

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

Siplings in Christ.

Over the course of the next four months, we are going to have a theme to focus on each month in worship. For the month of September, the theme we will examine is "Follow" *Jesus.*" Michelle Bartel notes that "when Jesus says, 'Follow me,' we are being invited into God's reality of reconciling love."

How we come into this reconciling love is different for each of us, just as each of the disciples' call stories in the Gospels are not the same. And in this invitation that Jesus extends to us all, "there is no tone or inflection of 'Follow me or else!" Instead, Jesus invites us to come and see what this love and grace that He grants to us is all about.

During the four weeks of September, we will examine what it means to accept Jesus' invitation to come and follow Him. Then, we will look at how following Jesus happens in community, not by ourselves. The third week, we will focus on how once we are following Jesus, that like Jesus, we will learn to examine the world by seeing all of creation through the lens of love. After that, we will finish the month of September and the theme of *Follow Jesus* by realizing how we follow Jesus is by helping make disciples.

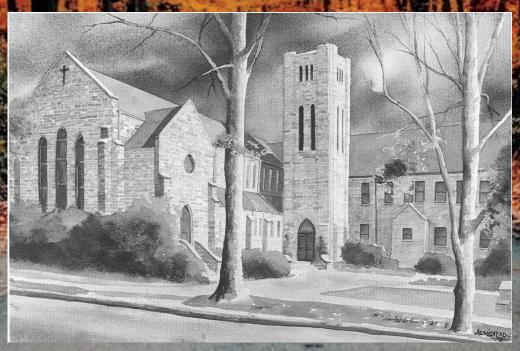
My hope for the month of September is for all of us to see that to "Follow Jesus" is to transform ourselves into disciples who then go out to help make disciples in the world.

And how do we do that? Well, come and see!

Grace and Peace to you!

John





Our YouTube Channel

Children's Bulletins Ages 3 & Up Sunday's Bulletin Scripture Lesson

Children's Bulletins Ages 7 & Up

CHECK OUT OUR GOOGLE CALENDAR!

Click the calendar to see everything happening at FPC!







·Authorize an expenditure of up to \$160,000 from maintenance reserve funds for restoration of stained-glass windows. The actual contract amount is \$150,836.46. Authorize Ben Hunter, chairman of Property and Grounds, and Lisa Nichols, Clerk of Session to execute a contract and related documents with Pearl River Glass Studios for the express purpose of restoration of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary and vestibule. Windows are 50 years old, and this was caused by bad lead that was used for a period and was not known until years later. The sixteen lower windows in the nave and one window in the foyer will be done. The windows will be removed and sent to Jackson, MS to be re-leaded. Plywood will be installed in place of the windows. The timing plan is to complete the project prior to Advent. If unable to complete all, we will do one side prior to Advent and resume the opposite side at the beginning of the year to be completed prior to Lent. This will leave only \$45,000 in Maintenance Reserve.

 \cdot Authorize the expenditure of \$12,727.49 from account non-budget line item 201850 Bequests & Estate Gifts for new office computers and server from Active Datacomm to include installation and warranty.

Christian Education - Corey Littrell

- ·HUGE THANK YOU to the amazing women of this church who generously showered us with more food and snacks to take to Montreat and Montreat Middle School. The generosity of this congregation is overwhelming!
- ·The Sistahood Sunday School Class has requested to use the series *The Chosen* for their study in the fall. I recommend we approve this study.
- ·The Seekers Sunday School Class has requested to use the book *The Scandal of the Kingdom: How the Parables of Jesus Revolutionize Life with God* by Dallas Willard beginning in the fall. I recommend we approve this study.
- ·The Frances Sheffield Sunday School Class has requested to use the book *100 Bible Verses That Made America: Defining Moments That Shaped Our Enduring Foundation of Faith* by Robert J. Morgan beginning in the fall. I recommend we approve this study, too!
- ·Wednesday Night Programming
 - o August 27 Kickoff in the Garden
 - o September 3 Filled
 - o September 10 Filled
 - o September17 Filled
 - o September 24 Filled
 - o October 1 -
 - o October 8 -
 - o October 15 -
 - o October 22 Kirkin' of the Tartan with John
 - o October 29 Fall Festival
 - o November 5 –
 - o November 12 –
 - o November 19 –
 - o November 26 No Program Thanksgiving
 - o December 3 –
 - o December 10 Joy Gift?

