

First Presbyterian Church
117 S. Pearl Street
(Mailing address: 400 State Street)
Natchez, MS 39120 601-442-2581
fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net www.fpcnatchez.org
THE LINK ~SEPTEMBER 2022

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings to all of you, my brothers and sisters in Christ! On this beautiful first day of September, I share with you a few thoughts from my heart about the power of prayer and Scripture. As an example, I share with you a passage from Second Chronicles with its timeless message – as pertinent for our world today as it was centuries ago.

The people then, like us today, struggle to live as God's people. God knows their struggle. God speaks to them through their king, Solomon, as a new house of worship is to be dedicated. Listen as God speaks to Solomon:

"If my people, who are called by my name, humble themselves, pray, seek me, and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

What a privilege we claim as people of faith, that we can stop wherever we are; settle our hearts; and turn to God in prayer. Whether in privacy of a favorite prayer place or in the gathered community in worship, we are called to meet the One who knows us completely and waits patiently for us to call his name, no matter the needs we present.

How can you deepen your prayer life? Where do you go to find new understanding about the Holy Word we treasure in our Bible? The first and obvious answer to the question is: Attend worship on Sunday. Pray to offer thanks and praise, to confess sins, to express gratitude, and to remember the needs of the world.

Join your voice with others to sing psalms and sacred songs that turn prayers into music that is beautiful to God's ears. I'm reminded of a sweet song learned long ago. It says:

"I love you, Lord. And I lift my voice to worship You, O my soul, rejoice! Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear."

I Love You, Lord: text and music by Laurie Klein

Throughout our week, we meet as people of faith to pray together and read Scripture together: Men's Prayer Breakfast, Tuesday Bible study, Wednesday evening Bible study, PW Circle meetings, small gatherings of prayer partners in the Stratton Chapel prayer room, and many meetings of church officers and committees. Join a group of your church friends in the prayer room. A great choice: Come to worship on Sunday! See you there!

Walking beside you as together we seek to follow Christ and serve him joyfully,

Joan

MUSIC NOTES

Let your light shine, let your voice ring!

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' - Matthew 5:14-16

These familiar words of our Lord from the Gospel according to Matthew ring so true when we think of the gifts and talents freely and generously given to us by God. These gifts are not of our making but are given to us to be used to God's glory and the welfare of God's people. This is especially true of those gifts and talents which can be given back to enhance the worship experience of others. Of course, as you might have already discerned, I am speaking specifically in reference to musical gifts.

Those who have the ability to sing well, to read music, or even have specific training in the vocal arts have one thing in common: they all have been given a wonderful gift intended to be used for God's service. By doing so, these gifts find their true potential and flourish as a result of being given back to God.

We are trying to grow our choir in voices. Of particular need are some male voices. If you are one of those who enjoys singing, or even has in their past some choral experience, maybe some specific training in voice, or if you simply love to sing and have thought about what it would like to be in the choir, I urge you to come and give the choir a try. Come and be a part of a wonderful, joyful, loving group of fellow church members striving to lend their time and talents to God and the Church. The commitment is not a heavy one: one weekday rehearsal of approximately one hour, and one Sunday service with pre-service warm-up/rehearsal.

We will begin our regular weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:00 p.m. Let me know if you would like to attend, and I will be sure to have a folder and hymnal set up for you. Don't hide your light- let it shine, and let your voice ring! You'll be glad you did and find an abundant welcome.

Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

LABOR DAY

The Church offices and the Playschool will be closed Monday, September 5, for Labor Day.

CHURCH STAFF MEETINGS

The Church staff meets every Monday morning at 10 in the library.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Sunday, September 4

11:30 a.m. (following the 10:30 service)

Congregational meeting to elect the Officer Nominating Committee

Tuesday, September 6

7a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast meets in Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, September 8

5:30 p.m. Deacons' meeting in the church library.

Sunday, September 11

8:30 a.m. There will be no 8:30 service this Sunday.

11:30 a.m. Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 12

5:30 p.m. Session meeting in the church library.

