

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 11

November, 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TUPELO, MS

I ran across this in my reading last summer and thought I would share it with you. Nine centuries ago, Maimonides was the foremost intellectual figure of Judaism and was known to be a moral giant of his time. He wrote something about giving that is as relevant today as it was nine centuries ago. It was titled the “EIGHT LEVELS OF GIVING.” See where you find yourself:

1. The person who does not give. This is unacceptable.
2. The person who gives grudgingly, reluctantly, or with regret.
3. The person who gives cheerfully, but gives less than he or she should.
4. One who provides an appropriate gift, but only after being asked.
5. The person who gives significantly before being asked.
6. One who gives without knowing to whom he or she gives, although the recipient knows the identity of the donor.
7. One who gives without his or her identity known.
8. The person who gives without knowing to whom the gift is made, and the recipient does not know from whom he receives. This is the highest and greatest level of giving.

With much love and blessings and prayers, I am

Your minister and friend,

Olin

☆☆☆ STEWARDSHIP 2020 ☆☆☆

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8—DEDICATION SUNDAY FOR OFFICERS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15—DEDICATION SUNDAY

First

Presbyterian Church (USA)

400 W. Jefferson St.

Tupelo, MS 38804

www.firstprestupelo.org

662-842-5681



Ministerial & Program Staff

The Reverend Olin McBride, Pastor

The Reverend Ron Richardson

Dr. Bob Taylor

Helen Curtis

Melissa McDuffie

Dr. Ray Harris

Danielle Ratliff

Kay Stanford

Eddie Baker

Confidence

During an actual person-to-person visit with one of our homebound, the word confidence was used to describe another individual. This homebound was in support of a particular individual because of the self-confidence demonstrated in leadership and decision-making. This challenged me to think about what confidence means and how it has been a part of my life.

I later reflected back to experiences in elementary classes when the focus was on standing in front of the class to give what was then called a speech. I remember actually shaking in fear during those times, dreading when my time came to stand in front of the class. This, for sure, began a journey of self-confidence building for me. It is still developing.

What I have learned in this never-ending process is that confidence comes from self-awareness and the ability to tolerate and reflect on my insecurities. By doing so, I instill in myself a sense of being capable and competent. I learn what I can do and what I cannot do. There are times when I realize I do not know as much as I thought I knew. These are humbling experiences. I try my best to realize when narcissism intrudes, when I overestimate my self-confidence.

My best cue to let me know of this happening is remembering that the roots of my confidence lie in an awareness of "The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation (Psalm 118:14)" and of what Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians (3:4-5) proclaiming, "Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything is coming from us; our competence is from God." Remembering this as my source of confidence has helped me through some tough times. God helps us build on our confidence through Christ toward God.

Ron Richardson

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care



First Presbyterian Church

Invites You to Join Us
Each Sunday Morning at 10:00 A.M.
for Our Online Worship Service

Streaming on Our YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbRsd9_u5JZ1SEV5LsUnJUQ

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.firstprestupelo.org
or First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS on Facebook

Is your contact info up-to-date?



Do you have a new address? Email? Phone number? Please update your new information with the church office by calling us at 662-842-5681 or sending an email to:

churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org

Youth

Like all of us, our youth are growing weary of this “new normal”. Several of them are quarantined, pushing them away from their friends, forcing them to navigate virtual classrooms and learn lessons on their own, and keeping them in the same four walls for weeks at a time. Even those not quarantined can’t help but talk about how much they miss the things they took for granted. Seniors are going through their senior year, but it looks nothing like they have imagined the last three years. Our youth group didn’t attend Montreat this past summer (we had 19 registered!), we weren’t able to go on our “Back to School” overnight trip, we haven’t been to Hopewell to play “Big Frizz” with Batesville Presbyterian’s youth group, and the group is growing restless! We haven’t had a meeting in over a month that they didn’t beg for just a “quick trip” somewhere – Hopewell, Memphis, Montreat, anywhere! They understand why we can’t just yet, but WE can’t help but miss it.

