

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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JANUARY 2024

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Standing Fast in the 2024

Dear Congregation,

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, please remember that we are in God's good and strong hands. "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases" (Ps. 115:3 ESV). As I pondered writing this article and started twice, I am now in my third try on New Year's Eve. I have chosen to focus on our men of all ages, 2 to 102. All believers can always learn from every passage of the Bible by extension and application, but some passages focus on us in specific and crucial ways. So I believe it is in the Apostle Paul's admonition to the church in Corinth just before he closes his first letter to them.

**"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Cor. 16:13-14).** Friends, we live in challenging times. Not only God, but reality itself, is under attack. Let us be prepared to stand fast even as the opposition to our God, his holy and inerrant Word, and us his people, only grows more and more stubborn and belligerent. Richard Pratt says it clearly, "God calls us to a way of life that incites opposition from the world." Therefore, listen to General Paul as he gives short orders to his soldiers in the army of the Lord.

**Be watchful.** In his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus defeated sin and death. His resurrection guarantees ours. Further, he is coming again. So be prepared. Jesus taught extensively on this theme in his final parables in the gospels. Paul already warned all believers: "Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Cor. 15:58). So brothers and fathers, as you vigilantly await Christ's return in glory, live holy lives in conduct and in service to Christ in all things. Be prepared to thwart the spiritual forces of darkness. Live with Jesus' final victory in mind.

**Stand firm in the faith.** Do not deviate to the right or to the left. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" (Prov. 14:12). God does not change with the times. (What a relief!) God's Word does not change. "The early church faced many challenges that tested believers' faithfulness to Christ" (R. Pratt). So it is with us today. Be committed to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the life that flows from such a call and commitment. Rely on the Word and the Holy Spirit.

**Act like men. Be strong.** I am currently reading a marvelous book that its author says should never have needed to be written, but, alas, the times call for it: *No Apologies: Why Civilization Depends on the Strength of Men* by Anthony Esolen. The KJV translates the phrase *Acquit you like men*. That is, men, conduct yourselves according to the way God made you, in his image and according to his instructions. There is such a thing, a person actually, as a man and specifically a Christian gentleman. That is who we are called to be.

After instructing us to meditate on God's law day and night, Joshua said, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Jos. 1:9). Our land certainly resembles Canaan today. Let us take heed of Joshua's words. Joab once told King David, "Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him" (2 Sam. 10:12). I say, "Amen!" And the late Dr. Simon Kistemaker warned us, "No soldier in the army of Jesus Christ may be fainthearted; in his presence, there is no place for cowards and weaklings." Men of FPC Demopolis, *Acquit yourselves like men*. Our victory is sure in Jesus Christ, who offered us peace in him, adding, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33b).

**Let all that you do be done in love.** Without the Christian virtue of love, we could appear loud and obnoxious to the world. May it never be! Clothed in love and humility we will live godly and orderly lives. And we will be ready to respond to the fiery darts of the devil. Love for God first and secondly for our neighbor is the motivation and the guiding principle for everything a Christian does. After all, "God is love" (1 John 4:8b).

Dear brothers and sisters of FPC, as we begin 2024, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Cor. 13:14).

Pastor Josh

*Let all that you do  
be done in Love*

# JANUARY 2024

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

|  |   |   |  |  |    |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|----|--|
|  | 1<br><b><u>New Year's Day</u></b>   | 2<br><b><u>B-day</u></b> : Jonathan Cannon  | 3<br><b><u>Anniv</u></b> : Billy & Ruth Symon  | 4                                      | 5  | 6<br><b><u>B-day</u></b> : Kristy Atkins   |
| 7<br><b><u>Sunday School</u></b> :<br>9:30am<br><b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am   | 8<br><b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b><br><b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am<br><b><u>B-day</u></b> : Isaac Cannon | 9<br><b><u>WM Circle Study</u></b> :<br>9:30am<br><b><u>B-day</u></b> : Marcie Coddington                               | 10<br><b><u>Fellowship</u></b> : 6pm<br><b><u>Study/Prayer</u></b> :<br>6:15pm   | 11                                     | 12 | 13   |
| 14<br><b><u>Sunday School</u></b> :<br>9:30am<br><b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am<br><b><u>Communion</u></b><br><b><u>Deacon Meeting</u></b>     | 15<br><b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b><br><b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am                                      | 16<br><b><u>WM Circle Study</u></b> :<br>9:30am and 6:45pm  | 17<br><b><u>Fellowship</u></b> : 6pm<br><b><u>Study/Prayer</u></b> :<br>6:15pm<br><b><u>Session Meeting</u></b> :<br>7pm | 18<br><b><u>B-day</u></b> : Edith Gill | 19 | 20   |
| 21<br><b><u>Sunday School</u></b> :<br>9:30am<br><b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am<br><b><u>Fellowship Potluck</u></b>                            | 22<br><b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b><br><b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am                                      | 23<br><b><u>Presbytery Meeting</u></b> : at Aliceville PCA, 9am<br><b><u>WM Circle Study</u></b> :<br>9:30am and 6:45pm | 24<br><b><u>Fellowship</u></b> : 6pm<br><b><u>Study/Prayer</u></b> :<br>6:15pm   | 25                                     | 26 | 27<br><b><u>Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry Annual Meeting</u></b> at Riverwood PCA, Tuscaloosa, 9am |
| 28<br><b><u>Sunday School</u></b> :<br>9:30am<br><b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am<br><b><u>HOP</u></b> : 2pm<br><b><u>B-day</u></b> : Ozzy Resto | 29<br><b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b><br><b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am                                      | 30<br><b><u>WM Circle Study</u></b> :<br>9:30am and 6:45pm  | 31<br><b><u>Fellowship</u></b> : 6pm<br><b><u>Study/Prayer</u></b> :<br>6:15pm   |  |    |  |

