

First Presbyterian Church  
 775 E. Boswell  
 Batesville, AR 72501  
 Phone: 870-793-3272  
 E-mail: [firstpresbatesville@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.fpcbatesville.org)

## Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

September 2023

Volume 37, Issue 9



First Presbyterian Church, Batesville AR



## The Pastor's Piece

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:36-40

I made a decision recently: if it doesn't show grace, it needs to go. If it doesn't bring life to myself and the people around me and in the world, there is no need for it. We tend to get so caught up in everything going on around us that we forget what is truly important: loving God, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves. During World War II, children were often sent from areas of heavy bombing to homes in the countryside. One night, the adults found some kids holding on to their bread instead of eating it. When questioned about it, they children replied that they wanted to be sure that they would have bread the next day: they wanted to hold on to what would give them life. Out of this story, the spiritual practice of the Examen was born. The Examen consists of asking yourself questions in two areas every night:

1. What gives you life? What was the best part of your day? What makes you smile and gives you energy?
2. What drains life from you? What was the worst part of your day? What brings you down and zaps your energy?

The idea is that if we answer these questions every day, certain patterns emerge. And as people of God, the patterns that emerge tend to fall in line with the Great Commandment: loving God, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves. Hopefully what we learn about ourselves and our lives is that the things that are centered around God are the ones that bring us joy and life and fill us with energy. So what brings you joy and makes you smile? Is it showing grace to others? Is it spending time with God in prayer and devotion? I know that there are some things we have to do that you might not think of as life giving, but for me paying the electric bill is a resurrection activity—air conditioning gives me joy right now! What is of God is true, authentic worship which we have together each week. Resurrection activities share grace and love just as God has shared it with us. So what gives you life right now? What is the best part of your day? What makes you smile? Do more of that. If it doesn't show grace, it needs to go. As the people of God we don't need it anyway.

*Elizabeth*

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

# HAPPY Birthday

9/2 Price Holmes  
 9/5 Sandra Malin  
 9/5 Melanie Barton  
 9/7 Kathy Altom  
 9/9 Cooper Coleman  
 9/10 Susan McElmurry  
 9/12 John Ellis  
 9/16 Susie Cummins  
 9/17 Clark Baker  
 9/18 Brent Bell  
 9/21 Jason Moser  
 9/21 Abigail Richards  
 9/21 Lynn Weatherman  
 9/23 Celeste Whipple  
 9/24 Andrea Weaver  
 9/24 Anna Kathryn Moore  
 9/25 Joanna Buchanan  
 9/25 Baylor Moody  
 9/26 Kaitlyn Barton  
 9/26 Phil Richards  
 9/26 Arch Baker  
 9/27 Diana Richards  
 9/27 Kate Lanier  
 9/30 Sidney Jones  
 9/30 Jacob Smith

## God is Lure

God is an invitation.

A lure.

A chance to do things differently.

Always before us,

God is the possibility of collective change.

Through everyday ordinary patterns of living

Disguise evil and cover over sins of power,

God makes known what is hidden,

Calls us to courage, makes us capable of radical solidarity.

We are not left powerless.

Every day there are openings.

Every day a chance to choose what is right.

Every day an opportunity to re-pattern the world.

By - M. Jade Kaiser

## Knit Wits are Back Again!

Each year, a small group of ladies knit (or crochet) caps for the children at Arkansas Children's Hospital. The goal is always to have over 100 caps donated. If you have ever thought about picking up knitting as a hobby, come by and check this great group out! They would love to help you get started! If you have questions, please contact Camille Anderson for more information at 870-613-2711. (If you would like to borrow needles and yarn, we have plenty available to get you started!)



We would like to acknowledge a birthday that was left out of the August list last month.

Lenora Mobley celebrated her birthday on August 30th.

If you would like your birthday listed in the newsletter, please contact the church office and let Kathy know.

# Presbyterian Day School



### DROP OFF/PICK UP PROCEDURES:

Regular drop-off time is between 7:50-8:30 a.m. If you need to drop off after 8:30, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements. PDS is now offering an early drop-off option at 7:30 to make the morning routine easier for parents who work. Sign-up is required. Please contact Alyson Low at [alysonlowpds@gmail.com](mailto:alysonlowpds@gmail.com) to participate.

