

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

300 N. Strawberry Avenue
Demopolis, AL 36732
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September 2025

THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO SAVE

Hebrews 9:27–28

“Just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

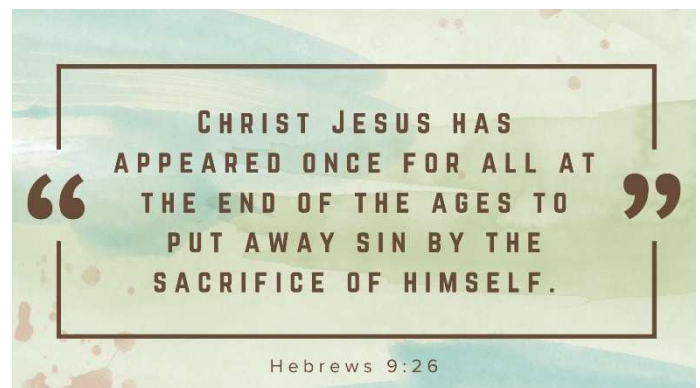
Eastern religions tend to teach a cyclical view of history in which events are not moving toward a final point. Some Hindus, for example, believe that the cycle of history moves from creation through continuation to destruction. After the destruction, the cycle starts all over again, and this happens again and again in an infinite loop of creation, destruction, and re-creation that never ends.

Biblical religion is far different, for it teaches that everything is moving to a final climax in which Christ will deliver up the kingdom to God the Father and dwell with His people forever ([1 Cor. 15:20–28](#); [Rev. 21](#)). History will not repeat itself infinitely. Integral to this climactic moment is the death and resurrection of Christ, which secures His kingdom and enables men and women to become its citizens. But there is a separation in time between the events of Christ’s death and resurrection and the full arrival of God’s kingdom. This is evident from texts such as [Hebrews 9:26–28](#). [Hebrews 9:26](#) informs us that Christ appears at the end of the ages to offer His sacrifice, and yet it is clear that there is more to come. As we see in today’s passage, Jesus is coming back “to save those who are eagerly awaiting him” (vv. 27–28).

Another way that the Bible talks about this is to say that the coming of Jesus inaugurated the last days, the final era of human history in which God will bring all His salvific promises to completion ([Acts 2:14–26](#)). Salvation is a comprehensive act of God that is secured by Christ in His atonement, resurrection, and ascension and then applied by His Spirit to His people, culminating in their glorification. Since Jesus has come and done the work necessary to save us, the salvation of His people is

absolutely secure. But we are waiting for the resurrection and the new heavens and earth, when all the benefits of Christ’s work will be true in our experience ([Rev. 21](#)). And these benefits are sure to come. Just as it is a certainty that human beings die once and then face God’s judgment, so is it certain that Jesus is coming back to complete what He started. We look forward to that return with eager anticipation, knowing that all the benefits of our redemption will then be completed ([Heb. 9:27–28](#)).

Because of the superiority of Christ’s priesthood, explained in [Hebrews 7–10](#), these benefits cannot fail to arrive. Knowing this, trusting in the second coming can steady our souls in all trials.



Coram Deo

Living before the face of God

John Owen, in his commentary on today’s passage, says that the second coming is a fundamental principle of our faith and that faith in this coming is enough to steady us in all the storms of life. The second coming is no afterthought that lacks practical relevance. Remembering that it is coming encourages us to persevere through trial and temptation, knowing that we can endure the worst of things here because the best is yet to come.

(Article from the Ligonier Ministry Devotional, *Tabletalk*, June 18, 2020.)

