

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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## May 2025

### Doctrine Is for Life

On Resurrection Morning, incognito Jesus met up with Cleopas and Co. They were “talking and discussing” the remarkable happenings concerning Jesus of Nazareth. They “had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.” When Jesus had heard enough he responded. *And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.* (Luke 24:25-27 ESV)

One particular branch of theology likes to look to this unique encounter between Jesus and these disciples as expressing the validity of its specialty. I tend to think that every area of theology benefits from pondering Jesus’ teaching that first Lord’s Day morning.

Let me briefly explain these theological areas to which I am referring. First, there is Exegetical Theology. This is the science of drawing out the meaning and interpretation of a passage of Scripture given the text’s language, context and historical background. We really do this every time we read the Bible. It is also what we usually do in Sunday School class.

Next is Systematic Theology. This area of theology seeks to discern what the Bible as a whole says about a particular topic. You may recall our sermon series considering the catechism answer to *What is God?* “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.” This was essentially an exercise in systematic theology considering the Doctrine of God. Other topics include Christology, Doctrine of the Spirit, the Doctrine of Scripture, the Doctrine of Salvation, etc.

Then we have Biblical Theology. New seminary students (including yours truly, back in the day) become quickly enamored with this one because it is often so new and interesting. This field is the study of tracing the history of redemption and the promises of God and their progressive fulfillment from Genesis to Revelation. It helps us see how the whole Bible fits together and centers on Christ.

Historical Theology traces the development of doctrine from the time of the apostles to the present. This includes tracing God’s providence in the lives of his people (Church History). This is

important because much of our development of doctrine has come in the face of obvious and sometimes insidious wrong doctrines. Many of our forebears gave their lives in the defense of the truth of Scripture. They followed the Apostle’s admonition to Timothy: *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth* (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).

Finally, there is Practical Theology. While all theology is ultimately practical, this specific branch of study explores the application of theology in everyday life. We should always seek to do this appropriately through preaching, teaching, group, and private Bible study. After all, we do not just read the Scripture for information, but even more for transformation—into the image of Christ!

The verses listed above from Luke 24 are often used by those in the field of Biblical Theology as their marching orders. That is certainly true. Can you imagine what it was like to listen to the Son of God himself trace the unfolding teaching of the Messiah from the books of Moses all the through the prophets and up to the actual day of Christ’s resurrection? What a Bible study that must have been!

But I believe Jesus was also doing Systematic Theology with his disciples that day. I believe he taught them quite a bit about Christology and Scripture and the Church. And he was engaging in Exegetical Theology as he *interpreted to them in all the Scriptures*. Further, he was engaging in Historical Theology and Old Testament Church History as he unfolded for them the development of the doctrine of the promised deliverer throughout redemptive history. Finally, I think it was also an exercise in Practical Theology. What is more practical than seeing how the Scripture is “all about Jesus”!

Jesus invites and commands us to join him through the power of the Holy Spirit and under the calling of the Father to engage in all these theological disciplines ourselves. Yes, that means you and me. After all, how else can we follow our teaching from a couple of weeks ago: *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light* (1 Peter 2:9 ESV). Let’s get to proclaiming! Happy studying.

