

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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JULY 2024

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What is prayer? asks Westminster Shorter Catechism question 98. The answer: *Prayer is offering our desires to God in the name of Christ for things that agree with His will, confessing our sins, and thankfully recognizing His mercies.*

Let's use a little space here to very briefly trace the theme of prayer through the Bible. Before mankind's fall into sin, we are told that the LORD God walked in the garden in the cool of the day (see Gen. 3:8). This signifies intimate fellowship between God and those created in his image, our first parents. It is not until Seth's wife gives birth to Enosh that we read, "At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD" (4:26 ESV). We are soon told about Enoch, father of Methuselah. "Enoch walked with God," thus signifying some restoration of this fellowship we now call prayer (5:22).

In an interesting and intense encounter between God and Abraham, we find a bold introduction to intercessory prayer. The LORD says he has heard great cries of wrongdoing and has determined to judge Sodom and Gomorrah for their gross iniquities. Yet Abraham petitions God to withhold his judgment if any righteous happen to reside in the midst of the wicked. The series of questions and answers (see 18:16-33) that follow make crystal clear the justice of God's judgment. Likewise, Moses later intercedes for God's own sinful people he has delivered from slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt. Finding them worshipping a golden calf, the LORD determines to wipe them out and start over with Moses. Moses answers, "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self," promising them an inheritance. "And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people" (see Exodus 32:7-14). God hears the intercessory prayers of his saints.

Hannah exemplifies the prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving. The barren woman prayed to God for a son, vowing him unto the LORD if he would open her womb. He did. What follows is ten verses of profound gratitude. "My heart exults in the LORD;... There is none holy like the LORD;... The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts" (see 1 Samuel 2:1-10). What more can we do but give thanks to the Lord? All that we have is from him.

King David models the prayer of confession and repentance. It is true that the man known as the one after God's own heart indeed sinned greatly: adultery and murder. He also confessed and repented. "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (see Psalm 51). "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away ... I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity" (see Psalm 32). God forgave David, even as he has forgiven those of us who have confessed and repented in faith.

Of David's greater son, the Lord Jesus, we are told that after a long day of ministry, "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed" (Mark 1:35). And we do not have the space to discuss his high priestly prayer, his prayers in Gethsemane, and his pleas from the cross. Jesus was not just our Savior and the one who gave us the Lord's Prayer, he was and is our prayer warrior.

The members of the early church were always found praying. The harder life became for them, the more they prayed. After nine chapters of this persistent prayer, we read this summary statement: "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied" (Acts 9:31).

In the Revelation of John we get a glimpse of prayer in heaven. "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! ... To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (5:12-13). And the last words of the Bible? A prayer and benediction from John: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" and "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen" (22:20-21).

So what do we say in response to this brief look at prayer in the Bible?

Shall we pray?  
Pastor Josh



**SUN**

**MON**

**TUE**

**WED**

**THU**

**FRI**

**SAT**

	1	2	3	4 <b>Independence Day</b>	5	6
7 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am	8 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>B-day:</b> Kristy Johnson	9	10 <b>B-day:</b> Claire Coddington	11 <b>B-day:</b> Ansley Basinger	12 <b>Anniv:</b> Mike & Bernice Cork	13
14 <b>Deacon Meeting</b> <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Communion</b>	15 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	16	17 <b>Session Meeting:</b> 7pm	18	19 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Consignor</b> <b>Registration</b> <b>Deadline</b>	20 <b>B-day:</b> Clay Mackin
21 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>Fellowship Potluck</b> <b>B-day:</b> Kami Basinger	22 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am	23 <b>B-day:</b> Scott Kirkpatrick <b>B-day:</b> Liam Rimes	24 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Consignor Check-In</b> <b>(Consignors #1-30):</b> 10am-12pm; 2-6pm	25 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Consignor Check-In</b> <b>(Consignors #1-30)</b> 10am-12pm; 2-6pm <b>B-day:</b> Makenna McNutt <b>B-day:</b> Merry Coburn	26 <b>B-day:</b> Thomas Carmichael	27 <b>Anniv:</b> Jimmy & Joy Mackin
28 <b>Sunday School:</b> 9:30am <b>Worship:</b> 11am <b>HOP:</b> 2pm <b>B-day:</b> Joe Morgan	29 <b>Game/Fellowship</b> <b>Time:</b> 9:30am <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Consignor Check-In</b> <b>(by appointment only)</b>	30 <b>B-day:</b> Genevieve McNutt	31 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Pre-Sale for</b> <b>Consignors and</b> <b>Guests:</b> 4-6pm	Aug 1 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Public Sale:</b> 3-6pm	Aug 2 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Public Sale:</b> 3-6pm	Aug 3 <b>Puddle Jumpers</b> <b>Public Sale/Half Off</b> <b>Sale:</b> 8am-12noon <b>Cleanup/Inventory:</b> 12noon-2pm <b>Consignors Pick Up</b> <b>Checks:</b> 2-3pm