Wednesday, September 14

10 a.m. The Rebekah Circle meets in the Parlor.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BUSY! BUSY! BUSY! On Saturday, September 24, FPC's Presbyterian Women will hostess the PW's Presbytery of Mississippi's Fall Gathering. Ladies from twenty-seven churches will be invited to attend this meeting and luncheon. **Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks!** Please let us know if you would be willing to help out on that morning. You are all invited and encouraged to register and attend the meeting.

September is also the official start to our Bible study. Lesson One will be Wednesday, September 14, at 10 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor. The study this year is *Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. I'll be teaching the first lesson, "Sabbath and Celebration." Books are \$10 and will be available at the meeting or you may contact Edie Christian.

Phyllis Mashburn, PW Moderator

MISSION

Your mission committee wants to remind everyone that the Men's Culinary Event, our major mission fundraiser, is scheduled for October 28. Save the date! Tickets will be available soon in the church office for \$20 each. Other details will be forthcoming.

Plan on an evening of fellowship, fun, and delicious food. Your presence will help to build a new church building for our partners in Mexico, provide medical supplies for clinics that serve desperate people in Haiti, give clean water to a family in Brazil, provide more food boxes for deserving people in our community. You get the point: the list of opportunities for us to help is endless but it won't happen unless you help! See you on October 28!

George Bates, Mission Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

What an interesting and fun time we have had studying with the three lovely young teenagers who will be confirmed as members of the church during our one Sunday service at 10:30 on September 11! Exploring the Bible and what it means to be part of the Body of Christ with them has been a joy.

We all have heard someone say about a loved one, "To know (name) is to love her." This is even more true when speaking of knowing God, who as we study His word and fellowship with His people, we understand and love more and more each day.

Let our church family help *you* grow in wisdom as we "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" in our normal challenges of life. (See Philippians 2:12)

We eagerly invite each person interested in the Christian education of our members to join the Education Committee. We will have a meeting soon. Will you please consider bringing your own energy, creativity, and imagination to this committee as we plan for the months ahead?

For example, you may be familiar with or have a particular interest in a new Bible study topic, films, or activities which could enrich our Christian education. Please contact the church office or Joan if you will serve in this way.

In the meantime the Adult Sunday school classes led by Chuck Borum and Lee Jones are going quite well, as are Pastor Gandy's Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening groups. If you are not already participating, perhaps you would like to try out what you've been missing. You are welcome! The dive into the Bible and the fellowship with other church members in these classes will surprise and delight you.

Helen Smith, Chairman

A/V TEAM REPORT

For the past two years, FPC has live-streamed its Sunday 10:30 Morning Worship Service to Facebook Live. Beginning with an iPhone mounted on a moveable tripod, we are now streaming with three state-of-the-art PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) cameras, high-end laptop three computer, and streaming software. Earlier this year we obtained a grant from the Synod of Living Waters to add a third PTZ camera to complement our two then existing cameras. This addition enhances our coverage of the entire sanctuary and gives us more options for video coverage of the organ and choir. We have also added two volunteer operators to our team: Lance Harris and Jon Borum. With their addition, our present audio/video team members are Marc Doyle (Session Liaison), Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Jon Borum, and Ryan Sharp. As with any technology, we are continuing to improve the delivery of our video at the highest quality possible. Over the coming months we will be exploring options to improve our sanctuary as well as live-streaming audio system. We welcome anyone who wishes to become involved in our audio/visual ministry.

Charles Hall, AV Team Director

EVANGELISM

Once upon a time, steamboat paddle wheelers made this little town, Natchez, one of the wealthiest in the United States by taking cotton to market. Once again, they are making a huge difference for our city by bringing tourists to town. In two years, American Cruise Lines will have six ships coming to Natchez and we will be the home port for the new vessel *Symphony*. This will also increase air traffic to Natchez. Our fabulous photograph gallery is a stop for the ACL loop buses when they are in town. The American Queen Steamship Company will soon have three vessels coming to town and Viking already has one boat on the river that will dock in Natchez. Natchez, and our church and Natchez in Historic Photographs are premier stops on the Father of Waters! Rusty Jenkins, FPC Deacon and official Natchez tour guide

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: VITAL CONGREGATIONS

I am pleased to report that First Presbyterian Church has been selected to participate in a two-year project named "Vital Congregations" that was initiated by the General Assembly and is being implemented by various Presbyteries, including the Presbytery of Mississippi and the Presbytery of South Alabama.

