

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



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First Presbyterian Church, Batesville AR



The Pastor's Piece

Who Are We?

The name *Presbyterian* comes from the Greek term in the New Testament for elder, *presbuteros*, a term used 72 times in the New Testament. The Presbyterian movement began among Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries and centered on what form of church government would be appropriate. Some thought the church should be governed by bishops (Greek: *episkopos*) and became the Episcopalian party, some by elders and became the Presbyterian party, and some directly by the congregation, which became the Congregationalist party. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is Reformed in its theology and Presbyterian in its church government.

In North America the first presbytery was organized in 1706, the first synod in 1717; the first General Assembly was held in 1789. Today's Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was created by the 1983 reunion of the two main branches of Presbyterians in America separated since the Civil War — the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The latter had been created by the union of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church of North America in 1958.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is distinctly a confessional and a connectional church, distinguished by the representation of elders in its government. The church has a membership of 1.6 million in all 50 states and Puerto Rico with nearly 10 thousand congregations and worshiping communities.

And who are we as a congregation? In my time with you I have seen & experienced many things—a desire to be involved, commitment to the church, joy at church functions and worship. But I have also seen some other things—questioning how and when involvement can happen, setting the church as a lower priority, choosing to put things and persons before God. And I get it; we all do these things sometimes, but the question is: who do we want to be going forward? How do we want to be known in the neighborhood? Who is going to step up as needs arise? These are all questions that only this congregation can answer, and I can't wait to see what happens next!

Elizabeth

Resilience in the Storms

"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus says in John 16:33 (NIV). Christians, in other words, should expect sufferings and setbacks that challenge their spiritual resilience. Tim Kight, in a blog post titled "The Resilient Christian," offers these reminders for times of adversity: Trust God. Pray fervently, deeply and boldly. Dig into God's Word. And praise God regardless of your circumstances. "When you are in the storm, trust God and don't flinch," Kight advises.

With that game plan and attitude, we can pray with the prophet Habakkuk: "Though the fig tree does not bud ... and the fields produce no food ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (3:17-18, NIV).

<i>INSIDE THIS ISSUE:</i>					
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Graduating May 2023



Isabella Treubig, daughter of Katie Treubig, and granddaughter of Betty Adams, is graduating from Mortimere Jordan High School in Alabama, and plans to attend Wallace Community College to pursue a career in the medical field.

- 5/1 Will Grace
- 5/1 Margaret Miller
- 5/2 Murray Bell
- 5/4 Wesley Beal
- 5/7 Blake Ogilvie
- 5/8 Andrea Kikkert
- 5/8 Isabelle Geary
- 5/9 Hunt Cummins
- 5/10 Bruce Johnston
- 5/10 Sophia Geary
- 5/10 Win Coleman
- 5/11 Wanette Baker
- 5/11 Terrell Case
- 5/12 Jennifer Coleman
- 5/16 Greg Manry
- 5/20 Ned Mobley
- 5/22 Ellie Smith
- 5/24 Elizabeth Walton
- 5/26 Dr. Fonzie Geary
- 5/27 Lucy Rayford
- 5/27 Mettler Bell

Session Update

The April Session meeting was a productive one! The highlights from that meeting include:

1. We voted to use \$500 of our emergency fund for tornado relief.
2. We gave the Christian Education committee permission to get a Lyon student to work with our children and youth.
3. The Pastoral Care budget was upped from \$650/ year to \$1500/year.
4. We are looking to move back to intinction in June. If you have any thoughts on this please reach out to me so I can pass them along to the session.

Progress in the Kitchen

The flooring has gone in, and the bathroom doors are being installed! The kitchen equipment is nearly in place, and it's starting to look like a real kitchen! The general contractor says just a few more weeks, and it will all be done! Thank you all for your patience!

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. Stephanie or Ms. Laura if you would like to donate snacks or supplies. Any scholarship donations may be brought to the church office.



Fellowship Lunches are on hold while construction on the kitchen is ongoing. We will resume our monthly lunches as soon as possible!

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 and Children's Hospital! Tabs can also be dropped off in the office.



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!

Jesus and his disciples walked a field picking corn. How was this possible?

(Hint: KJV)

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

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:

Protein bars

(to benefit Our Father's Table, a feeding ministry for the homeless in Batesville)



Sharing the load

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

The Power of (God's) Light



Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: "The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27:1); "Let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5); "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world" (John 1:9). Darkness isn't bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we "live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

CURRENT ELDERS:

Class of 2023

- J.R. Baker
- Jesse Friert
- Kathy Lanier
- Bob Stroud

Class of 2024

- Debra Bell
- Wil Moore
- Shelly Moser
- Mollie Smith

Class of 2025

- Gerri Coleman
- Price Holmes III
- Carlene Lewis
- Ceil Smith

CURRENT DEACONS:

Class of 2023

- Fonzie Geary
- Jeremy Weaver
- Carolyn Reed
- Larry Whipple

Class of 2024

- Betty Adams
- James Anderson
- Justin Clark
- LeAnn Holmes

Class of 2025

- Wesley Beal
- Melissa Qualls
- Sam Smith
- Janet Wood

Preaching and Worship Schedule

May 7—5th Sunday of Easter

Text: Psalm 31:1-16; John 14:1-14

Hymns: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship; O Jesus, I Have Promised; God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

Liturgist: Janet Thomas

May 14 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Text: Psalm 66:8-20; John 14:15-21

Hymns: Here in This Place; We Are One in the Spirit; Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

Liturgist: Andrea Weaver

May 21 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Guest Minister

Liturgist: Betty Adams

May 28—Day of Pentecost

Text: John 20:19-23; Acts 2:1-21

Hymns: God is Here!; Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness; Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Liturgist: Chuck Jones

Pastoral Care



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

MEMBERS: Jo Cudd; Gerri Coleman; George Lankford; Farris and Dick Nelms; Ron Karg; Nat Zumwalt; Trish Boylan.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Laurie Martin (*friend of Carleane Lewis*); Zach Miller (*son-in-law of Price and LeAnn Holmes*); Cathy Childress (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Mark Register (*friend of Larry & Celeste Whipple*); Charlie Robuck (*grandson of Jo Cudd*); Debbie Mason (*niece of Carlene Lewis*); Byron Difani, (*principal at Eagle Mountain*); Paul & Susan (Critz) Guthrie (*friend of the congregation*); Marjorie Seasholtz (*friend of Kathy Whittenton*); Elbert & Stacy Lindsey (*friends of Scott & Melissa Qualls family*); Don Weatherman (*friend of the congregation*); Helen Enderland (*friend of Kathy Altom*); Kathy Duke (*niece of Kathy Altom*); Captain Christian Cummings, USAF (*nephew of Price & LeAnn Holmes*); Amanda Lawrence (*sister of Leslie Roper*); Gerald Bass (*friend of Carlene Lewis*); Roger Blackmore (*friend of James & Camille Anderson*); Todd & Nancy Phillips (*sister & 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...



May 7	Presbyterian Village	Vaughn, Bentonville
May 14	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons in AR
May 21	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Allison Memorial, Little Rock
May 28	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove	First, Alma

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all very much for the food, visits, and calls during my surgery. It was all wonderful!

Love to All!

Ceil Smith

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the cross I recently received from you in memory of Will that was crafted by Bob Taylor. It's beautiful, and it means so much that Will continues to be remembered by you.

Also, thanks for the many condolences and prayers in the loss of my sister, Sue, and for the beautiful Easter flowers. You continue to make me feel enveloped in loving care.

I'm blessed to be in this church family.

Betty Adams