

First Presbyterian Church
117 S. Pearl Street
(Mailing address: 400 State Street)
Natchez, MS 39120 601-442-2581
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THE LINK ~OCTOBER 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:19-20)

The call is clear, concise and as fresh as a new morning each time we read it. The call is ours now, today. When Jesus urged his disciples to go and to spread the gospel message to the farthest corners of the world, he knew the message would be passed through the generations.

The call is not only for those who can go to foreign countries to take the gospel message. No: the call is greater than that, telling us to take the gospel message with us every day wherever we go in our daily lives.

This message from our Lord Jesus Christ is especially a vital one for children today – to assure them of God's presence in their lives, giving them a strong heart, giving them courage in the face of whatever they may meet in their young lives, giving them wisdom when they have hard decisions to make, giving them hope when things turn dark in their lives, and giving them power when they are sure that God is calling them to live for him.

In the human life that God took on in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, we learn what this great God of the universe is all about. We see clearly that there is no chaos in God's future. It was chaos from which God created the beautiful world in which we live. There is divine plan for us and for the world.

In the beginning, God created that perfect world. In the end that is what God expects the world to be. That is the kingdom Jesus describes and then embodies. And God's Spirit gives us the power to be a part of that kingdom – in fact, calls us into that kingdom kind of living.

Doing the work of the church is not easy. It calls us to sacrifice time and treasure, to put our commitments to God above some of the things in life that have become routine, feel-good things that dominate our lives. Yet we know what to do. We hear the call to deliver – by word and by deed – Christ's message of love, justice, kindness, and peace.

And God has given each of us the power. God has given each of us the wisdom. The Spirit will uphold us as we go forth filled with that power and wisdom. We can go with courage, go in hope, because we go not under our own power but in God's power.

If we wonder whether we can follow where Jesus leads us and sends us, we have only to fall back upon that promise. He says: "I am with you always." Remember your baptism. Go gladly into the mission field right outside your door.

Giving thanks for each one of you as I pray for God's blessings upon you,

Joan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Sunday, October 6

The congregation will meet Sunday, October 6, after the 10:30 service to elect new officers.

Monday, October 7: Noon—Worship Ministry meeting

Monday, October 14: 5:30 p.m.—Session

Monday, October 21: 5:30 p.m.—Deacons meeting

OCTOBER 4: THE MEN'S CULINARY EVENT

Calling All Men Cooks: The annual Men's Culinary Event will be at the home of Chuck and Chris Borum, 20 Trails End Road, on Friday, October 4, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cooks who are participating may come earlier in the afternoon to set up their tables, grills, or other items to prepare for the event. This is the major fund raiser for FPC missions. Tickets are \$20 each. They are available in the church office now.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Seven years ago, the Presbyterian Women expanded their Bake Sale to include a Chili Lunch to be able to earn the funds needed for a new project that would benefit the entire congregation. Replacing the Pew Cushions in the Sanctuary was that goal. I am so pleased to announce that we will have new pew cushions installed before Christmas! In working with the company from Baton Rouge, we discovered that the estimate he had given us was for the entire Sanctuary. The PW was determined to complete this project, but honestly didn't have all the funds needed. The PW had only planned to redo the downstairs. The Session has approved the expenditure of the additional money for the Balcony and is asking for donations from the congregation to help offset this \$5,700. This will put the finishing touches on the large restoration project undertaken by the church and being completed at this time.

Looking to the future, in October we will begin formulating the plans for our Seniors Mission Project that will be completed at Christmas. We will have the Christmas Coffee on December 4th in the Ladies Parlor. January brings a big treat as the Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller will be our speaker at the January 15th luncheon. Lynn will be speaking on Worshiping Idols, a topic in keeping with our PW Study this year on The Ten Commandments. Rebekah Circle will be the hostesses.

-Phyllis Mashburn, Moderator

PW October Calendar:

PW Coordinating Team Meeting—Wednesday, October 2, 9:30 a.m.

Rebekah Circle—Tuesday, October 8, 10:30 a.m.