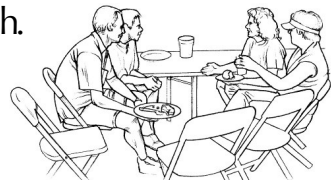
Students only need to bring a water bottle to school daily. No stuffed animals or blankets will be allowed unless preapproved for a special occasion. Pick-up time is between 11:50 -12:00 p.m. Again, if you need to pick up at a different time, please contact your child's teacher.

**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.

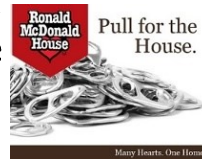




They are back! Join us for Fellowship Lunch after worship on Sunday, **September 10th** in Fellowship Hall! Come share some great conversation with your church family and enjoy a tasty lunch.



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



### 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:

**Individually packaged snacks (goldfish, fruit snacks, crackers)**

(These will be donated to the Day School.)

**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!

**When was the last time you invited someone to church?**

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

## Mid Week Bible Study

Elizabeth will be starting up the midweek bible study again on September 5th. Each Tuesday morning at 10:00 we will gather for a study. This time we will go through the Gospel of John. Just a note: We will not meet Tuesday, September 19th, Elizabeth will be out of town.



## Office Hours Change

In 2014 I was blessed with the opportunity to come on staff here at First Presbyterian Church. The past nine years have been such a blessing to me, from giving back to the school that provided a scholarship for my daughter to attend PDS here for a year, to the relationships I've made with everyone through the church. I'm a very blessed woman! After a lot of prayer, and discussion with my husband, I've made the decision to go back to college to become a registered nurse! I'm extremely excited about this new challenge and journey ahead of me. With this change for me, comes a few changes here at the church. Personnel has been gracious enough to work with me, and allow me to continue working here, while going to school. So you will have noticed that office hours look a little different. Through early December (my first semester) the church office hours will be as follows. Hours will go back to normal in December and then change a bit in January, as I begin my second semester of college. I will thank you now for your patience, and flexibility with me during this time. My goal is to continue to provide you with all of the care and assistance that you have come to expect from me. Yes, this means my time at the church will come to an end, but not just yet!

*Kathy Tackett*

Monday	10:00—4:00
Tues/Thur	8:00-1:00 & 3:00-4:00
Wednesday	12:00—4:00
Friday	8:00—3:00

### CURRENT ELDERS:

**Class of 2023**  
J.R. Baker  
Jesse Friert  
Kathy Lanier  
Bob Stroud

**Class of 2024**  
Debra Bell  
Wil Moore  
Shelly Moser  
Mollie Grace

**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

**September 3—14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text:** Psalm 105:1-6; Matthew 16:21-28

**Hymns:** Here In This Place; Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks; God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

**Liturgist:** Janet Thomas

**September 10—15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text:** Psalm 149:1-9; Matthew 18:15-20

**Hymns:** Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; We Are One in the Spirit; Great Is Thy Faithfulness

**Liturgist:** LeAnn Holmes

**September 17—16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Guest Preacher

**Hymns:** Come Thou Fount; Be Thou My Vision; Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine

**Liturgist:** Fonzie Geary

**September 24—17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Guest Preacher

**Hymns:** Morning Has Broken; All Creatures of Our God and King; Go, My Children with My Blessing

**Liturgist:** Courtney Beal



## Pastoral Care



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

**MEMBERS:** Steve Lange; Jo Cudd; George Lankford; Farris and Dick Nelms; Ron Karg; Nat Zumwalt; Trish Boylan.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** 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*); Mark Register (*friend of Larry & Celeste Whipple*); 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*); 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:



Sept 3	Faith, Pine Bluff	First, Beebe
Sept 10	Central, Pine Bluff	Church Camp Ministries
Sept 17	First, Brinkley	First, Jonesboro
Sept 24	First, Gurdon	Churches in Presbyteries in Honduras

We have a Women Sunday School class, lead by Elizabeth, starting in September! Class will meet in the second classroom on the left in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. The book is Simon Peter by Adam Hamilton.

“He was not rich or educated, but was familiar with hard work. He was quick-tempered and impetuous, but possessed a passion that would change the world. He left everything to follow his teacher, yet struggled with doubt and fear.

Join pastor and author Adam Hamilton in this six week journey and take an in-depth dive into the life, faith and character of Simon Peter. “

