

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### The Savior We Need Has Come

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. As soon as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased." Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving him. (Mark 1:9-13 CSB)*

Jesus submitted to baptism by John the Baptist. We learn from Matthew that John did not want to baptize Jesus but thought that Jesus should baptize him! Jesus said that he must be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. The spotless Lamb of God was baptized with a baptism symbolizing repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Why? He was identifying with his people in every way. Jesus was the second Adam. He was representing all those who would trust in him and receive his finished work on their behalf. As the one who would bear the sins of the world in the place of his people, he received the sign and seal of baptism. Heaven was watching as the long awaited Messiah's ministry was being inaugurated. The Holy Spirit testified, coming down from heaven and resting upon him. This reminds us of the dove that was sent out from Noah's ark and found rest upon the newly washed earth. Likewise, in Christ a new spiritual beginning had arrived.

Next the Father spoke his audible words of blessing. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased." Abraham had once heard a voice from heaven when he had been willing to sacrifice his own beloved son. But God provided a substitute, a ram, instead of his son. But here we have our Father's beloved Son who would be tempted by Satan, would preach and heal, and would be delivered up for our sins, receiving a baptism of blood upon the cross. Jesus identified with us in every way.

The Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove and then *immediately* (one of Mark's favorite words) *drove him into the wilderness*. He was there for forty days, the number forty relating his work to many Old Testament figures such as Noah, Moses, and Elijah. The final Prophet had arrived on the scene!

Matthew and Luke tell us some of the specific temptations Jesus underwent before Satan. In each case Jesus answered the Deceiver by quoting from Deuteronomy 6 and 8. Jesus' responses demonstrate our greatest need is nourishment from the word of God (Matt. 4:1-4; cf. Joshua 1:8), our primary obedience is to submit to God (Mt. 4:5-7; cf. 1 Sam. 15:22-24), and our ultimate calling is to worship God (Mt. 4:8-10; cf. Exo. 20:1-8). God's word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path, and a weapon against sin.

*He was with the wild animals*. Only Mark adds this detail. Why? There is a theological reason. Adam failed his test in a garden—and the world has not been the same since. Jesus passed his test in the wilderness and in the midst of the fallen and sin-cursed world as Adam had left it. I also think a practical reason for this detail was Mark's source and original audience. Peter was undoubtedly Mark's primary witness in telling his story. Peter knew that Christians in Rome under the reign of Nero had stood helpless before wild beasts in the arena. But even Nero could throw nothing at them that was alien to the experience of their Savior.

*Let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14b-16)*

Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
Pastor Josh

# MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <b>Dessert Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	2 <b>B-day:</b> Doug McNutt	3	4
5 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	6 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	7 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am or 6:45pm	8 <b>Dessert Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm <b>Session Meeting:</b> 7pm <b>B-day:</b> Katie Gill	9	10	11
12 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	13 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Luke Mackin	14 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am or 6:45pm <b>Anniv:</b> Glenn & Katy Basinger	15 <b>Dessert Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	16 <b>B-day:</b> Ava Grace Basinger	17	18
19 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <b>Fellowship Potluck</b> <b>B-day:</b> Theodore Symon <b>Anniv:</b> Scott & Patty Kirkpatrick	20 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Patty Kirkpatrick	21 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am or 6:45pm	22 <b>Dessert Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	23	24	25
26 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) <b>HOP:</b> 2pm	27	28 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am or 6:45pm <b>B-day:</b> Grady Atkins	29 <b>B-day:</b> Landon McClure	30	31	

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH:** Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

**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.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or 6:45 pm at Ann Resto’s home.
- Wednesday, Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time. Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm.

<u>2023</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,934.94	\$ 8,934.94
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 17,725.21	\$ 17,725.21
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (8,790.27)	\$ (8,790.27)
<u>2022</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,168.00	\$ 9,168.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 9,651.17	\$ 9,651.17
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (483.17)	\$ (483.17)

**DECEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 34

**DEACONS:** Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans

## MARCH EVENTS

**March 8:**

- Wednesday fellowship, study and prayer time, 6:00 pm.
- Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**March 12:** Daylight Savings Time Begins.

**March 19:** Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Davidson and Kirkpatrick families.

**March 26:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) will meet at 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. Please see page 4 for more details on this activity. For more information, please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin.

## SAVE THE DATES:

- April 2: Palm Sunday.
- April 6: Maundy Thursday Communion Service.
- April 7: Good Friday.
- April 9: Easter Sunday with Sunrise Service.
- April 18: Warrior Presbytery Meeting, which we will be the hosting church.
- April 30: Deacon Fund special offering.



## 2023 FAITH PROMISE COMMITMENTS:

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.

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
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
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

MARCH 2023

## 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
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## HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Abrams, Riddell	Hoggle, Judy
Acton, Beth	Huizenga, Fran
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Bazuin, Caiden	Ivy, Kendall
Beale, Amy	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beard, Ronnie	Lane, Barbara
Beeler, Peggy	Lawson, Connie
Belcher, Samuel	Ligon, Brandon
Brantley, Maggie	Mackin, Jimmy
Bridges, Ida Lee	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Chrissy	McIntier, Jodie
Brooker, Jan	Morgan, Laura
Brown, Walt	Morris, Seth
Busby, Rhae	Mutisya, Cecilia
Butler, Douglas	Parr, Higley
Bynum, Linda	Phillips, Ronnie
Craig, Noah	Plummer, Kaegan
Curry, Walter	Renner, Elizabeth
Davidson, Karen	Reynolds, Christy
DeWitt, Robert	Sakon, Ethan
Duncan, Conner	Sharp, Chris
Dyer, Doug	Sims, Anna Katherine
Emerson, Sandra	Telmont, Jose
Espy, Emily	Thornton, Alaina
Farst, Sharon	Tipton, Carolyn
Finley, Betty	Tulipan, Amelia
Hall, Jimmy	Tulipan, Hansen
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Turner, Becky
Haubert, Chloe Belle	VanderMolen, Popko
Hayes, Betsy	Womble, Caleb
Headley, David	Zimmerman, Steve
Hocker, Jeannie	

**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  
Bob Taylor

#### Illness:

Laura Morgan  
Neal Bules  
David Headley  
Linda Dunning

#### Special Needs:

The Hutton Family  
Sharon Farst

#### Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison  
Abigayle Kircharr  
Harry Jeong

#### 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.