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY

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

**FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Patty Kirkpatrick

**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.

**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>2024</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,562.67	\$ 53,737.10
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,761.52	\$ 46,480.33
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 3,801.15	\$ 7,256.77
<u>2023</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,442.00	\$ 47,902.14
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,174.13	\$ 41,321.43
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 1,267.87	\$ 6,580.71

**MAY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 46

## JULY EVENTS

**July 14:**

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

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

**July 21:**

- Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Cork, Resto and Lashley families.

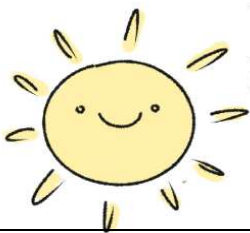
**July 28:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris' home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.

## PUDDLE JUMPERS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



- Publicity of our event
- Setting yard signs around town
- Checking in the inventory
- Setting up merchandise floor and racks
- Working the during the sale
- Breaking down inventory and cleaning at the end of sale
- Praying for the success of our event

We will need many hands to help our annual community outreach and fundraising event for our women's and children's ministries which benefits our entire church. This event only happens because of your helping hands. Signup sheets will be available soon. Your help is greatly appreciated.



# Puddle Jumpers Children's Consignment Sale

Consignor Registration Deadline	Friday, July 19	
Consignor Check-in (Consignors #1-30)	Wednesday, July 24	10 - 12 pm or 2 - 6 pm
Consignor Check-in (Consignors #31-50)	Thursday, July 25	10 - 12 pm or 2 - 6 pm
Pre-Arranged Check-in (by appointment only)	Monday, July 29	By appointment only
Pre-Sale for Consignors	Wednesday, July 31	4 - 6 pm
Pre-Sale for Consignors' Guests	Wednesday, July 31	5 - 6 pm
Public Sale	Thursday and Friday, August 1 & 2	3 - 6 pm
Half Off Sale	Saturday, August 3	8 am - 12 noon
Clean-Up and Inventory	Saturday, August 3	12 noon - 2 pm
Consignors Pick Up Unsold Items & Pick Up Checks	Saturday, August 3	2 - 3 pm

# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

JULY 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	Headley, David
Allinder, Kate	Hocker, Jeannie
Anderson, Kirsta	Hux, Karen
Aultman, Keegan	Johnson, Glenda
Beale, Amy	Lawrence, Lisa
Beeler, Peggy	Lessmann, Linus
Belcher, Samuel	Ligon, Brandon
Brooker, Chrissy	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Jan	Margo, Chrissy
Brown, Walt	McIntier, Jodie
Bryant, Kristie	Morgan, Laura
Busby, Rhae	Morris, Seth
Bynum, Linda	Petite, Maddie
Davidson, Karen	Phillips, Ronnie
Desmond, Huey	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	Twist, Ty
Harris, Karen	VanderMolen, Popko
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Womble, Caleb

**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.

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.



## OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

### Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
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  
Austin Griffith  
Kaleb Brown  
Nathan McCaskill