

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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OCTOBER 2023

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

John Knox brought the Reformation to Scotland. As Presbyterians, we look back to him as one of our closest forefathers in the way we practice our Reformed and Presbyterian Christian faith here in the United States in 2023. Let's have a look at him and thank the Lord for the brave men and women and boys and girls who have gone before us.

John Knox (1513-1572) was a complex man who lived in complicated times. This Protestant reformer and Scottish churchman was born in Haddington and after his studies was ordained priest in 1536. He became a tutor to the sons of landowners who had embraced the new religious ideals of the Reformation. Knox had become a Protestant by 1545 when he was bodyguard and assistant to the itinerant preacher, George Wishart. In 1546, however, Wishart was tried and executed, followed shortly by the assassination of Cardinal David Beaton and the occupation of his castle in St. Andrews by pro-Protestant conspirators. Knox joined these Castilians at Easter 1547 and soon after was compelled to preach his first sermon. A French fleet captured the castle and Knox was condemned to slavery on the French war galleys for nineteen months. Enduring severe illness and the agony of viewing his homeland from the oars, it was during this captivity that Knox's role as a religious leader of exiles was confirmed.

After release Knox preached in England during the reign of Edward VI, being appointed royal chaplain. But after the rise of Roman Catholic Mary Tudor following Edward's short reign, Knox fled to John Calvin's Geneva. These four years in Geneva, preaching to exiles, were happy times of productivity at a place Knox called 'the most perfect school of Christ that ever was in the earth since the days of the apostles'. He took a brief trip to England to marry Marjory Bowes, who gave birth to two sons in Geneva.

Knox wrote treatises concerning the right to revolt, *History of the Reformation in Scotland*, and contributed to the Geneva Bible. Knox returned to Scotland in 1559 after which his long struggle against Mary Queen of Scots ensued as well as his work with the Lords of the Congregation to bring reform to Scotland. Fearlessly preaching against the idolatry of the Mass, Knox is credited with bringing the Protestant Reformation to Scotland. Not alone in his ideals, it is Knox who gave Scotland a body of Protestant doctrine, an enduring pattern of worship, and introduced the Presbyterian system of church government.

Knox championed education, civic virtue, protection of women and children, and godly culture. Knox's contemporaries acknowledged that his powerful preaching from his Geneva Bible at St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh profoundly influenced Scotland's restoration from the barbarous domination of clans to Christian faith and liberty.

To God be the glory,

Pastor Josh

*O Lord Eternal, move and govern  
my tongue to speak the truth.*

*Prayer is an earnest and  
familiar talking with God.*

*Let no day slip over without  
some comfort received from the  
mouth of God.*

*Lord, give me Scotland or I die!*

*~ John Knox (1513-1572)*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <b>WM Love Gift Offering</b>	2 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	3 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm	4 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	5	6	7
8 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Communion</b> <b>WM Love Gift Offering</b>	9 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>WM Council Meeting:</b> 5pm <b>B-day:</b> Allison Ward	10 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm	11 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	12	13 <b>B-day:</b> Isabelle Basinger	14
15 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>WM Love Gift Offering</b> <b>Fellowship Potluck</b>	16 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Tyree Tripp	17 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm <b>Presbytery Meeting:</b> 9am at Trinity PCA, Tuscaloosa	18 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm <b>Session Meeting:</b> 7pm <b>B-day:</b> Henry Carmichael <b>Anniv:</b> Erik & Rebecca Lessmann	19 <b>B-day:</b> Alan Lashley <b>B-day:</b> Erik Lessmann <b>B-day:</b> Eloise Coddington	20	21
22 <b>Men's Appreciation Breakfast:</b> 8:30am <b>Joint Officer (Session/Deacon) Meeting:</b> 8:30am <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>WM Love Gift Offering</b> <b>HOP:</b> 2pm	23 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Melanie Evans	24 <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm <b>B-day:</b> Peter Lessmann <b>Anniv:</b> Alan & Karen Lashley	25 <b>Fellowship:</b> 6pm <b>Study/Prayer:</b> 6:15pm	26	27	28
29 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Deacons Fund Offering</b> <b>WM Love Gift Offering</b> <b>B-day:</b> Sadie Atkins	30 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Tiffany Mackin	31 <b>Reformation Day</b> <b>WM Circle Study:</b> 9:30am and 6:45pm				

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH:** David Coddington and Ray Evans

**FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Andrea Ward

**RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:**

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
- Monday, Game/Fellowship Time, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday, Women’s Ministry Circle Study, 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall; 6:45 pm at Ann Resto’s house.
- Wednesday Night Fellowship, Study, and Prayer time. Fellowship is at 6:00 pm and study and prayer time is at 6:15 pm.

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

<u>2023</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,591.10	\$ 77,987.24
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,211.50	\$ 74,309.26
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,379.60	\$ 3,677.98
<u>2022</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,070.00	\$ 67,854.62
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,821.71	\$ 64,621.71
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (1,751.71)	\$ 3,232.91

**AUGUST AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 47

## OCTOBER EVENTS

**October 8:** Communion.

**October 9:** Women’s Ministry Council Meeting, 5:00 pm.

**October 15:** Monthly Fellowship Potluck. Setup/Clean-up Committee: Weltin and Coddington Families.

**October 17:** Presbytery Meeting, 9:00 am at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa.

**October 18:** Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**October 22:**

- Men’s Appreciation Breakfast, 8:30 am.
- Joint Officer (Session and Deacon) Meeting, 8:30 am.
- 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.

**October 29:**

- Deacons Fund Special Offering.
- Women’s Ministry Love Gift Legacy Offering.

## HELP NEEDED

The Demopolis Food Pantry has an on-going need specifically for 15-ounce cans of vegetables and fruit. We will maintain a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for donations to support the Food Pantry. Thanks for your support to help this vital community ministry!



## WOMEN’S MINISTRY

### LOVE GIFT LEGACY OFFERING:



## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

We hope you will get an early start and help support our Christmas Cards for the Troops annual event. Start planning now to prepare your cards. All cards will need to be delivered to the church by **November 12th.**



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

OCTOBER 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	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	Lawrence, Lisa
Acton, Beth	Lessmann, Linus
Allinder, Kate	Ligon, Brandon
Bazuin, Caiden	Mackin, Jimmy
Beale, Amy	Mader, Rebecca
Beeler, Peggy	Margo, Chrissy
Belcher, Samuel	McIntier, Jodie
Brantley, Maggie	Miles, Connie
Bridges, Ida Lee	Morgan, Laura
Brooker, Chrissy	Morris, Seth
Brooker, Jan	Ndunge, Cecilia
Brown, Walt	Parr, Higley
Busby, Rhae	Phillips, Ronnie
Bynum, Linda	Ramey, Carrie
Cooper, Dr. Clarence	Renner, Andy
Davidson, Karen	Renner, Elizabeth
DeWitt, Robert	Reynolds, Christy
Duncan, Conner	Sharp, Chris
Dyer, Doug	Sims, Anna Katherine
Finley, Betty	Stewart, Lee
Gardner, Greg	Thornton, Alaina
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Tipton, Carolyn
Hall, Jimmy	Townsend, Laura
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Tulipan, Amelia
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Tulipan, Hansen
Headley, David	Turner, Becky
Hocker, Jeannie	Twist, Ty
Hogge, Judy	VanderMolen, Popko
Huizenga, Fran	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Hux, Karen	Womble, Caleb
Lane, Barbara	Zimmerman, Steve

**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

### 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

### In the Mission Field:

Lucy Lessmann — Costa Rica

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.