

*First Presbyterian Church
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Natchez, MS 39120
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NOVEMBER 2021 LINK

FROM THE PASTOR

Why do we pray? When do we pray? How do we pray? All of these are questions we ask as we grow up into a more mature faith. Friends, we continue to grow every day. We continue to learn from Scripture and from each other why, when, and how to pray.

In a reprise of our "prayer partner" program, you will receive in a few days an assigned name of someone in the congregation for whom to pray intentionally during the next few months. The pairings will be done at random. You may not know the person well; you may wonder what that person needs for you to pray. Feel free to contact the person if you would like to do that.

Prayer is a gift from God given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. He teaches us to pray, and he mediates our prayers. Everyone is in need of prayer and is called to be a pray-er. Hear what James says in his letter to the church:

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James5:16). He is speaking to all who try to live in right relation to God, gathering as Christ's body the church – people like you who keep prayer lists, call one another in times of need, and pray regularly together at worship services, Sunday school, and Bible study.

Yes: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." Prayer is a promise that God is present in those places where the people call on God in prayer. James leads us to remember that prayer always is the proper response to God, no matter the situation.

We pray in a time of sickness and suffering; in a time of joy and good cheer; in a time of solitude and also in a time of community; in a time when sins should be confessed and heard; and in a time when a brother or sister has wandered from the church.

Thinking about Jesus as he ministered on earth, we remember that there were many times when he sought solitude to pray and was interrupted. So then he took time to heal and to teach. Even in his healings and teaching, he taught prayer. Luke says, "Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart" (Luke 18:1).

Pray for your prayer partner -- for richer, deeper relationship with God in Jesus Christ and with other people; for joy and well-being; and for the gift of faith given through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Always holding you in prayer and grateful to serve Christ alongside you,

Joan

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are beyond thankful to each and every one of you who have followed the guidelines and made it possible for us to continue in our worship time together.

With that being said, we are removing the YELLOW BOWS in our beautiful sanctuary!!

Please continue to be careful and aware of our social distancing procedures to ensure the health of our congregation. We will continue to have masks and hand sanitizer available at the doors if needed.

Sunday, November 7, we will celebrate **All Saints' Sunday**, a day when we give thanks for all who have preceded us in service to the Lord and now rest from their labors. On this day we remember especially those who have died since All Saints' Sunday 2020. Those names will be called and we will light candles for each one. If there are other friends or members of your family who have joined the Circle of Saints prior to last November, and you wish to have their names called, please call Pam at 601-442-2581 (church office) and make that request.

Early Morning Service in Stratton Chapel

We are pleased to announce the return of early morning service! This will be a 30-minute service to ensure all will be able to attend Sunday School.

- Sunday, November 14, at 8:30 am
- In preparation of Advent, Christ the King Sunday, November 21 at 8:30 am
- First Sunday of Advent, November 28 at 8:30 am

If you feel more comfortable safely watching from your home, we thank you for being with us online. Please know that we are safely here when you are ready to return.

The link for the video is <https://youtu.be/K0UUX2HdDk4>. The video is also available on First Presbyterian Church's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresNatchez/videos/2856520137731201>.

With the season of Advent quickly approaching, we have much planned for the month of November. The need for ushers/greeters will be we be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to text or call me at 601-807-4119.

Blessings,

Cara Moody, Chairman

Worship Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

"Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes." Psalm 119:12

"For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our message?' So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Romans 10:16b and 17

The following are a few comments from men and women who recently attended Joan Gandy's popular Tuesday 11:00 study which meets in Stratton Chapel:

"It's very uplifting. I sometimes walk in sad but come out happy. I love going."

"We read each scripture that will be used for the following Sunday. I like having this review of the scripture which will be used. Joan discusses each one."

"We all pitch in. I recommend this to everyone."

If you aren't yet convinced to attend, speak to some of the other loyal attendees such as Annette, Vince, Sherry, Robert, Rosemary, Charles, Kay, or Shields, who were not given the chance to be quoted here.

Our faithful Sunday school leaders this fall hope to see more people returning to class. Our teachers are Chris Borum, Kay McNeil, Denise Seale, Chuck Borum and Lee Jones.

When our little children leave church following the children's message, their time is filled quickly with Bible stories, Bible verse memorization, and play. If you ask them, perhaps Melody Marble or Claire Wisner would recite for you part of the 23rd Psalm.



Melody Marble, Mac Wisner, Claire Wisner, and their friend Evelyn Morris at work and play.

Lillian Fort, our childcare worker at First Presbyterian since 1989, arrives at the nursery each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. to receive our little ones. On November 2nd, she will have surgery for a tumor on her knee at University Hospital, followed by surgery to repair the knee area and chemotherapy for a sarcoma. Please keep her in your prayers. We will miss her during November.

The Wednesday gatherings are a relaxed and brief evening of fellowship for all ages. Please come for food at 5:15, the study at 6:00, or both.

