

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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APRIL 2024

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Wisdom appears to be in short supply out in the world these days. We, however, have the wisdom of God: Christ and his word. On Wednesday evenings we have been studying the book of Proverbs. The word wisdom in the Old Testament (OT) refers to the act of "skillful living." The books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and portions of the Psalms are especially instructive in Biblical wisdom.

In the OT we find especially the Law, the Prophets, and Wisdom. Each touches similar issues from discrete viewpoints: Law, in the form of *legislation*; Prophets, in the form of *accusation*; and Wisdom, in the form of practical *instruction*.

Wisdom, like the rest of the Bible, operates from within the framework of *covenant*. What does it mean to live faithfully as God's people? The *family* was the first locale of wisdom in Israelite culture. For the family as the first and best school, see Deut. 6:4-9. The wisdom literature was addressed first to OT Israel as *human beings*, people like you and me. They needed help just like us in answering questions about everyday life. Wisdom *does not promote any particular vocation, occupation, or trade*. Agriculture (10:5), government (11:14), and business (31:18-24) are all esteemed. And all are approached in conjunction with religious and moral situations. We need wise Christian farmers, legislators, judges, and business people. Finally, biblical wisdom stresses *the limitations of human knowledge*. We can always grow in knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. (See Proverbs 30:5-6.)

Ralph Davis summarizes: "The purpose of wisdom is the explication and application of the covenant to the personal, social, political, philosophical, and ethical life of the people of God."

Biblical wisdom gives us a window on the world. It is the nuts-and-bolts of daily life. It deals with reality! Proverbs says how things ought to be. Job and Ecclesiastes express the quest for wisdom in a fallen world. Song of Songs gives positive explication of the wise and loving marriage among the people of God. For example, David Hubbard puts it like this: Proverbs seems to say, "Here are the rules

of life; try them and find that they will work." Job and Ecclesiastes say, "We did, and they don't." The wisdom literature recognizes the mysterious side of God's ways. God is not predictable, but he is holy and just. But it can sometimes be a very complex holiness and a most opaque justice. So we "swallow wisdom whole" in order to preserve its integrity and observe both God's consistency and his complexity.

I encourage you to read and reread the book of Proverbs. You will find that these nuggets of wisdom prove to be pure gold in the midst of the crooked and wicked generation within which we are living. Remember, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction" (1:7). And do not forget that we now live in New Testament times. Wisdom has found its fulfillment. (Note the questions of Proverbs 30:4.)

And from God you are in Christ Jesus, who has become to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent (See 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:3; & John 17:3). Let us pray for wisdom!

AND THIS IS
ETERNAL LIFE
THAT THEY MAY
KNOW YOU,
THE
ONE TRUE GOD,
AND
JESUS CHRIST
WHOM YOU HAVE SENT.
JOHN 17:3



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

	1 B-day: Chonda Griffith	2 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	3	4	5 B-day: Billy Symon, Sr B-day: Meredith Cole (Mackin)	6
7 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am	8 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Isabella Dukes Anniv: TJ & Cindy Keasler	9 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	10 Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm	11	12	13
14 Deacon Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Communion B-day: Kelly McClure (Keasler)	15 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Bess Weltin	16 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	17 Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm Session Meeting: 7pm B-day: Chaney Rimes	18 B-day: Talon Rimes	19	20 Presbytery Meeting: 9am, Brent PCA B-day: Lucy Lessmann B-day: Linus Lessmann
21 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am Fellowship Potluck	22 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	23 WM Circle Study: 9:30am	24 Fellowship: 6pm Study/Prayer: 6:15pm	25	26	27 B-day: Emily Mackin
28 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am HOP: 2pm	29 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	30 WM Circle Study: 9:30am				

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Ray Evans

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Katy Basinger

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.
- 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

<u>2024</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,686.16	\$ 19,610.32
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 11,910.91	\$ 19,249.89
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (2,224.75)	\$ 360.43
<u>2023</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,580.36	\$ 16,511.86
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 8,534.14	\$ 15,977.74
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (953.78)	\$ 534.12

FEBRUARY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 52

APRIL EVENTS

April 14:

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

April 17: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

April 20: Presbytery Meeting, 9:00 am, at Brent PCA. In conjunction with the Warrior Presbytery Meeting, UnBound216 will be hosting a BBQ Fundraiser. The men at the Presbytery Meeting will be provided the opportunity to hear more about this ministry.

April 21: Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Lashley, Cannon, Carmichael, and Thelma Brown.

April 24: Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

OTHER EVENTS

UnBound216, a Christ-centered, Gospel-driven prison re-entry ministry, will be holding a BBQ fundraiser at Brent Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 20 at 12:30 PM. The chief goal of this fundraiser will be to raise \$12,000 for the purchase of evaporative coolers for the UnBound216 bays in Bibb County Correctional Facility. The purchase of these coolers will go far to improve the living conditions of the 316 men in the UnBound216 living bays at Bibb. At this fundraiser, supporters will also have the opportunity to learn more about all the Lord is doing in this ministry, to hear about the graduation of the preceding week, to hear the testimonies of UnBound216 graduates, and last but not least, to enjoy barbeque and fellowship!



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

APRIL 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):

Acton, Beth	Huizenga, Fran
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Anderson, Kirsta	Johnson, Glenda
Bazuin, Caiden	Lawrence, Lisa
Beale, Amy	Lessmann, Linus
Beeler, Peggy	Ligon, Brandon
Belcher, Samuel	Mackin, Jimmy
Brooker, Chrissy	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Jan	Margo, Chrissy
Brown, Walt	McIntier, Jodie
Busby, Rhae	Morgan, Laura
Bynum, Linda	Morris, Seth
Davidson, Karen	Petite, Maddie
Desmond, Huey	Phillips, Ronnie
DeWitt, Robert	Ramey, Carrie
Duncan, Conner	Renner, Andy
Dyer, Doug	Renner, Elizabeth
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Reynolds, Christy
Finley, Betty	Stewart, Lee
Gardner, Greg	Townsend, Laura
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Tulipan, Hansen
Hall, Jimmy	Turner, Becky
Harris, Karen	Twist, Ty
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	VanderMolen, Popko
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Wildner, Emily (Espy)
Headley, David	Womble, Caleb
Hocker, Jeannie	
Hoggle, Judy	

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
Eliza Horton

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
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.