Continued on Next Page ...

Congregational Care Jim Fisher

- ·Gift cards were given to committee members to distribute to their FPC Pal to kick off the new school year.
- ·Church members on the homebound and visitation lists received a bag of peaches for the month of August.
- •The Marthas delivered a meal to Betty, Nash after her recent fall and a meal chain was organized for Helen Curtis after her recent surgery.
- ·Shepherd Center will be having their 2nd annual Fall Festival this fall. They are looking for sponsorship and/or donation raffle items.
- ·Presly Wallace will serve as shepherd for our newest member, Nick Montgomery

Fellowship - Aubre Wells

- Bingo, Burgers, and Blue Bell Lucy Nash Approximately 130 attended and the event ran smoothly and was lots of fun.
- Very successful Rally Day Liz Rose Approximately 130 attended.
- Plan for a volleyball meal for the THS girls Lee Herman
- Plans discussed for Wednesday night dinner kick off. Will be a partnership with Christian Education and is set for August
- 27 at 5:30 p.m., light picnic meal. Adults \$5 with family friendly games
- ·Nothing on schedule for September
- ·Planning a member tablecloth sale

Outreach/Mission - Helen Monts

- ·Outreach Mission Committee approved a \$500.00 donation to Helping Hands Food Pantry in memory of Rick Jones.
- ·Dream budget sheets were explained and distributed.
- ·Winward Love Offering surpassed our initial request of \$7500; \$8150 was raised!
- \cdot Reminder about Cuba Mission fundraiser selling Boston Butts (smoked by Mark Reynolds) for \$40 each with staggered pickup dates of August 27^{th} , 28^{th} , and 29^{th} .
- ·Shepherd Center is hosting a fundraiser festival at Fairpark October 11. Many opportunities to help or donate. Contact Margaret Parker 662-687-2027 if you have any questions.
- ·Approved the transfer of \$3,600 in Habitat for Humanity budget to our ongoing Habitat for Humanity Fund since we will not participate in a build for 2025.

Property and Grounds - Ben Hunter

- ·P&G approved the replacement of an irrigation controller for \$360 and \$855 for mulch.
- \cdot P&G approved switching of pest control companies from Terminix to Tupelo Pest Control. The change is intended to get us better quality service at less cost, going from \$97/month to \$82/month.
- •Paid Tupelo Pest Control to treat rodents for \$423.64.
- ·Irrigation repairs of \$850 near Jefferson and Green; work completed as an emergency repair. There will be more irrigation repairs anticipated.
- ·Water in youth basement HVAC drain was clogged; we are monitoring to see if this helps the water issue.
- ·Ben met with Admin to request funds to support the stained-glass window project
- ·The large oak tree was removed at Church and Jefferson.
- ·Bob Taylor's office ceiling repair or replacement was discussed. We have received two quotes and are gathering a third.

Safety and Security - David Carlisle

·No Information

Worship - Bob Lence

- Worship is beginning an Usher Guild for the purpose of procuring ushers. Virginia Toliver and Beth Anne Ellzey will coordinate the establishment of this quild.
- The biennial Kirkin' O' the Tartans service will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 10:30 AM., serious planning will begin in August.

Member Information:

- ·We welcome Nick Montgomery, into First Presbyterian membership.
- ·We congratulate with the family of Margot Myers on the Sacrament of Baptism
- ·Extend sympathy to the family Rick Jones
- ·Extend sympathy to the family of Daisy Aycock.

September

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

OE

Montreat Presentation

Leslie Wood group therapy with watercolors

17

Guatemala Water
Mission Team
Update

24 Kirkin of the Tartans 101

Nednesday Night Menu:

Rotel Chicken Spaghetti, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Oven-Roasted Vegetables, Homestyle Green Beans, Tater Tots, Orange Congealed Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, and Assorted Desserts!