Helen Smith, chairman

Christian Education Committee

PLAYSCHOOL



Recently, a local farmer brought different fruits and vegetables to show the Playschool children what he grows on his farm in Lorman, MS. He explained when the ideal time is to plant them is and how to take care of the plants. He offered to come back and bring mustard greens, eggplants, and green peppers for everyone to see. It was certainly a wonderful learning experience for all!

Here at the Playschool, we love this time of year, with its promise of autumn and colder temperatures on the way. Early October was a time to talk about why the leaves change color; hibernating animals and putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. Our final harvest from the garden included: kale, spinach, and cabbage. The children were very enthusiastic when asked to weed and mulch the beds, in preparation for spring planting. Special thanks to Julius Davis, for helping us complete this enormous project! We used some of our vegetables for meals here at the school and some went home to share with our families.

This is the season when we show gratitude for all the blessings that God has bestowed upon us! In this month of Thanksgiving, we want you to know that we are thankful for you! Thank you for being a part of our Playschool family and supporting us. Our Thanksgiving break will begin on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday, November 29.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday filled with friends and family.

Aretha Davis, Playschool Director

MISSION

Gumbo Fundraiser: The mission committee is having a gumbo fundraiser! Jon Borum will be making gumbo for pickup on Sunday, November 21, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The money raised will go towards two missions in Haiti: Haiti Outreach Ministries and God's Promise in Haiti. It freezes well and is great for gatherings with friends as well as holiday entertaining! And it's only \$20 a quart! To reserve your gumbo, call the church office (601-442-2581) or email your order to fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net. The deadline to order is noon on Friday, November 19.

Toys for Tots: Even though it seems very early, it is time to begin thinking about how to help ensure some Christmas gifts for children who otherwise might not have any during the traditional season of giving. Please be generous in your giving. There are hundreds of families in our community who will be served by Toys for Tots. Boxes are in the church office and in Church. The deadline is December 4.

Chuck Borum, Chairman
Mission Committee

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Our Wednesday evenings at 5:15 in the Fellowship Hall have taken on more excitement. At 6 p.m. when the choir members leave for practice, and many adults join Joan Gandy for a conversational study in the library, Randy Smith now plays ball games with the children of all ages. Our meals continue to be whatever a volunteer chooses to bring (costs reimbursed by the church). We have enjoyed getting to know each other better. Some come for only the fellowship and others only for the study. We know that this would be an excellent opportunity for you to come and bring your friends or neighbors for a brief time of fellowship regardless of their church affiliation.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Marine Toys for Tots Program has been delivering a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters since 1947. Over 97% of your donation goes directly to the mission of providing toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. The 3% spent on support principally covers fundraising expenses — not one donated dollar goes to salaries or any other manpower costs.

We have a collection box in the church office and one in the church. You may bring your *new, unwrapped* toys anytime between now and December 4. Through these toys, this program distributes these Christmas gifts to needy children in our community and spreads a message of hope to those less fortunate.

The Deacons will meet Thursday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

The next Session Meeting is Monday, November 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Tuesday, November 9, at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving holiday: The church offices and the Playschool will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26. Happy Thanksgiving!

Open Gates AA Meeting meets every Wednesday at 12 noon in the basement meeting room in Stratton Chapel.

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets at 7 p.m. Mondays in Fellowship Hall.

The Pastor's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, at 11 a.m. in Stratton Chapel. You may bring your Bibles or use the ones provided in the chapel.

Online Giving: For your convenience you now can give online through PayPal. You do not have to have a PayPal account. Just click the Online Donate button on our Give webpage at <https://www.fpcnatchez.org/give>. This is a great way to meet your regular commitments to the church or to make a special gift. Thank you for your faithfulness.

To have a copy of our prayer list emailed to you, please contact the church office. Hard copies are also available in the church office if you would like to stop and pick one up.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1 **Bettina Coffey**
 Mary Jo Gunde

November 3 **Ron Lane**

November 11 **Kathy Fitch**

November 13 **Cooper Brumfield**

November 14 **Shields Brown**

November 17 **Stella Sharp**

November 18 **George Bates**

November 20 **Vidal Davis**
 Judy Flurry

November 24 **Kaylin Fredrickson**
 Mac Metcalfe

November 28 **Joan Gandy**

November 29 **John Holyoak**

November 30 **Betsy Feltus**

REMINDER: Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 7. Set your clocks back!



CHURCH STAFF

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

Officers of the Church

ELDERS:

Class of 2021: Chuck Borum, Stratton Bull, Cara Moody, Anne Willett
Class of 2022: Marc Doyle, Rosemary Hall, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith
Class of 2023: Lane Feltus, Hal Hicks, Mary Lessley, Catherine Ratcliffe

DEACONS:

Class of 2021: Spencer Holder, Everette Ratcliffe, Frances Meason
Class of 2022: Sandra Burkes, Rusty Jenkins, Sarah Smith
Class of 2023: Ken Price, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington

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