I love our time on Sundays and Wednesdays even more than I did before. They get to be honest. They get to talk about how frustrated they are. They get to talk about how sick they are of this. They hear others say the exact same thing. It’s not normal, but it’s close.

I also love it because it reminds me that we are all “there”. When something frustrates me during the day, I hear their “highs and lows” (a good thing and a bad thing in their lives recently) on Wednesday night and put things in perspective. I am always amazed at the number of times the entire group seems to come in with the same mood. The weeks when most are struggling with grades. Most are just tired. Most are just “blah”. Most have had the “longest week”. Navigating “the Corona” (as Emma calls it) isn’t a competition. Each of us has a list of things we are tired of, things that we miss, things we look forward to, etc. Each of us is affected. And none of us win a trophy by having the longest or “worst” list.

My main goal these days is to give these youth as much “normal” as I possibly can. To let them be honest and to be honest with them. I believe this a gift we all give each other. It can’t look exactly like it always did, but in what ways can we give each other grace? In what ways can we pray for each other? In what ways can we just listen to each other? Keep these youth in your prayers. They pray for you more than you realize.

Melissa McDuffie
Director of Youth and Christian Education



Please Remember!
Wear a MASK!



If you are entering the church or even outside attending a meeting, we ask you to **please wear a mask.**



We know that masks help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, and we also know that the virus can spread just as easily outside or inside. Again, properly worn masks (over the nose) are expected in and around the church facility.



Re-Opening Committee

Dear Friends:

The Worship Committee is excited about our in-person worship services. Registration for the November 8 service begins Monday, November 2 at 8:00 A.M. An email will be sent early Monday morning with instructions and the link, which will also be on our [website](#). As before, you may also call the church office to register.

Please understand that we are making every effort to keep all of you healthy and safe by following CDC guidelines as we plan our in-person services. We want to thank you all in advance for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this challenging time.

When attending an outdoor service, please remember the following:

- **The service begins at 10:00 A.M. Enter the service through the Southwest Corner (Main Entrance) of the Stuart Garden. Every person is required to check in and register their attendance at the table located inside this entrance.** This greeter station will open 30 minutes prior to the service for check-in and will close 10 minutes after the service begins. Please arrive early to allow extra time for the check-in process. Please use the hand sanitizer that will be available. After registering, an usher will show you to your seat(s).
- **Everyone two years and older is required to wear a mask** for the entire service. Please bring your own mask or pick one up at the greeter table.
- **Households, please sit together** and maintain social distancing for the entire service.
- **At the conclusion of the worship service, please do not exit until an usher directs you.** This will help to maintain social distancing as everyone leaves.
- **We ask that you carefully consider the state of your health and that of your family when considering returning to in-person worship services.** Those individuals who may be immunocompromised or vulnerable to illness are encouraged to stay home.
- **If you registered for the service but are unable to attend, please email churchsecretary@firstprestupelo.org as soon as possible so that we might accommodate those on our waiting list.**

Sunday's in-person worship service in Stuart Garden will be uploaded to [YouTube](#) and available for viewing on Monday, November 2.

Our indoor service, which is [streamed online](#) on Sunday mornings, can be viewed on Sunday at 10:00 A.M. by those unable to be with us.

If you have any questions please contact Richard Hastings at rihasti@comcast.net or Bob Taylor at bob1981@comcast.net or call the church office at 662-842-5681.

Richard Hastings, Chairman



Session Digest

Administrative

Contracts were executed with CxGBS and Innovative Construction Management LLC for the water remediation repairs to the Sanctuary. Certificates of Insurance from CxGBS and Innovative have been received, naming the church as additional insured on their general liability insurance policies. Both companies also have workers compensation insurance. Also, a construction liability rider was added to the church's policy with Brotherhood Mutual for a small charge during the construction period.