"The purpose of the Vital Congregations Initiative is to work alongside mid council leadership, and leaders of existing congregations, in a process that seeks to help assess, discern and live into transformative actions that increase vitality. Through intentional spiritual practices and relational connections, this two-year process takes us deeper into following Jesus Christ, making disciples and being the vital community of Christ throughout particular communities and the world."

We are excited about the Vital Congregations project and we have already had our first organizational meeting. We will continue to report to the FPC community as this project evolves. Our prayer is that the Vital Congregations project will help renew our church's commitment to be a "Missional Church:" one that follows Christ and serves everyone.

Marc Doyle, Evangelism Chairman

A Seven-Day Cycle of Prayer

Beginning today, we at First Presbyterian will begin participating in the Vital Congregations Initiative Seven-Day Cycle of Prayer based on the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation. There is no set time of the day for you to offer the prayer – just when it is convenient for you and the person or persons you are praying with.

SUNDAY – A Prayer for Spirit Inspired Worship

Living God, we give praise and thanks for those moments where we have met the transforming presence of Christ in the rhythms of worship. We pray today that our worship would always be inspired by your Spirit so that we may be led to discern the new things you are doing among us. Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord by proclaiming the good news of salvation in worship and as we live each day. Amen.

MONDAY – A Prayer for Lifelong Discipleship Formation

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for all the ways you have helped us grow over the years in our faith. We pray today that our congregation would be a place where people may continually be formed as your disciples. We ask that our studies, prayer gatherings, shared service, and fellowship times be a part of how you help each child of God, no matter their age, know and enjoy Christ more fully. Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord by allowing us to always grow in the image of Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY – A Prayer for Intentional Incarnational Focus

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for all the times that we have found your Word becoming flesh among us and have seen how you are truly God with us. Today we pray that our church would be a place where people would feel your gracious presence, know that you are near, and see how you are even now actively at work among us and in the world. Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord so that we may offer your grace to others.

WEDNESDAY – A Prayer for Authentic Evangelism

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for all the ways you have brought Good News to us and touched our lives with the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Today we pray that our church would be a place where evangelism is authentic, a place where the message of Christ's love and grace flows from the heart and fills our words and deeds. Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord by sharing the hope that is within us. Amen.

THURSDAY – A Prayer for Empowering Servant Leadership

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for all the times you have called forth servant leaders from among our members in the church. Today, we pray that your Spirit would continue to work among us so that our church would be a place that empowers and equips people to serve and lead in the humble example that Jesus set for us. Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord by loving and serving one another. Amen.

FRIDAY – A Prayer for Caring Relationships

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for those dear souls who have walked alongside us in our life's journey so as to offer us care and make your love real for us. Today we pray that our church would be a place where such caring relationships are always being nurtured and that through them your great love for all the world would be known. Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord by extending your compassion to all. Amen.

SATURDAY – A Prayer for Ecclesial Health

Living God, we give you thanks and praise for all the times, when by your grace, the church has been what you intend and embraced the mission you have given. Today we pray that our church would always seek out your purpose for us as your people and that we would never tire of asking the question, "Who is God calling us to be?" Living God, by the gifts of your Spirit, help us to bear witness to the risen Lord, by building us up to be a vibrant and vital part of Christ's body working in the world today. Amen.

EVERYDAY – A Prayer for Living

Living God, in the great mystery of our faith, receive us each night and revive us each day, that we may be dead to sin and alive to you; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons meets the first Monday of each month. We center our work on the needs of congregation and community, meeting these needs, through visits and personal interaction.

In September, we will oversee a luncheon being held on Sunday, September 11, after the 10:30 church service to honor the new FPC confirmands who will be joining the church that day. Please plan to bring your favorite dish and join the celebration.

There will be no 8:30 service on September 11.

