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A House United

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan’s power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes’ words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can’t drive out evil. Sin isn’t stronger than sin. Hate doesn’t solve hate. Violence doesn’t end violence. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God’s goodness.

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The Pastor’s Piece

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to bread down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

As the seasons change and we fully move into spring and towards summer, it’s natural for us to think of the changing seasons within our lives and within our church. The author of Ecclesiastes speaks of different seasons of life, but he does so in a very interesting way. While we often read this text and think of what season we want it to be (I personally, never want it to be the season of killing), we forget that all of the different seasons are written into creation by God who made all, knows all, and loves all. While we may not like change, while we may love spring and want it to never end, life changes and shifts as it will. Our lives together as the church is shifting; what we have known over the past year and a half will not be our reality in a few months. The church will be going through a time of transition once again, and only God knows the outcome. But sometimes that’s what we forget: that God **DOES** know the outcome. God knows the seasons of our lives, and God invites us to take part in the changing seasons, trusting that we live in God’s hands.

Elizabeth

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- 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

Scholarship Applications Now Available

Contact the office, or stop by to pick up applications for the Edwards Scholarship or the FPC Scholarship for your college student.

The FPC Scholarship is open to anyone in the Presbyterian Church. This is an excellent opportunity for those working on an advanced degrees to get a little financial assistance.

The Edwards Scholarship is designed for Presbyterian students working towards their first undergraduate degree.

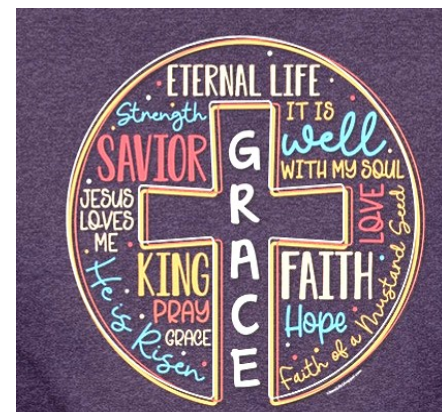
*Due dates for both scholarship is June 15th.

Mat Making

Have you heard? There's a group gathering on the first Monday of each month to gather supplies and working to make sleeping mats for the homeless out of plastic bags (yes! The ones you always get from Kroger, or Walmart, or Harps, or wherever!) These are being recycled into something useful for those displaced in our area. If you are interested in lending a hand, Kathy Altom is the head of this group! Contact her for more information, or just come by the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the CE Classroom (that's the one by the choir room) and check out what it's all about!

Church Shirts \$10

Session has approved ordering shirts with this design on them, and then adding First Presbyterian Church, Batesville to the bottom of the design! If this is something you are interested in, please watch for more information on placing an order, or contact the office for more information.



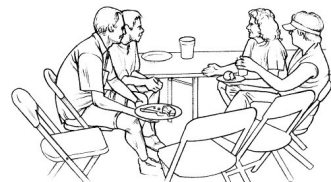
Presbyterian Day School




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.



Join us for Fellowship Lunch after worship on Sunday, **May 19th** for our annual church picnic! Come share some great conversation with your church family and enjoy a tasty lunch.




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.



Ronald McDonald House Pull for the House.
Many Hearts. One Home.

BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?



A. Nile
B. Yangtze
C. Jordan
D. Tigris
E. Ganges
F. Euphrate

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

Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)

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)



Palm Sunday and Easter Morning



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
Deborah 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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for its Church Secretary position. The job will begin July 22, 2024, and the successful applicant will be paid for 2 weeks of on-the-job training, including one week in June and one week in July. Interested applicants may get a detailed job description upon request through the Church Office. Applications with resume's should be returned to the office by mail, e-mail or in person marked to the attention of the Personnel Committee.

Preaching and Worship Schedule

May 5— Sixth Sunday in Easter

Text: Psalm 98:1-9 & John 15:9-17

Hymns: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!; One Bread, One Body; Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Liturgist: Kathy Lanier

May 12—Seventh Sunday in Easter

Text: Psalm 1:1-6 & John 17:6-19

Hymns: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; Open My Eyes, That I May See; Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Liturgist: Bob Stroud

May 19— Day of Pentecost

Text: Psalm 104:24-34 & Acts 2:1-21

Hymns: Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!; Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak; Blessed Assurance! Jesus is Mine!

Liturgist: Maggie Alsup

May 26—Trinity Sunday

Text: Psalm 29:1-11 & John 3:1-17

Hymns: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!, To God Be the Glory, In Christ There Is No East or West

Liturgist: Janet Thomas



Farris and I would like to thank our church family for the wonderful flowers we received at Easter. Not only did they brighten Farris' room but they also brightened our hearts. Thanks again for thinking about us and may God continue to bless our home church.

Dick & Farris Nelms

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the flowers and prayers. I truly value the friendship of all members of First Presbyterian Church. I cannot tell you how valuable and helpful your prayers were. Prayer does make a difference.

Thanks, Danny Yeager

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: Chip Rayford (*son-in-law of Theodora Hightower*), Bill Olson (*friend Amy Crouch Howard*), Dwight Barnett & family (*brother of Carlene Lewis*), Dr. Bill Waldrip; 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*), 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*), 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*).

Please Pray for...



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

May 5	Presbyterian Village	Vaughn, Bentonville
May 12	First, Hot Springs	Ministries to Hispanic Persons in Arkansas
May 19	Westover Hills, Little Rock	Alison Memorial, Little Rock
May 26	Church Groundskeepers	Holly Grove Church, Holly Grove

To all of my dear friends at First Presbyterian Church, Batesville,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter flowers! I still miss worshipping with you, but you are in my prayers every day! Happy Easter to ALL!

Love, Nat Zumwalt



To All My Dear Beloved Friends at Presbyterian Church, Batesville who sent beautiful flowers of condolences at Easter time. To Shana and me on the loss of family members. We are working at recovering from hustle and Mother and I are doing better each day. Shana has a new beautiful little granddaughter and me a great grand daughter that we thank God for. We love you all and send love to all.

Jo Cudd and Shana