

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Elect Exiles and Sorrow Over Sin

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those chosen, living as exiles, ... May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (1 Peter 1:1-2 CSB) My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law. (Psalm 119:136 ESV)

To those chosen, living as exiles. Do you find yourself feeling out of place where you live? If so, you are not alone. But the Apostle Peter addressed us this way 2,000 years ago. The fact is that this world is not our home. We are exiles. As we are in the book of Daniel right now this concept of exile is fresh in our minds. Daniel and his three friends were young Jewish men who were taken from their home and placed in a foreign land. This entire episode became known in the history of redemption as The Exile. To be in exile is to be away from home and in some sense not able to immediately return.

We are living in times the prophet Isaiah described, with a rebuke: *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter (5:20).* If you are sanctified in Christ Jesus, then you will not feel at home in such times. It is disturbing to observe morality being turned upside down. It is frightening to see evil and good being not only confused, but subverted. And it is sad to see the very things that would bring flourishing being substituted for things that will only bring pain. Paul describes this vividly and graphically in Romans 1:18-32.

Psalm 119 is made up of 176 verses, every one of which considers God's word in some way. And the backdrop of it is prayer and meditation. What could be more needful in the midst of the spiritual warfare of our day than meditating on God's word about God's word and then offering your thoughts and requests to our Lord in prayer?

My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law. Isn't it an arresting comment? He weeps at the observation of people in rebellion against God's

good precepts. Let me ask myself, do I even weep over my own sin, not to mention the sins of others? We do well to examine ourselves and consider our own consciences and convictions. The psalmist's primary object of concern is God and his honor and glory. And second, he is sorrowful over lost sinners.

This causes us to recall a passage from Luke: *As [Jesus] approached and saw the city, he wept for it, saying, "If you knew this day what would bring peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes ... you did not recognize the time when God visited you" (19:41, 42, 44b CSB).* Destruction would come in A.D. 70. They had rejected their Savior. And Jesus wept over their sin. Does the rampant sin and rebellion against God all around us cause us to weep and to plead with God for deliverance for the lost sinners in our midst? I want my heart to be heavy and my conscience tender as I observe those "as sheep without a shepherd."

PRAYER: Dear God, our Savior was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. May we have his heart of love for lost sinners. Help me to desire your honor and glory over all things. And please forgive me of my sins and purify me from all unrighteousness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastor Josh



***My eyes shed streams of
tears, because people do
not keep your law.
Psalm 119:136***



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				1	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) B-day: Eliza Kate Gill	5 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	6 WM Circle Study: 9:30am and 6:45pm	7	8 B-day: Claire Mackin	9	10
11 Deacon Meeting Communion Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	12 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am WM Council Meeting: 5pm	13 WM Circle Study: 9:30am and 6:45pm B-day: Emily Gill	14	15 B-day: Jimmy Mackin	16	17
18 Father's Day Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Fellowship Potluck	19 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Moses McNutt B-day: Milledge Carmichael	20 WM Circle Study: 9:30am and 6:45pm	21	22	23	24
25 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) HOP: 2pm B-day: Morris Carmichael	26 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	27 WM Circle Study: 9:30am and 6:45pm B-day: Mills McClure Anniv: Trey & Chonda Griffith	28 B-day: Hannah Mackin B-day: Ann Resto	29 B-day: Karen Lashley B-day: Jackie Tripp B-day: Grey Tripp	30 B-day: Katy Basinger	

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNE

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Ray Evans

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Eloise Harris

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. The morning group will meet at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and the evening group will meet at 6:45 at Ann Resto’s house. The study will feature the book, “Saints and Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus,” by Nancy Guthrie. If you are able, please join us.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,705.26		\$ 39,460.14
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,279.98		\$ 42,762.24
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 4,425.28		\$ (3,302.10)
	<u>2022</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,516.00		\$ 33,523.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,080.60		\$ 33,005.94
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 435.40		\$ 517.06

MARCH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 47

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

JUNE EVENTS

June 4: Trinity Sunday.

June 11:

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

June 12: Women’s Ministry Council Meeting, 5:00 pm.

June 18:

- Father’s Day.
- Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Mackin and Basinger families.

June 25: 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.

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: BICYCLE ADOPTION

For food, you need money. For money, you need a job. For a job, you need transportation. We are starting a new outreach ministry in which we will accept donated bicycles, renew them, and adopt them out to people in our community who need transportation. This ministry will involve interviews and home visits to the “adoptive family.” This will allow us to be invited into their homes, see their needs, and share the Gospel view of adoption. Please pray consistently that God clearly shows to us His plan for this ministry.

Erik Lessmann is leading this and is asking for everyone's involvement. We not only need to find and fix bikes, but we also to find "adoptive families," schedule meetings, do home visits, and source cheap or donated parts. We'll do this as a family from June 1 to January 31, and then reevaluate God's plan for this ministry.

Please contact Erik for more information and tell him how you want to be involved (before he volunteers you). erik.lessmann@gmail.com



**2023 Puddle Jumpers
Children’s Consignment Sale**

Registration Due: July 27
Inventory Check-In: July 31 and August 1
Sale Dates: August 3-5



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

JUNE 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
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)

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Abrams, Riddell	Hoggle, Judy
Acton, Beth	Huizenga, Fran
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Bazuin, Caiden	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beale, Amy	Lane, Barbara
Beard, Ronnie	Lessmann, Linus
Beeler, Peggy	Ligon, Brandon
Belcher, Samuel	Mackin, Jimmy
Brantley, Maggie	Mader, Rebecca
Bridges, Ida Lee	Margo, Chrissy
Brooker, Chrissy	McIntier, Jodie
Brooker, Jan	Morgan, Laura
Brown, Walt	Morris, Seth
Busby, Rhae	Mutisya, Cecilia
Bynum, Linda	Parr, Higley
Cooper, Dr. Clarence	Phillips, Ronnie
Curry, Walter	Renner, Elizabeth
Davidson, Karen	Reynolds, Christy
DeWitt, Robert	Sharp, Chris
Duncan, Conner	Sims, Anna Katherine
Dyer, Doug	Thornton, Alaina
Espy, Emily	Tipton, Carolyn
Farst, Sharon	Townsend, Laura
Finley, Betty	Tulipan, Amelia
Gardner, Greg	Tulipan, Hansen
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Turner, Becky
Hall, Jimmy	Twist, Ty
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	VanderMolen, Popko
Haubert, Chloe Belle	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
Jimmy Hall

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
Nathan McCaskill



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.