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>Labor Day Holiday</u> <u>Game Day</u> : 9:30am	2	3 <u>B-day</u> : Vickie Cannon	4 <u>Anniv</u> : Dennis & Karen Davidson	5	6
7 <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>B-day</u> : William Symon	8 <u>Game Day</u> : 9:30am <u>B-day</u> : Olivia Tripp	9	10 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time</u> : 6pm <u>Missions Committee Meeting</u> : 7pm	11	12	13 <u>B-day</u> : Bernice Cork <u>B-day</u> : Jones Colgrove <u>B-day</u> : Joseph Carmichael
14 <u>Deacon Meeting</u> <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Communion</u>	15 <u>Game Day</u> : 9:30am	16	17 <u>Session Meeting</u> : 10am <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time</u> : 6pm <u>B-day</u> : Adam Mackin	18	19 <u>B-day</u> : Eli Basinger	20
21 <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>Fellowship Potluck</u> <u>B-day</u> : Glenn Basinger	22 <u>Autumn Begins</u> <u>Game Day</u> : 9:30am	23	24 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time</u> : 6pm	25 <u>B-day</u> : Anna Dukes	26	27
28 <u>Sunday School</u> : 9:30am <u>Worship</u> : 11am <u>HOP</u> : 2pm <u>B-day</u> : Emma Atkins	29 <u>Game Day</u> : 9:30am	30 <u>WM Study</u> : 10am				

SEPTEMBER 2025

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Glenn Basinger and Mike Cork

MEAL MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Katy Basinger

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 Night Fellowship, Study and Prayer Time, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SESSION: 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>July</u>	<u>2025 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 8,902.00	\$ 75,873.14
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 5,293.27</u>	<u>\$ 69,016.72</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 3,608.73	\$ 6,856.42
<u>2024</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,270.19	\$ 74,409.49
Gen. Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 7,728.21</u>	<u>\$ 66,101.11</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (458.02)	\$ 8,308.38

JULY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 40

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 10:

- Our Wednesday night fellowship, study and prayer time will resume at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin a video series, "Who are They? Lesser-Known Characters of the Bible," from Ligonier Ministries.
- Missions Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm.

September 14:

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

September 17: Session Meeting, 10:00 am.

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

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

September 30: Women's Ministry Fall Study, 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This in-depth 8-week video series is on Galatians by At His Feet Studies. The books are \$15.00 each, which includes the cost of the video. For more information, please contact Ann Resto or Karen Lashley or go to <https://www.athisfeetstudies.com/galatians>.

PULPIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pulpit Committee has begun the process to search for our next pastor. There has been some interest from a couple of candidates, but there is nothing to report yet. Remember, this a long process, so please continue to pray for our Pulpit Committee and for the man God will provide to fill our need.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY VIDEO SERIES

Please join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm as we begin our fall study by Ligonier Ministries. This video series by Dr. Derek Thomas, "**WHO are THEY? Lesser-Known Characters of the Bible**," is a 12-week study.

About the study: God gives each of us a valuable role to play in His story. In this teaching series, Dr. Derek Thomas introduces us to lesser-known Bible characters whom God used to carry out His redemptive purposes. Knowing their stories can help us learn from their examples of faithfulness and treasure the truth that no one is insignificant to the Lord.

Lessons will feature:

1. The Maid of Naaman's Wife
2. Ehud, Judge of Israel
3. Jabez, Descendant of Judah
4. Jethro, Moses' Father-in-Law
5. Bezalel, the Spirit-Filled Artisan
6. Phinehas, Aaron's Grandson
7. Jael, Heroine of Israel
8. Rahab, the Prostitute
9. Zelophehad's Five Daughters
10. Simon of Cyrene
11. Tabitha, Full of Good Works
12. Demas, Alexander, and Carpus

ADDRESS UPDATES

Josh and Betsy Carmichael
1322 N. Dean Rd
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Auburn, AL 36830

Kris and Mary Harbin
863 66th St
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

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
Nate Williams	Apologetics Resource Center — Cullman, 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
UnBound216 Prison Ministry	Bibb County, AL
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Acton, Beth	Lawrence, Bill
Aultman, Keegan	Lee, Julie
Beale, Amy	Lessmann, Linus
Beeler, Peggy	Ligon, Brandon
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	Ramey, Carrie
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Renner, Andy
Gardner, Greg	Renner, Elizabeth
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Reynolds, Christy
Harrison, Anna Katherine	Sharpe, Adam
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Townsend, Laura
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Tulipan, Hansen
Headley, David	Twist, Ty
Hux, Karen	VanderMolen, Popko
Johnson, Glenda	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Kell, Gale	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.

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
Adam Sharpe
Bessi
e Malone
Lulu (Kendall) Ivy
Martin Beeler

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