Stewardship

A postcard from Lori Robertson, chair of Stewardship, was mailed on Thursday, October 15 to all members announcing Dedication Sunday on November 15, when we will have the opportunity to express our thanks to God through our giving.

Christian Education

- Bible Study will continue on Wednesdays, but Sunday Bible Study will no longer be offered.
- We are planning a family pumpkin decorating event to correlate with the drive-through dinner on October 28.
- In-Person WeeKirk for K-5 will resume on November 1 if COVID numbers are stable. There will be no singing, and masks will be required for all.

Congregational Care

We are working to contact members without listed email addresses to make sure they can access the worship services, Tower, announcements, etc. and verify the best avenues of contact.

Fellowship

- The Thanksgiving Luncheon has been postponed.
- The Christmas Parade Open House is canceled.
- Planning a Spring 2021 luncheon depending on COVID numbers.

Outreach/Mission

This year we are going to be offering three different times to pick up your Operation Christmas Child boxes—at our church services on October 15 and 25 and on the Wednesday night dinner pick-up on October 28. Our youth group has offered to make boxes for those who would like to offer a donation rather than make a box so we can accept checks on our box pick-up days or members can mail in a check to the church. To help organize the dropoff process, we are offering an outside, drive-through drop off under the covered drive through on November 1 from 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Property and Grounds

Scaffolding is up in the sanctuary, and they should begin removing the plaster this week.

Security Team

We need more volunteers.

Worship

We plan to continue in-person worship and will follow CDC guidelines. Once weather becomes an issue, we will move to the gym while work is being done on the sanctuary.

Memorials, Gifts, & Honoraria

IN MEMORY OF:

Betty Black

John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)
Tom & Judy Billups (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Judy Thomas (Handbell Fund)

Billy Burks

Carl & Nan Comer (Building/Capital Fund)

Mary Catron

Britt & Alice Rogers (Children's Activities Fund)

Freddie Chiles

Travis & Gay Abney (Session Room Furnishings)
Judy Armentrout (Cuba Mission Fund)
Tom & Judy Billups (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Dan & Frances Brasfield (Cuba Mission Fund)
Joe & Beverly Chappell (Water Mission Fund)
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Davis (Cuba Mission Fund)
John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)
Judy Griffie (Cuba Mission Fund)
Jackie Haguewood (Congregational Care Fund)
Sandy Henson (Building/Capital Fund)
Jean Magee (Cuba Mission Fund)
Steve & Lucy Nash (Guatemala Mission Fund)
Charles & Betty Reece (Property & Grounds Fund)
Judy Thomas (Cuba Mission Fund)
Annette Thornton (Cuba Mission Fund)

Jenny Hewitt

John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)

Alice Jean Magee

John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)

Penny Nichols

John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)

John Payne

Travis & Gay Abney (Session Room Furnishings)
Jimmy & Nancy Brown Milam
(Undesignated Memorial Fund)

George Michael Ray, Sr.

John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)

Merlin Richardson

Louis & Pam Armour (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
Tom & Judy Billups (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Susan Boone (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba Mission Fund)
Buddy & Mary Stubbs (Senior Adult Ministry Fund)

Catherine Sadler

Michael H. Sadler (Music Fund, to celebrate her faithful life on the occasion of her 100th birthday)

Sue Shepherd

Judy Armentrout (Christian Education Fund)
Tom & Judy Billups (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Carl & Nan Comer (Building/Capital Fund)

Glen & Bonnie Davidson (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Jimmy & Nancy Brown Milam
(Undesignated Memorial Fund)

Chris Thompson

Travis & Gay Abney (Session Room Furnishings)

