is past and September is upon us. My grandfather would talk about the dog days of August when the Alabama heat and humidity seemed unbearable. The *Old Farmer's Almanac* lists the Dog Days of Summer from July 3rd to August 11th when sweltering weather coincides with the morning rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. This heat has certainly zapped our strength this past month. But now summer is basically behind us and school has started. We all have work to do. But most of us do get the first Monday of September off for Labor Day. It became a federal holiday in 1894. I encourage you to enjoy that day! But as we do we can also meditate on our labors.

Remember, God's call for us to work came in Genesis 1-2 before the Fall in Genesis 3. Work is a good thing. It is not just a job or an occupation, but a calling, a vocation. But it is hard. It is tiring. It is labor. And we often toil under the sun without seeing the results we long to see. So what do we do?

We take Solomon's wisdom to heart. God is not a spoilsport. He intends us to enjoy the benefits of our work as a reward for our labor. Even in this world that has been broken by the Fall, God gives us the ability to find joy and satisfaction in our work. It comes from him. It is a gift of grace. It is a means for us to glorify and enjoy God.

Meditating on this can really encourage us as we work. Among the many contributions of Martin Luther (1483-1546) was his focus on the doctrine of vocation. He wanted all those in his flock to do their work as a holy calling. He is famous for his insistence that the work of the homemaker, cobbler, farmer, or blacksmith is just as valuable as that of the priest. Because we are saved by grace through faith, we are free to serve God and others with authentic joy as we work.

In his inimitable way he put it like this:



Friends, whatever your particular calling at any given time—parent, grandparent, Sunday School teacher, mechanic, accountant, farmer, business executive (you get the idea!)—let's do our work with a view to loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving our neighbors as ourselves. And may God's grace go before us as we do.

Your co-laborer,
Pastor Josh

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 B-day: Vickie Cannon
4 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Anniv: Dennis & Karen Davidson	5 Labor Day Holiday Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	6	7 B-day: William Symon	8 B-day: Olivia Tripp	9	10
11 Deacons Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Communion	12 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	13 WM Circle Study: 9:30am or 6:45pm B-day: Bernice Cork B-day: Joseph Carmichael	14 Dessert Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm	15	16	17 B-day: Adam Mackin
18 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Fellowship Potluck	19 B-day: Eli Basinger	20 WM Circle Study: 9:30am or 6:45pm	21 Dessert Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm Session Meeting: 7pm B-day: Glenn Basinger	22	23	24
25 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) HOP: 2pm B-day: Anna Carolina Dukes	26 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	27 WM Circle Study: 9:30am or 6:45pm	28 Dessert Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm B-day: Emma Kate Atkins	29	30 Anniv: Josh & Betsy Carmichael	

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH:

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Ruth Symon

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 (beginning September 13th) at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or 6:45 pm at Ann Resto's house.
- Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time, Wednesdays (beginning September 14th). Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,169.62	\$ 11,169.62	\$ 60,784.62
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 6,784.42	\$ 6,784.42	\$ 55,800.00
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 4,385.20	\$ 4,385.20	\$ 4,984.62
	<u>2021</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 5,835.00	\$ 5,835.00	\$ 54,440.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 4,646.80	\$ 4,646.80	\$ 46,199.13
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,188.20	\$ 1,188.20	\$ 8,240.87

JULY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 29

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 11:

- Communion.
- Deacon Meeting.

September 13: Begins Women's Ministry Circle Study, 9:30 am or 6:45 pm.

September 14: Begins Wednesday Night Activities.

- Dessert and Fellowship, 6:00 pm.
- Study and Prayer Time, 6:15 pm.

September 18: Fellowship Potluck, immediately following the worship service.