In Him,  
Pastor Josh

# MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b><u>National Day of Prayer</u></b> <b><u>12-Hour Prayer Vigil</u></b>	2 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Ali Basinger	3
4 <b><u>Sunday School</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am <b><u>Showers of Blessing Offering</u></b>	5 <b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b> <b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Anna Caroline Coburn <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Emma (Lessmann) McCaskill	6	7 <b><u>Fellowship, Study &amp; Prayer Time</u></b> : 6pm	8	9	10 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Bill Weltin <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Ruthie Mackin
11 <b><u>Mother's Day</u></b> <b><u>Deacon Meeting</u></b> <b><u>Sunday School</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am <b><u>Showers of Blessing Offering</u></b>	12 <b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b> <b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am	13	14 <b><u>Fellowship, Study &amp; Prayer Time</u></b> : 6pm <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Henry Lessmann	15	16 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Josh Carmichael	17
18 <b><u>Sunday School</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am <b><u>Showers of Blessing Offering</u></b> <b><u>Communion</u></b> <b><u>Fellowship Potluck</u></b>	19 <b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b> <b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Angie Solliday <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Sterrett Lessmann <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Owen Lessmann	20	21 <b><u>Fellowship, Study &amp; Prayer Time</u></b> : 6pm <b><u>Session Meeting</u></b> : 7pm <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Lily Mackin	22	23 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Andy Coburn	24 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Eloise Harris
25 <b><u>Sunday School</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>Worship</u></b> : 11am <b><u>Showers of Blessing Offering</u></b> <b><u>HOP</u></b> : 2pm <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Ryan Basinger	26 <b><u>Memorial Day</u></b> <b><u>Game/Fellowship</u></b> <b><u>Time</u></b> : 9:30am <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Melissa Weltin	27	28 <b><u>Fellowship, Study &amp; Prayer Time</u></b> : 6pm	29 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Betsy Carmichael	30 <b><u>B-day</u></b> : Lillian Cannon	31

# MAY 2025

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH:** Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork  
**MEAL MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH:** Rebecca Lessmann

- RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:**
- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
  - Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
  - Monday Game Time at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
  - Wednesday Fellowship, Study, and Prayer Time at 6:00 pm 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>2025</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$11,822.51	\$33,471.98
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$15,114.08</u>	<u>\$33,394.86</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (3,291.57)	\$ 77.12

  

<u>2024</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$12,073.95	\$31,684.27
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$11,481.63</u>	<u>\$30,731.52</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 592.32	\$ 952.75

**MARCH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:** 51

## MAY EVENTS

- May 1:**
- National Day of Prayer.
  - 12-Hour Prayer Vigil.

- May 11:**
- Mother’s Day
  - Deacons Meeting.
  - Communion.

- May 18:**
- Communion.
  - Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Symon, Ward, Evans, and Davidson families.

- May 21:**
- This will be our last Wednesday night study and prayer meeting as we break for the summer.
  - Session Meeting.

**May 25:** Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris’ home. For more information about HOP please see page 4.

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES**  
Morris Carmichael from Auburn University.  
Henry Carmichael from High School.

## SHOWERS OF BLESSING

The annual Warrior Presbytery Women’s Ministry Showers of Blessing offering will be held each Sunday through the month of May. This year’s offering will go to support Brent Mission PCA and UnBound216 Prison Ministry.



## BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

The annual Baby Bottle fundraising event for The Lighthouse Women’s Center runs from Mother’s Day to Father’s Day. Empty baby bottles are available to take and fill with your donations (coins, cash, and checks made out to **The Lighthouse Women’s Center**). Baby bottles with donations will be collected on Father’s Day. Please contact Andrea Ward for more information.



## 12-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Thursday, May 1, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.



# HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

## 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
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Jonah	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
Palmer Home	Hernando, MS
The Lighthouse Women's Ctr	Demopolis, AL
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

## HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Acton, Beth	Lawrence, Lisa
Aultman, Keegan	Lessmann, Linus
Beale, Amy	Ligon, Brandon
Beeler, Peggy	Loney, Judith
Belcher, Samuel	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Chrissy	Malone, Bessie
Brooker, Jan	Margo, Chrissy
Busby, Rhae	McIntier, Jodie
Bynum, Linda	Mee, Marilyn
Davidson, Karen	Morgan, Laura
Duncan, Conner	Morris, Seth
Dyer, Doug	Odom, Cassidy
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Ramey, Carrie
Faust, Maggie	Renner, Andy
Gardner, Greg	Renner, Elizabeth
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Reynolds, Christy
Gross, Ernie	Sharpe, Adam
Hall, Jimmy	Stewart, Lee
Harrison, Anna Katherine	Townsend, Laura
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Tulipan, Hansen
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Twist, Ty
Headley, David	VanderMolen, Popko
Hux, Karen	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Johnson, Glenda	Womble, Caleb
Kell, Gale	
Lawrence, Bill	

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.

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  
Rick Wilson  
Jimmy Hall  
Adam Sharpe  
Bessie Malone  
Lulu (Kendall) Ivy

### 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