Sign Up by Noon Wednesday

\$7 per person

HUH22 WHATSTHAT2

THE KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN IS A SPECIAL SERVICE HONORING OUR ROOTS--THE PC(USA) ORIGINATED AS A BRANCH OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND--YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THE TAPESTRY ON THE RIGHT FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY AND WONDERED WHY IT IS THERE. "KIRK" IS THE SCOTS LANGUAGE WORD FOR "CHURCH", AND "TARTAN" REFERS TO A SPECIFIC PLAID PATTERN ASSOCIATED WITH A PARTICULAR FAMILY OR GROUP, SO "KIRKING THE TARTAN" IS WEARING YOUR TARTAN TO CHURCH TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL BLESSING.

NOT OF SCOTTISH ANCESTRY?DON'T HAVE A TARTAN? NO PROBLEM.FPC HAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED THE ROYAL STUART TARTAN AS THE CHURCH TARTAN, SO ANY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH MAY WEAR IT PROUDLY.

THERE WILL BE SOMEONE IN THE LIBRARY BETWEEN SERVICES EACH SUNDAY TO ASSIST YOU WITH TARTAN RESOURCES FROM NOW THROUGH OCTOBER.



Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett

Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Joy Hyatt, Betty Nash, Ruby

Kathryn Patterson

College Students: Charlie Gratz, Lucy Gratz,

Reid Hardison

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

Christian Sympathy

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS

EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF

DAISY AYCOCK, WHO

PASSED AWAY ON THE

MORNING OF AUGUST 12.

PLEASE KEEP HER FAMILY IN

YOUR PRAYERS.

Melcome

Nick Montgomery

Sunday, August 10, we welcomed Nick Montgomery to our church family! Nick is the husband of Amanda (Hillhouse) Montgomery.



Memorials. Gifts. and Honoraria

*In Honor of Travis Abney's Birthday from Edna Sue White. (Helping Hands)

In Memory of Daisy Aycock from Betty Nash. (General Fund Memorial)

*In Memory of Daisy Holland Aycock from Buddy & Mary Stubbs.

(Congregational Care Fund)

Memory of Daisy Holland Aycock from Bill & Lucy Hilbun.

(Congregational Care Fund)

In Memory of Daisy Holland Aycock, Aubrey Patterson, Charlie Hyatt, Rick Jones, Nancy Klein, Elizabeth Payne, & John Brooks Briscoe from

George & Wanda Dent. (Guatemala Water Fund)

*In Memory of Daisy Holland Aycock from Sarah Young. (Pastors' Discretionary Fund)

*In Memory of Daisy Aycock from Bank of Yazoo. (General Fund Memorial)

*In Memory of Daisy Aycock & Dr. Mort McMillan from Bill & Camille Caples. (Cuba Mission Fund)

*In Memory of Daisy Aycock from Steve & Lucy Nash. (Cuba Mission Fund)

*In Memory of Daisy Aycock from Albert & Christy Vandevere. (General Fund Memorial)

What does it mean to be a "Presbyterian Woman"?

Being a woman, we wear many hats on any given day. Being a "Presbyterian Woman" is no different. *Presbyterian Women* was founded many years ago to strengthen the church and to perform duties that churches and communities needed. Today is no different. *FPC Tupelo* is full of life and love, and it takes all of us to fulfill the duties within the church on a daily basis. Each of us have special gifts to share with others and gifts that will enrich the livelihood of this church. With so many women working full-time these days, it takes more of us to jump in and volunteer at church. It can be small things, big things, or even just a single project, but we need YOU! To keep our church alive and thriving, please consider picking an activity or joining a committee and getting involved. Currently, there are "asks" for meal preparation for *Showers of Love, Salvation Army* meal servers, and soon, we will need cakes for the Cakewalk for our Fall Festival, Thanksgiving luncheon table decorators, *Operation Christmas Child* volunteers, Sunday night youth meals, Shepherds for the new members . . . What a better way to meet some new people and add spiritual enrichment to your life by serving the church and others.

Presbyterian Women has 3 monthly Bible Study groups called "Circle." The groups start in September, and we would still be honored to have you join a group. The Bible Study for 25-26 is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ."