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

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

**FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Joy Mackin

**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 or 6:45 pm at Patty Kirkpatrick’s home.
- Wednesday, Dessert Fellowship and Bible Study/Prayer Time. Dessert fellowship at 6:00 pm and study with prayer time at 6:15pm.

**SESSION:** Dr. Josh Carmichael, Teaching Elder. Ruling Elders: Dennis Davidson, Scott Kirkpatrick, Jimmy Mackin, and Billy Symon.

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

| <u>2023</u>             | <u>NOVEMBER</u> | <u>2023 YTD</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gen. Fund Contributions | \$ 8,250.58     | \$ 107,257.62   |
| Gen. Fund Expenses      | \$ 7,105.25     | \$ 101,102.31   |
| Net Gain (Loss)         | \$ 1,145.33     | \$ 6,155.31     |
| <u>2022</u>             | <u>NOVEMBER</u> | <u>2022 YTD</u> |
| Gen. Fund Contributions | \$ 5,611.00     | \$ 91,299.17    |
| Gen. Fund Expenses      | \$ 10,052.33    | \$ 88,597.14    |
| Net Gain (Loss)         | \$ (4,441.33)   | \$ 2,702.03     |

**NOVEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 50

## JANUARY EVENTS

**January 9:** The Women’s Ministry Circle morning and evening study groups resume.

**January 10:** Our Wednesday night fellowship, study and prayer time resumes. Fellowship time is at 6pm and study time is at 6:15 with a time of prayer following.

**January 14:**

- Communion.
- Deacon Meeting.

**January 17:** Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**January 21:** Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Coddington, Ward and Buroker families.

**January 23:** Warrior Presbytery Meeting, 9:00 am, at Aliceville PCA.

**January 27:** Warrior Presbytery Women’s Ministry Annual Meeting, at Riverwood PCA in Tuscaloosa. Registration and Fellowship from 9:00 to 9:30. The program will feature guest speaker Jamie Voss who is the CDM (Committee on Discipleship Ministries) Coordinator for the PCA’s Southeast Regional Women’s Ministry. Her topic will be on Abiding with Jesus (John 15).

**January 28:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

## WOMEN’S MINISTRY CIRCLE STUDY GROUPS

The Women’s Ministry Circle studies will resume every Tuesday beginning on January 9th.

The morning group will meet at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Karen Lashley. The morning group will study the book *Heaven Rules*, by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth.

The evening group will meet at 6:45 at Patty Kirkpatrick’s home and will be led by Ann Resto. The evening group will study the book, *Habakkuk—Learning to Live by Faith*, by Lydia Brownback.

We hope the ladies will embrace one of these great studies as we grow together in God’s Word.

## 2024 MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Our 37th Missions Conference will be held on February 17 and 18, 2024.

Guest missionaries will include Rev. Doug McNutt of Trinity Center for World Missions in Africa, Rev. Jimmy Dukes of Reformed Evangelical Fellowship in Peru, Jonah of Frontiers Ministries, and Tanya Carter of the Light House Women’s Center in Demopolis.

More information will be coming in the next several weeks. Plan ahead and save the date to attend this event as we get ready to kickoff another Faith Promise year of giving.



The WHOLE EARTH will  
acknowledge the  
*Lord*  
and return to HIM.  
ALL the families of the nations  
will bow down before HIM.  
PSALM 22:27

# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

JANUARY 2024

## 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      |
| Bridges, Ida Lee        | Miles, Connie        |
| Brooker, Chrissy        | Morgan, Laura        |
| Brooker, Jan            | Morris, Seth         |
| Brown, Walt             | Ndunge, Cecilia      |
| Busby, Rhae             | Parr, Higley         |
| Bynum, Linda            | Phillips, Ronnie     |
| Cooper, Darlene         | Ramey, Carrie        |
| Davidson, Karen         | Renner, Andy         |
| DeWitt, Robert          | Renner, Elizabeth    |
| Duncan, Conner          | Reynolds, Christy    |
| Dyer, Doug              | Sharp, Chris         |
| Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)  | 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, Hansen      |
| Haubert, Chloe Belle    | Turner, Becky        |
| Headley, David          | Twist, Ty            |
| Hocker, Jeannie         | VanderMolen, Popko   |
| Hoggle, Judy            | Wilder, Emily (Espy) |
| Huizenga, Fran          | Womble, Caleb        |
| Hux, Karen              | Zimmerman, Steve     |
| Lane, Barbara           |                      |

**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  
Abigail Kircharr  
Harry Jeong

#### Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick  
Sam Brasfield  
Steven Mackin  
Victor Resto  
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.