Sandra Burkes, Board of Deacons Chairman

NATCHEZ IN HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

In 1995 Stratton Chapel became home to Natchez in Historic Photographs, historic images from the collection of Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy and the late Dr. Thomas H. Gandy. Visitors come each day to view this large exhibition which tells the story of life in the Natchez area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We are a welcoming church, and our visitors love to see a smiling face as they enter.

Would you like to be a greeter? The gallery is open from 10:00 to 4:00, Monday through Saturday, and you can choose the time and day that suits your schedule. Two-hour time slots are requested, but you are welcome to stay longer. You may bring a friend to help out, especially on busy days when riverboat visitors are in town. The gallery is a designated stop for the buses.

For more information or to reserve your place on the calendar please call the church office (601-442-2581) or call or text Rosemary Hall at 601-443-1599.

Rosemary Hall, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN PLAYSCHOOL

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." ~ Proverbs 22:6

September is traditionally a month of beginnings. New children have joined our program, replacing kindergartners we said goodbye to over the summer. We transitioned our children into older groups and higher learning demands. We know you will share our excitement and enthusiasm as we progress through the year.

This year, we are implementing the "Frog Street" curriculum. This curriculum is aligned to both federal and state standards. It is designed to integrate instructions across all of the key developmental domains of young children.

On September 9, from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon, we will celebrate our grandparents. Our students will have the opportunity to celebrate this special occasion with their grandparents or a special friend with whom they share a unique and loving relationship.

September is also time for our Fall fundraiser! We hope you will consider supporting some of our fundraiser programs this year. Our first fundraiser is "Cheers to the Holidays." It will run September 12-16. If you would like to support our playschool by participating in the fundraiser, a catalog will be in the church office, along with order forms.

Aretha Davis, Director

REPORT FROM THE PLAYSCHOOL PLAYGROUND GRANT STEERING TEAM

Have you seen the amazing and newly completed playground? The Mississippi Department of Human Services awarded the First Presbyterian Playschool a "Childcare Strong Stabilization Grant," which made all of this work possible.

The playground was designed for toddlers and preschool children; but the play equipment is plenty fun and safe enough for young school-aged children, too.

Please understand that the Playschool Playground has a few rules of participation!

1) At the present time, we ask that anyone using the playground exercise care not to walk on areas where the grass is not yet established.

2) Second, on more than one occasion in the past, people unknown to us brought pets into the playground and left behind things which rendered the facility unusable for our Playschool. For this reason and other child safety concerns, the gates are unlocked only with a pass code. We ask you not to bring pets into the playground area.

3) Because we must keep the gates locked, we have arranged for church members and friends of the church to get the code from the church office or from Helen Smith, 337-781-6114, to use the playground outside of Playschool hours, just as always. We hope you will enjoy this wonderful new playground!

MARK THE DATE

2022 Confirmands will affirm their faith and join the church Sunday, September 11. Also on this day, we invite students of all ages to bring backpacks for blessings as the school year continues in its beginning weeks. Please plan to attend this special Sunday service. We will gather for a luncheon in Fellowship Hall after the service.

FPC CHOIR REHEARSALS

The Sanctuary Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the choir room upstairs.

FOOD BOX MINISTRY

Each month, volunteers prepare boxes for the 36 families who will receive the boxes that month. On the days when the boxes are distributed, volunteers may assist by greeting the families who come, offering a smiling face to show the love of Christ that goes into the gift boxes each month. Call the church office if you would like to assist in this ministry.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join Rev. Gandy every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Parlor in Stratton Chapel for Bible study. Scriptures to be studied are announced each Sunday in the bulletin.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays. Supper begins at 5:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The adult Bible study, children's activities, and Sanctuary Choir begin at 6 p.m.

MEN'S CULINARY EVENT

One of the most popular fundraisers of First Presbyterian will return this fall! The Men's Culinary Event will be Friday, October 28, 5 to 7 p.m., at Hawthorne, the home of Bettye Jenkins, 23 Hawthorne Place. Bettye and her family are excited to offer their spacious grounds for the event. Please put this date on your calendar. Men, polish your cooking tools and get your recipes lined up! It will be a great evening. Tickets will be \$20 and will be for sale soon. All proceeds will go toward FPC mission projects.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for young children and infants, from 8 a.m. until noon on Sundays and at appropriate times for all other church functions. We do, however, welcome children of all ages in our services!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Please pray for these ministries.