See the next page for a teaser of our Bible Study!

Circle 3 - 1st Monday @ 6:45 P.M. in homes. Circle Leader: Anne Marie Littrell.

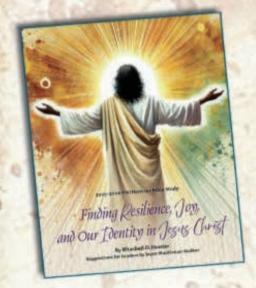
Sept 1 is at Lucy Nash's office, 4110 Westside Dr, Tupelo.

Dessert and beverages will be served.

<u>Circle 24</u> - 2nd Tuesday @ Noon at the church. Circle Leader: Vivian Flemming.
Bring your lunch if you'd like - Sept 9

<u>Circle 5</u> - 2nd Tuesday @ 6 pm at Busylad. Circle Leader: Lori Dickerson Beverages are available - Sept 9 Hope to see you at Circle in Sept!

Lucy Purnell Nash
PW Moderator



Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

By Rhashell D. Hunter Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

Who we find our resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances? By reconnecting to our spirituality, following women in the Bible, and studying Jesus' witness, we can discover a path that helps us fully embrace and celebrate who we are as faithful disciples.



LESSON ONE: Mary Magdalene, the Tower



LESSON TWO: Mary "of a Certain Village"



LESSON THREE: Jesus Is Tested



LESSON FOUR: The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent



LESSON FIVE: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor



LESSON SIX: Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I Will Say It Again, Rejoice"



LESSON SEVEN: The Woman Who Was Bent Over



LESSON EIGHT: Remembering Jesus' Baptism



LESSON NINE: When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus

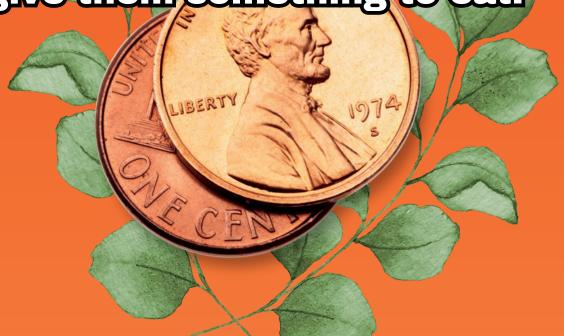


2 CENTS-A-MEAL



Sunday, September 7

Two Cents-a-Meal invites every member of your congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from "living more simply so that others may simply live." Participation in is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat."





Youth Mission Opportunity - Keep Tupelo Beautiful

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Keep Tupelo Beautiful works to inspire and educate residents to improve the community by preventing litter, promoting recycling, and beautification. We encourage all citizens to be responsible for improving the city's scenic beauty and quality of life.

Save the Date YOUTH EVENTS

			2025
September	14	Mission Opportunity - Keep Tupelo Beautiful	Ľ
October	13	Serve @ Saint's Brew Go Karts!	k
November	16 We	Serve @ Salvation Army eek of Thanksgiving Girl's Day; Guy's Day Details to come!	Ľ
December	21	Christmas Party	K

LET'S HELP OUT TODAY!



Event Details

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Showers of Love. We collected approximately 100 towels! They are so appreciative! We will continue to collect snacks as this is an on-going need in addition to the medical scrubs (gently used are ok, as well). Also, Presbyterian Women will be welcoming monetary donations to assist with meals for the clients. If you are interested in helping prepare or serve a meal (Saturday breakfast or Sunday Dinner), please contact Kathy Wallace, Judy Billups, or Mary Stubbs. Thanks again for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

What You Can Donate:

- Medical Scrubs
- Snacks
- Monetary Donations

place donations in the box located in the church breezeway

Info about showers of love

Life-Culture Ministry offers the volunteer run Showers of Love program to help meet the hygiene needs of people experiencing homelessness. This program provides Shower facilities & Laundry facilities.