Ray Thornton

Travis & Gay Abney (Session Room Furnishings)
Tommy & Linda Allen (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Sarah Helen Beckham (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Kirk & Teresa Biddle (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Tom & Judy Billups (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Susan Boone (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
David & Shawn Brevard (Building/Capital Fund)
Bob & Kim Buckley (Building/Capital Fund)
Joe & Beverly Chappell (Water Mission Fund)
Mary Ann Chiles (Cuba Mission Fund)
Carl & Nan Comer (Building/Capital Fund)
Guy Conway & Leath Johnson
(Memorial Garden/Landscaping Fund)
Chris, Meg, & Christopher Curtis
(Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Bobby & Martha Dale (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Glen & Bonnie Davidson (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Robin & Cindy Faucette (Cuba Mission Fund)
John & Vivian Fleming (Cuba Mission Fund)
Judy Griffie (Building/Capital Fund)
Jackie Haguewood (Congregational Care Fund)
Sandy Henson (Building/Capital Fund)
Billy Hodges (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Charles & Joy Hyatt (Building/Capital Fund)
Cindy & Vance Kirk (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Bobby & Tonie Knox (Building/Capital Fund)
Pete & Kathy McMurry (Capital/Building Fund)
Jimmy & Nancy Brown Milam
(Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Steve & Lucy Nash (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)
George & Luann Purnell (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Perry & Pam Rather (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Charles & Betty Reece (Property & Grounds Fund)
Jimmy & Margaret Anne Robbins
(Building/Capital Fund)
Fredda, Tom, & Ty Robinson
(Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Britt & Alice Rogers (Children's Activities Fund)
Roy H. Ryan (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Dean & Neva Stacy (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
Tony Tannehill (Undesignated Memorial Fund)
William F. Thornton (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
Neil & Jill White (Cuba Mission Fund)
Theresa White (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)
David Williams (Property & Grounds Fund)
Marion Winkler, Jr. (Building/Capital Fund)
Sarah Young (Stuart Memorial Garden Fund)

Memorials, Gifts, & Honoraria

IN HONOR OF:

Joe Chappell

Jimmy & Nancy Brown Milam
(Undesignated Honorarium Fund)

Cindy Faucette

Judy Armentrout (Cuba Mission Fund)
Judy Thomas (Cuba Mission Fund)
Neil & Jill White (Cuba Mission Fund)

Robin Faucette

Judy Armentrout (Cuba Mission Fund)
Judy Thomas (Cuba Mission Fund)

Chauncey & Ann Godwin

Judy Armentrout (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

Bill & Lucy Hilbun

Judy Armentrout (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of:

Marianne Crowell, who passed away on October 18. She was the mother of Larry Crowell.

Betty Daniel, who passed away on October 7. She was the wife of The Rev. Dr. Harry Daniel, former interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo.

Merlin Richardson, who passed away on October 6. He was the brother of Ron Richardson.

Ray Thornton, who passed away on September 20. He was the husband of Annette Thornton.

Presbyterian Women

The annual Presbyterian Women "Thank Offering will be collected at the Thanksgiving Drive-Thru on Wednesday, November 18.

The Thank Offering provides much-needed financial assistance to 20 to 30 worthwhile programs each year. The recipients are always a mix of domestic and international projects, but all meet crucial needs. At least 40 percent of this offering funds health ministries, often helping the most marginalized members of God's community. The remaining percentage supports new or expanded projects and small capital improvement projects.

Your gift to the Thank Offering helps fund real solutions in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children.

Lucy Nash
Moderator

Fellowship Committee

The Thanksgiving luncheon has been postponed. The Christmas Parade Open House for 2020 has been cancelled. We will have a church-wide luncheon early in 2021.

Ann Godwin, Chairman

Progress!



Sanctuary wall repair work in early October, and great care was taken to protect our beautiful musical instruments from sheetrock dust. Olin looks very much at home as he studies his sermon in preparation for the October 11 worship service. We look forward to being back in our beautiful sanctuary soon.

STEWARDSHIP 2020



Isaiah 40:8

Thanksgiving Meal

Drive Thru

Complimentary turkey & dressing with
traditional sides & desserts

Wednesday, November 18

5:30-6:30 p.m.