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets Monday at 7 p.m. in the gym.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. This is an open discussion meeting; anyone interested in attending is welcome!

The Natchez Book Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Parlor on the fourth Monday of each month. This month's meeting is September 26.

FPC's Stewpot Service Fellowship will serve lunch at the Stewpot this month on September 25. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Marcia Hall, Nicole Harris, or the church office. Many members also deliver Stewpot meals throughout the month.

The Mat Pilates Class, led by Sandra Burkes, meets in Fellowship Hall from 8:30-10 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. Classes are free and open to all. Bring your own mat. For more information, contact Sandra at 662-816-5459.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3 **Marcia Hall, Diane Hammers**

September 4 **Danna Mooney**

September 5 **Jay Fitch**

Spencer Holder

September 6 **Annette Holder**

September 7 **Gay Metcalfe**

September 13 **Anna Rose Metcalfe, Vincent Bache III**

September 16 **Mary Lessley, Sue Savino**

September 20 **Fred Parker**

September 25 **Robert Seyfarth**

September 28 **Bettye Jenkins**

September 29 **Catherine Ratcliffe, Joanna Kidder, Lucianne Wood**

Report from the 225th General Assembly
Presented to the Presbytery of Mississippi
August 20, 2022
Rosemary Hall, Ruling Elder Commissioner

It was a privilege and a blessing to represent the Presbytery of Mississippi at the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA.

The 225th General Assembly this year was historic in the sense that it was the first hybrid meeting. The 224th General Assembly in 2020 was totally virtual, which was also an historic event. We have learned much about how technology can bring us together when a pandemic keeps us physically apart. I was impressed by and grateful for the technology but also grateful for the opportunity to be able to meet in person.

The highlight of each day was the daily worship. "Lament and Hope" was the focus, as we reflected on where we have been for the last two years and our hope for the future. I encourage you to view the worship services at [WORSHIP INFO - The 225th General Assembly \(ga-pcusa.org\)](#), which featured inspiring preaching, music, and art.

I attended the opening worship and election of co-moderators online. Elected were Ruth Santana-Grace, teaching elder and executive presbyter in the Presbytery of Philadelphia. and Shavon Starling Louis, teaching elder and pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the Presbytery of Charlotte.

The extended hybrid format – with a staggered set of committee meetings in-person in Louisville, followed by five days of online plenary sessions – was described by some as "intense and exhausting". It may have been exhausting, but well worth the effort.

The connectivity and diversity of the church was evident throughout the in-person committee meetings and the online plenaries. I was impressed with the transparency in which all business of the church was conducted. All committee meetings and plenary sessions were live streamed, and recordings are now available at <https://ga-pcusa.org/>.

I was impressed by the Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs). The young people that served on my committee were engaged, intelligent, thoughtful and faithful. It was a pleasure to work alongside them.

Through prayer and discernment nineteen committees discussed overtures and made recommendations to the assembly on a variety of topics. These are just a few that I would like to share:

- I served on the Ministry Coordination committee which was tasked with proposing a format for the 226th General Assembly to be held in Salt Lake City in 2024. We studied each of the four options and proposed online committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions, which the Assembly approved. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) has the discretion to make changes based on health concerns going forward.

We also approved a proposal to update the video resource and study guide, Who are We Presbyterians. It has not been updated since 2001 and is described as an excellent tool for church school, officer training, new members class, confirmation class, retreats, midweek gatherings and much more.

- The Assembly approved the guiding statement as presented by the 2020 Vision Team. This team was mandated by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and charged with developing and implementing a guiding statement for the denomination as it moves into the future. This statement can be summarized in this way - God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be: Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, and Alive. It is a beautiful statement, and a copy is attached to this report.
- The Assembly approved overtures by the Immigration committee regarding the treatment of refugees and to declare the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church". This is a complicated issue and one close to my heart since the church in Natchez has worked in a small way to help refugees in our community.
- The Assembly approved a per capita rate of \$9.61 for 2023 and \$10.28 for 2024. This rate is based on member statistics submitted by mid councils, ongoing work supported by per capita, and actions taken by the current assembly which require additional financial support. The per capita rate for 2021 and 2022 was \$8.98.
- In a few months presbyteries will be asked to vote on proposed changes to the PC(USA) constitution, and amendments to the Book of Order, primarily the section on church discipline.