This Week at FPC

Sunday, August 31
9:00 A.M. Worship Service
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship Service
4:30 P.M. Boy Scouts, Rm. B205

Monday, September 1
OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 2
9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, September 3
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg, Stewart-Clayton Rm.
5:00 P.M. Tower Ringers
5:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Program
7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 4
7:45 A.M. St. Luke's Food Pantry
8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym
6:00 P.M. Braver Angels, Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 5
12:00 P.M. AA Meeting
2:30 P.M. CASA, Gym

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	l Birthday: Carolyn Burkett Thomas Groome IV Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Biddle	2 Birthday: Bess Francis Scott Walsh	3 Birthday: Jill White Rick Smith	4 Birthday: Amanda Montgomery Steve Nash	5 Birthday: Camille Caples Bryan Thomas Ellis George White	6 Birthday: Claude Clayton IV Andrew Goad
7 Birthday: Susan Marsico	8 Birthday: Judy Smith Silvia Spires	Birthday: Alix Roaten Kathy Wallace Mac Godwin	10 Birthday: Mary Henson Kirk Reeder	Birthday: Sammy Peryman Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hazard	12 Birthday: Afton Gable Andy Godwin Jeff Moore	13
14	15 Birthday: Claire Johnson	16	17 Birthday: Barry Mark Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Tim Myers	18 Birthday: Ella Michael Gable Jeff Reeder	19 Birthday: Gil Monaghan	Birthday: Margaret E. Murphey Trey Nichols Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Al Wallace IV
21 Birthday: Scarlett Reeder Trey Leeke David Williams	Birthday: Judy Griffie Brittany Rogers T.R. Darsey Kevin Martin	Birthday: Margaret Gratz Maddin Hutto Travis Roaten	24 Birthday: Suzy Zimmerman	25 Birthday: Edie Thomas Jimmy Milam Tim Whitten	26	27 Birthday: Mike Ray Jr. Anniversary: Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Ellis
28 Birthday: Kirby Faucette	29 Birthday: Wesley Brock	30 Birthday: Lexye Devita Hathcock				

Happy Birthday and Anniversary

UN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Office Closed Labor Day II:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA	2 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm CASA 7:00pm AA Meeting	3 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	4 7:45am St. Luke Food Pantry 8:00am Men's Breakfast 2:30pm CASA 6:00pm Braver Angels	5 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	6
	7 Communion 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School II:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Youth	8 II:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA 5:30pm Committee Meetings	9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Circle 24 2:30pm CASA 6:00pm Circle 5 7:00pm AA	10 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	2:30pm CASA	12 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	13
	Youth Mission Opportunity 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School II:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Youth	15 II:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA 5:15pm Steering Committee 6:00pm Session Meeting	16 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm CASA 2:30pm Cook for Salvation Army 7:00pm AA Meeting	17 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night Program 7:00pm Chancel Choir	18 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:30pm Shepherd's Center Meeting 2:30pm CASA	19 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	20
	21 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School II:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Youth	22 II:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA	23 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm CASA 7:00pm AA Meeting	24 2:30pm CASA 3:00pm Mah Jongg 5:00pm Tower Ringers 5:30pm Wed. Night	2:30pm CASA	26 12:00pm AA Meeting 2:30pm CASA	27 9:00am Helping Hands Volunteers
	28 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School II:00am Worship 4:30pm Boy Scouts 5:30pm Youth	29 II:00am Bible Study 2:30pm CASA	30 9:00am T'ai Chi 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm CASA 7:00pm AA Meeting				

THE SESSION Rev. John Brock Moderator Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

Class of 2026

Glen Davidson, Sr.

Jim Fisher

Ben Hunter

Bob Lence

Corey Littrell

Helen Monts

Aubre Wells

Class of 2027

Heather Crotwell

Amanda Davis

Beth Anne Ellzey

Mac Godwin

Mary Margaret Gratz

Debra Robison

Liz Rose

Class of 2028

Jim Bruce

Tatum Collins

Lee Herman

Trey Phyfer

Buddy Stubbs

Virginia Toliver

Kathy Wallace

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Brock, Pastor

Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer

John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician

Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian

MJ Whitt, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Penny O'Quinn, Morning Receptionist

Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist

Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

Connect with Us







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