

First Presbyterian Church
775 E. Boswell
Batesville, AR 72501
Phone: 870-793-3272
E-mail: firstpresbatesville@gmail.com



Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No.400
Batesville, AR

Return Service Requested

Check Us Out Online at:
www.fpcbatesville.org

Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”

March 2024

Volume 38, Issue 3



First Presbyterian Church, Batesville AR



The Pastor's Piece

from Psalm 46:

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging...
He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

I can't write about Easter yet. I know Easter is in March, and this is the March newsletter, but I'm not there yet. I am firmly planted in Lent, and I hope you are, too. There is something beautiful about this season, this invitation to slow down and really examine our lives and hearts. This is the perfect time to take the words of Psalm 46 to heart: “Be still, and know that I am God.” I think this is another one of those commands we take as suggestions. I'll be still when things calm down at work. I'll be still once I get all the laundry done, dinner ready, and the kitchen cleaned up after. I'll be still when...

But Lent is a time to be still, not to be still after everything is done, but a chance to stop what we are doing in the middle of the craziness of life and to be still in the presence of God right now. Because God **will be exalted**. God is with us, our fortress in the middle of the chaos and heartbreak as well as in the midst of our rejoicing. God will be exalted, and this is something we want to take part in! If we stop and actually rest in God, if we truly Sabbath, then we are praising God for everything God has done for us. And that's what Lent is about—examining our lives, slowing down, and praising God. So before we get to Easter, let us remember the Lord's command: “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Elizabeth

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Birthdays & Church Happenings</i>	2	<i>Worship Schedule</i>	4	<i>Life of the Church</i>	6
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	3	<i>Pastoral Care</i>	5	<i>Presbyterian Day School</i>	7



- 3/1 Alexandra Benton
- 3/2 Ann Taylor
- 3/5 Ceil Smith
- 3/7 Robert Anderson
- 3/7 Ana Beal
- 3/9 Lucy Yeager
- 3/19 Camille Anderson
- 3/20 Karen Lange
- 3/26 Ryan Moore
- 3/28 Rebecca Blackmore
- 3/29 David Bell
- 3/29 Steven Bell
- 3/31 James Anderson

Easter Flowers

Easter is right around the corner! Orders are now being taken for Easter flowers. These flowers always bring beauty to our sanctuary and a smile to the person who receives them. Watch for order forms in your bulletin this month. Plants will be \$16 each and can be ordered in memory or in honor of someone special. You can also contact the church office to place your order.



Graduating Seniors

Graduation season is rapidly approaching, whether we are ready for it or not. Do you have a high school or college graduate this year? If so, we would love to celebrate with you and honor their accomplishments!



We will be honoring them in our May newsletter so please make sure to email or call the church BEFORE April 15th and let us know:

- * The student's name;
- * The school they attend;
- * Whether they are graduating with a diploma, or what type of degree (and major); and
- * Their future plans.

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 10th! Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday March 9th.



Presbyterian Day School




Would you like to help PDS? The Day school would welcome any donations in the form of snacks, supplies and scholarship donations. Please check with Ms. Alyson or Ms. Laura if you would like to donate snacks or supplies. Any scholarship donations may be brought to the church office.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER
Something new to look forward to on the calendar this month!

Join your church family for a mid-week meal on Wednesday March 13th at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Drink from a can? Pull the tab and bring it to church! Drop your can tabs in the jar in the Narthex to help the local V.F.W. support the Ronald McDonald House! Tabs can also be dropped off in the office.



Many Hearts. One Home.

BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION

Here's something to get you thinking! If you don't know the answer, try phoning a church friend! Let this be a way to start a conversation and check up on each other!

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
 B. "Peace be with you."
 C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
 D. "I am risen!"

The monthly trivia question is bought to you by your FPC Deacons!

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

Your Donation Can Spread Joy

Your Outreach Committee needs your help to be a blessing to local charities. Drop your donations off at the church and they will be delivered to an agency with a specific need for that item.

This Month's Item:
Snacks for the Day School
(Peanut free please)

Maundy Thursday



At 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 28th, we will gather for our Maundy Thursday service. We will remember the last time Jesus sat down with his disciples, and we will share bread and a cup to remember that we are invited to refresh ourselves there as well. After that, we will hear the story of Jesus' last days on earth through scripture and through song, as the darkness descends over our day.