September 21: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

September 25: Hooked on Prayer (HOP), 2:00 pm. See page 5 for more information.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

Our Wednesday night activities are changing. Beginning on September 14th there will no longer be dinner served on Wednesday nights, instead our fellowship will include desserts only. A weekly sign up sheet is available for those who are willing to provide a dessert. Dessert fellowship time will begin at 6:00 pm and our study will begin at 6:15 pm. Pastor Josh will lead us in a new study from the book, *Praying the Bible*, by Donald Whitney.

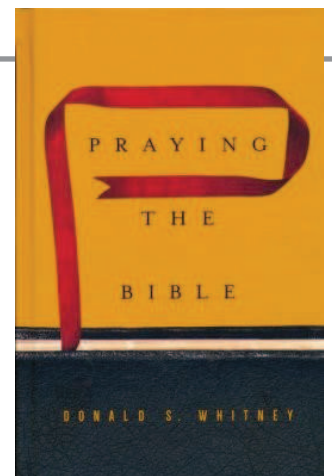
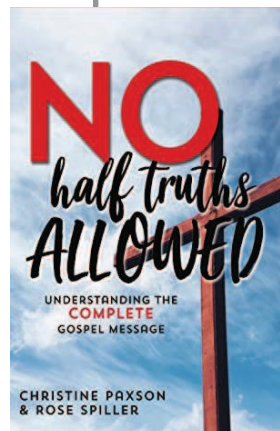
Pastor Josh explains this study, "We all struggle with how and what to pray. You can tell on Sunday mornings that I struggle even in my pastoral prayer as I think about the challenges we are currently facing in our nation and world. Well, help is here. On Wednesday's this Fall we will be learning how to *pray* the Bible. Crossway Publishers have provided us with free copies of Donald Whitney's marvelous and simple little book, *Praying the Bible*. We have copies for everyone. Dr. Whitney was one of Betsy's favorite professors at Southern Seminary as he taught one of her classes at the Seminary Wives Institute. This will be a transformative time of biblical study and prayer for us all."

NEW TUESDAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY CIRCLE STUDY:

The weekly women's study will resume on Tuesday, September 13th. The morning group will meet at 9:30 am at the church and will be led by Karen and Beth Lashley, and the evening group will meet at 6:45 pm at Ann Resto's house.

The book we will explore is called, *No Half Truths Allowed* by Christine Paxson and Rose Spiller. They are a Reformed women's ministry, Proverbs 9:10 Ministries, and they host a weekly podcast called "No Trash, Just Truth."

Do you have trouble explaining the gospel message to others? This book will teach us the entire truth of the Gospel message so we can articulate it to others without being vague or settling on half-truths. This book is \$16 from Amazon. Our focus will be on this book, but there is a companion study guide if you want to dig deeper into this study (the study guide is \$10 and is optional.)



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

SEPTEMBER 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	Hocker, Jeannie
Allinder, Kate	Hoggle, Judy
Bazuin, Caiden	Hooks, Chesnee
Beale, Amy	Huizenga, Fran
Beard, Ken	Hux, Karen
Beard, Ronnie	Ivy, Kendall
Beeler, Peggy	Jennifer (Missionary)
Belcher, Samuel	Lane, Barbara
Brantley, Maggie	Lawson, Connie
Bridges, Ida Lee	Ligon, Brandon
Brooker, Chrissy	Mackin, Jimmy
Brooker, Jan	Mader, Rebecca
Brown, Walt	McIntier, Jodie
Busby, Rhae	Morgan, Laura
Bynum, Linda	Mutisya, Cecilia
Chastang, Kristye	Parr, Higley
Coker, Jean	Plummer, Kaegan
Craig, Noah	Renner, Elizabeth
Curry, Walter	Reynolds, Christy
Davidson, Karen	Sakon, Ethan
DeWitt, Robert	Sharp, Chris
Duncan, Conner	Sims, Anna Katherine
Dyer, Doug	Telmont, Jose
Emerson, Sandra	Thornton, Alaina
Espy, Emily	Tipton, Carolyn
Farst, Sharon	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
Headley, David	

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

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
Austin Griffith
Kaleb Brown

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.