FPC Back Parking Lot
(enter from Church Street)

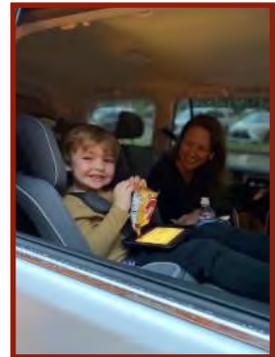
RSVP online www.firstprestupelo.org
or call church office (662) 842-5681.



Complimentary
Drive Thru Dinner
Wednesday, October 28
5:30-6:30 p.m.



Our whole family felt LOVED by our church tonight! ❤️ This was like having a home cooked meal and a care package all in one! Alice said, "This is a 5-star meal, Mom!" It was really delicious. I know you and your team of helpers put in many hours to make tonight's meal successful. I just want you to know how much we appreciated it—everything about it was perfect.



Let's Go Back to Church!

It was wonderful to be together again on a beautiful October morning as we began our first in-person worship service in Stuart Garden! Join us at our in-person worship services each Sunday at 10:00 A.M. Register on our [website](#) or by calling the church office. If you are unable to attend church in person, you may view our online service each Sunday at 10:00 A.M. on our [YouTube channel](#).



NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship and In-Person Worship In Stuart Garden	2 6:30 p.m.— Circle 3, Home of Holly Rogers	3 9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih 7:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Rm.	4 11:30 a.m.— Bible Study, Fellowship Hall 5:30 p.m.— Safety Committee Fellowship Hall	5	6 12:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Room	7
8 10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship and In-Person Worship	9 5:30 p.m.— Committee Meetings 7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden	10 9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih 12:00 p.m.— Circle 4, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Rm.	11 11:30 a.m.— Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	12	13 12:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Room	14
15 10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship and In-Person Worship	16 6:00 p.m.— Session Mtg.— Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden	17 9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih 7:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Rm.	18 11:30 a.m.— Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	19	20 12:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Room	21
22 10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship and In-Person Worship	23 7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden	24 9:00 a.m.— T'ai Chi Chih 7:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Rm.	25 11:30 a.m.— Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	26	27 12:00 p.m.— A.A., Session Room	28
29 10:00 a.m.— Streaming Worship and In-Person Worship	30 7:00 p.m.— Boy Scouts—Garden					

November Birthdays

1 Pam Armour Mitzi Moore Virginia Toliver	10 Emma Skates	21 Harris Faucette
2 Jean Magee Ginny Parker	12 Dwight Hardison Kristyn Martz Drew Robertson	22 Kate Horton
3 Ansley Caldwell Bill Hilbun	13 Diana Schmoeller	24 Clarence Shepherd
4 Sarah Helen Beckham Justin Carlisle Chauncey Godwin Jenkins Wells	15 Sallie Kate Ray	25 Sarah Jenkins Pete McMurry
5 Isabella Posey	16 Beth Ann Ellzey	27 Taneill Barbour Owen Leeke John Michael Ray
7 Ana Morgan Beckham Abby Ingram Bob Taylor	17 Joe Chappell John Fleming	29 Bob Black Norma Cother Neil White
8 Sally Kate Collins Guy Conway Charlie Gratz Kathryn Martin	18 Mildred Grubbs	30 Leslie Geoghegan Joy Hyatt
	19 Gia Ellis Lori McDaniel	
	20 Glen Davidson Sr. Louise Gable Ray Harris Mary Tannler Perry	

November Anniversaries

1 Grayson & Bess Robbins	6 Doug & Tina Maxwell	21 Drew & Lori Robertson
2 Claude & Roxie Clayton	8 Travis & Gay Abney	26 John & Wendy Parker
5 Tatum & Sally Kate Collins Rick & Judy Jones	13 Ben & Kory Hunter	29 Michael & Mary Margaret Gratz