Celebrating Easter Together— March 31



The celebration of the Resurrection is one of the most joy-filled events in the church calendar. With holy joy, we will find the tomb empty, we will learn that God's love triumphs over death, and we will sing our alleluias. Here are your opportunities to worship as a church family:

9:30am Easter Egg Hunting and Brunch

Join your church family for a time of fellowship with brunch and an egg hunt for the kids—kids, make sure you bring your basket and get ready to find those eggs! Brunch will be served in Fellowship Hall. As the kids search for their egg, enjoy a little conversation with your church family. This will also be the time to decorate the flower cross, in the Parlor, so please plan to bring flowers and greenery from your garden or yard!



11:00am Easter Worship

Our main celebration of the Resurrection will take place in the Sanctuary. We will hear the story, sing our hymns, and gather at the table, remembering that we are all invited to share in God's love. If you ordered an Easter plant, they may be taken home after worship.

CURRENT ELDERS:

Class of 2024
 Debra Bell
 Wil Moore
 Shelly Moser
 Mollie Grace

Class of 2025
 Gerri Coleman
 Price Holmes III
 Carlene Lewis
 Ceil Smith

Class of 2026
 Wanette Baker
 Lenora Baldwin
 Debora Stroud
 Janet Thomas

CURRENT DEACONS:

Class of 2024
 Betty Adams
 James Anderson
 Ashley Holmes
 LeAnn Holmes

Class of 2025
 Wesley Beal
 Melissa Qualls
 Sam Smith
 Janet Wood

Class of 2026
 Rachael Baker
 Clint Howard
 Payne Moser
 Larry Whipple

Preaching and Worship Schedule

March 3—Third Sunday in Lent

Text: Psalm 19; Matthew 16:13-20

Hymns: Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling; Let Us Break Bread Together; Amazing Grace

Liturgist: Rachel Baker

March 10—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Text: Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22; Matthew 16:21-23

Hymns: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy; For the Bread Which You Have Broken; Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Liturgist: Kathy Lanier

March 17—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Text: Psalm 119:9-16; Matthew 18:15-22

Hymns: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me; Here, O Our Lord, We See You; Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Liturgist: Barry Gehm

March 24—Palm Sunday

Text: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; John 12:12-16

Hymns: All Glory Laud and Honor; An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare; Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love

Liturgist: Janet Thomas

March 28—Maundy Thursday

March 31—Easter Sunday

Text: Psalm 114:1-8; Luke 24:1-12

Hymns: Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks; Lift High the Cross

Liturgist: Bruce Johnston

Pastoral Care



PLEASE REMEMBER these members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

MEMBERS: Danny Yeager; Bob and Sandy Qualls; Kathy Whittenton; Clint and Mayfan Thomas; Jo Cudd; Farris and Dick Nelms; Nat Zumwalt; Trish Boylan.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Kelli Sarrett (*niece of Celeste Whipple*); Lynn Shetron (*cousin of Noel Lewis*); Dr. Mark Williams (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Pam Barnett (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Linda Richardson (*aunt of Karen Lange*); Mike O'Connor (*cousin of Kathy Altom*); Daniel Neal (*friend of Zack Mobley*); Randy Friend (*uncle of Elizabeth Brinegar*); Laurie Martin (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Zach Miller (*son-in-law of Price and LeAnn Holmes*); Cathy Childress (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Charlie Robuck (*grandson of Jo Cudd*); Debbie Mason (*niece of Carlene Lewis*); Paul & Susan (Critz) Guthrie (*friend of the congregation*); Marjorie Seasholtz (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Don Weatherman (*friend of the congregation*); Gerald Bass (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Roger Blackmore (*friend of James & Camille Anderson*); Todd Phillips (*nephew of Camille Anderson*); Eloise Kikkert (*granddaughter of Don & Lynn Weatherman*); Jim & Diane Campbell (*brother & sister-in-law of Lenora Baldwin*); Betty Howard (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Nick Slagle (*nephew of Ceil Smith*); Susan Anselm (*sister of Jo Gehm*).

IN THE PRESBYTERY OF ARKANSAS, we remember to pray for these ministries:

Please
Pray
for...



Mar. 3	Church Secretaries & Treasurers	Holiday Island Presbyterian
Mar. 10	Second, Little Rock	First, Yellville
Mar. 17	Directors of Children's Program	First,, Mena
Mar. 24	First United, Fayetteville	Lyon College, Batesville
Mar. 31	Kirk of the Hills, Fairfield Bay	Church Pre-Schools

Thank
You!

To my church family,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, and food brought to me during my recovery. I sure do love my church family.

Janet Wood