By participating in the General Assembly, I learned a great deal about the worship, work, connectivity, and diversity of the church. It was a blessing to participate and represent the Presbytery of Mississippi.

The Guiding Statement

Our Reformed heritage understands the power of words and we humbly offer this Guiding Statement as speaking truth and declaring life.

The 2020 Vision Team was mandated by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and charged with developing a guiding statement for the denomination as it moves into the future.

In the faithful desire to discern the will of God we listened throughout the denomination and beyond, hearing hope and frustration, expectation and anxiety. Along our journey even when it is hard to see the way forward, God has spoken and continues to speak to us in these times and places.

Therefore, with renewed energy, we believe God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be:

Prayerful

- Confessing our sin to God and those we have wronged; we accept our responsibility for the brokenness in the world and in ourselves. In Christ we are assured of forgiveness and freed to forgive others.
- We ask the Holy Spirit to direct and guide us as we actively listen to Scripture and fully engage in the joys and challenges of life in the present world.
- By grace and love Christ binds us together, cleanses us in the waters of baptism, nourishes us at the Lord's table, and sends us out to share the Good News.

Courageous

- Reformed and always being reformed, we follow the Holy Spirit in new and imaginative ways to places we have not yet been.
- We foster the hope of reconciliation in Christ who transforms the world through healing individuals, communities, and creation.
- We work for God's justice and peace for all people in every land, walking with the vulnerable, the marginalized, the oppressed, and the abused.

United

- As members of the Church universal, we are Christ's disciples, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Against forces that seek to divide, Christ compels us to bear witness to a love that connects communities across great differences.
- We approach others in a spirit of openness and trust as we follow Jesus Christ in respecting the freedom of other religions, worldviews, and traditions.


Serving

- Gratefully following the One who washed his disciples' feet, we listen to our neighbors, working to meet their practical needs.
- We partner with others to become the hands and feet of God in the world, showing compassion and generosity to all creation.
- The Holy Spirit pushes us beyond the familiar, meeting people where they are as we share Christ's transformative love.

Alive

- We are people of the resurrection: though death surrounds us, we are not afraid because we follow the One who was raised from the tomb.
- The Holy Spirit gives us courage to trust each other and build a community that reflects the fullness of God's image in humanity: beautifully diverse in age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexuality, physical and mental ability, geography, theological conviction and viewpoints.
- In the sure and certain hope of resurrection, we joyfully testify that the Church and its members are called to follow Christ's model by risking all, even life itself, for the sake of the Gospel.

And so, God calls the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to be: Prayerful, Courageous, United, Serving, Alive. Thanks be to God.



*First Presbyterian Church
Natchez, Mississippi*

cordially invites you to

*Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of Mississippi's
Fall Gathering*

*Saturday, September 24, 2022
Registration from 9:30-10:00 a.m.
in Stratton Chapel
Registration Fee \$10 per person*

*R.S.V.P. by September 16, 2022
To: Phyllis Mashburn
58 Duncan Avenue, Natchez, MS 39120
or call 601-442-0765*

Please provide church name and number attending!

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS:

Class of 2022: Marc Doyle, Rosemary Hall, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith

Class of 2023: Lane Feltus, Mary Lessley, Catherine Ratcliffe

Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody

DEACONS:

Class of 2022: Sandra Burkes, Rusty Jenkins, Sarah Smith

Class of 2023: Ken Price, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington

Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

117 South Pearl Street

(Mailing Address: 400 State Street)

Natchez, Mississippi 39120

601-442-2581

www.fpcnatchez.org

fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

Sunday services: 8:30 in Stratton Chapel; 10:30 in the Sanctuary

Wonderful Wednesday: 5:15 in Fellowship Hall

There will be no 8:30 service on Sunday, September 11.