Ruth Circle—Tuesday, October 8, 1:00 p.m.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

This month, our Service of Healing and Wholeness is October 20 at 5 p.m. in Stratton Chapel. The Service for Healing and Wholeness includes, for those who wish to receive it, an anointing with oil. We will pray together and break bread together as we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Come and pray for yourself or for someone else.

KIRKING OF THE TARTANS

Save the date for the annual Kirking of the Tartans: On Sunday, October 27, at the 10:30 a.m. service, First Presbyterian congregants once again will celebrate the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian faith. Plan to stay after the service as the celebration continues with a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thursdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

1-3:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at the Natchez Coffee Company the first and third Tuesday and at The Crafted Gallery on the second and fourth Tuesday.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

7 a.m. — Men's Prayer Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

FPC CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Sanctuary Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. The Handbell Choir meets on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join Rev. Gandy every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the church library for Bible study. Scriptures to be studied are announced each Sunday in the bulletin.

NOON PRAYER GROUP

This group meets every Monday at noon in the Prayer Room of Stratton Chapel. Come each week, or as you are able. Pray for our church, members, friends and community.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS: IMMERSE

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays and the ongoing study of the Immerse Bible. Children's Choir is at 4:30 p.m. Supper begins at 5:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The adult Bible study, children's activities, and Sanctuary Choir begin at 6 p.m.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for young children and infants from 8 a.m. until noon on Sundays and at appropriate times for all other church functions. We do, however, welcome children of all ages in our services! Activity bags are provided during worship services for older children.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Please pray for these ministries.

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets Monday at 7 p.m. in the gym.

The Natchez Book Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Parlor on the fourth Monday of each month. This month's meeting is October 28. For more information, contact Leigh Anderson (601-442-0116).

The Natchez Civic Chorale rehearses in the sanctuary every Tuesday, at 6 p.m. If you are interested in singing with a community choir, please contact Darrell Day at 727-483-2835 or darrell@fpcnatchez.org.

FPC's Stewpot Service Fellowship will serve lunch at the Stewpot this month on October 27. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Nicole or Lance Harris, Joanna Brumfield, or Donna Ball.

The Mat Pilates Class, led by Sandra Burkes, meets in Fellowship Hall from 8:30-10 a.m., Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Classes are free and open to all. Bring your own mat. For more information, contact Sandra at 662-816-5459.

PRESBYTERIAN PLAYSCHOOL

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."

~ Proverbs 22:6

Saturday, October 5, the Playschool will have an all-day work day. They will be re-organizing classrooms to make room for new equipment and toys. They need people who can help clear the classrooms and then set up new equipment and resources. If you can help, please come at 8 a.m. Breakfast will be provided!

Call Aretha Davis (601-445-0700) if you need enrollment information or if you wish to volunteer.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 2 Ron Miller
October 3 Mae Holyoak
October 5 Chapman Sharp, Alina Sharp
October 7 Adam Kirk
October 8 Ralph Loe, Joey Willett
October 9 Judy Stahlman
October 17 Sherry Jones
October 19 Lynn Britt
October 25 Judy Kempinska
October 28 Cara Serio
October 30 Butch Kempinska
October 31 Marvin McDonald

Rev. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
Darrell Day, Music Director
Deon Buford, Sexton
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary

FPC OFFICERS

ELDERS:

Class of 2019:

Rosemary Hall, Bobby Meason, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith

Class of 2020:

Hal Hicks, Leigh Anderson, Phyllis Mashburn, Ken Andermann

Class of 2121:

Chuck Borum, Stratton Bull, Cara Serio, Anne Willett

DEACONS:

Class of 2019:

Sandra Burkes, Denise Seale, Sarah Smith

Class of 2020:

Edie Christian, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington

Class of 2021:

Spencer Holder, Frances Meason, Everette Ratcliffe

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

117 South Pearl Street

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Natchez, Mississippi 39120

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Sunday services: 8:15 and 10:30

Wednesday: 5:15 in Fellowship Hall