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APRIL 2024

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# The Messenger

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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## Good news inside this issue:

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE REV

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian Church,

As we journey together in faith, it is always a joy to discover new paths to deepen our connection with God and nourish our souls. Today, we are excited to introduce a transformative spiritual practice called Holy Rest to our congregation. It is inspired by Jesus' profound words in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

### **Holy Rest: A daily practice to pause and encounter God**

Finding moments of true rest can often feel like an elusive pursuit in the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. However, Holy Rest offers us a sacred space to pause, reflect, and draw closer to God through the power of scripture.

Each week, one of our members graciously lends their voice to record themselves reading the upcoming scripture passage that will be used in our worship service. The recording is then shared on our church's Facebook page, inviting all of us to engage with the Word throughout the week.

Holy Rest is not simply about passively consuming scripture; it is about intentional immersion and active reflection. Therefore, we encourage each member of our congregation to take time each day to read and prayerfully reflect upon the scripture passage. Allow these words to permeate your heart and mind, guiding you in your journey of faith.

On Fridays, we invite you to participate in a beautiful communal practice by watching a brief video response by the same member who recorded the scripture at the beginning of the week. This video will respond to three questions reflecting on your experience with the scripture throughout the week. We encourage all our members to respond to the video with their own experiences, fostering a supportive community where we can learn from and encourage one another.

The questions we encourage you to ponder and share your insights on are:

- Where did you see God's Word come alive?
- How did this experience influence your daily walk with God?
- What is your prayer as you continue your discipleship journey?

Through Holy Rest, we aspire to cultivate a deeper spiritual renewal and connection with God, allowing God's Word to permeate every aspect of our lives. As we embark on this journey together, may we be open to the transformative power of God's Word and the rest it offers to our weary souls.

In God's holy rest,  
Rev. Brandon E. Miles

**HIGH POINT CLIMBING FELLOWSHIP**  
Huntsville, AL

Sunday, April 14

**MEET THERE AT 3:00 PM**  
One parent per family must attend.  
All ages welcome!



SUNDAY, APRIL 14 @ 3:00 PM

*the* APOCRYPHA

**MEN'S STUDY BREAKFAST**

- Wednesday
- April 17
- 7:00 AM

Introduction to a study on:  
The Apocrypha




WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 @ 7:00 AM

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**  
WORSHIP  
*First Presbyterian Church*



**4.21.2024**  
Sunday | 11:00 AM | Lunch Provided  
224 East Mobile St | Florence, AL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FLORENCE, ALABAMA  
Learning to Live Together for Christ

*All Saints*  
MEMBERSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 21  
12:00 PM


**Pot Luck Luncheon April 21**

We are excited to share lunch with All Saints College Ministry. It is our pleasure to host and break bread with the college students on Sunday, April 21. We are encouraging First Pres members to sign up, bring a crock pot, and share lunch and fellowship with the college students. Please RSVP by Monday, April 15 by calling the church office.

APRIL 21, 5:00 PM

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

"DANCE, STAND, RUN: THE GOD-INSPIRED MOVES OF A WOMAN ON HOLY GROUND" BY JESS CONNOLLY



**DANCE STAND RUN**  
by Jess Connolly

LED BY JULIE RICE & JENNIFER MORGAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FLORENCE

5:00 PM



VIEW FROM MOBILE STREET



NEW BRICK RETAINING WALL



PRAYER ROCKS LAID IN THE FOUNDATION



PORCH LEADING FROM THE CHOIR ROOM TO THE COURTYARD/COLUMBARIUM



VIEW FROM THE HALLWAY



CLOSET

ADA BATHROOM

EXIT TO PORCH

## Sunday schedule

9:00 am Coffee & Hot Tea Cafe/Library

9:30 am Children Choir Practice

9:45 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Children's Sunday School

10:30 am Adult Choir Practice

11:00 am Worship



### COMMUNICATION

For several years, our congregation has used a service known as “**CallingPost**,” which allows a voice or text message to be delivered to your telephone. We use this system for urgent announcements but sparingly due to the cost per message.

#### **Are you receiving text messages and/or phone messages from the church?**

- **If the answer is yes**, then you are all set. No further action needed. *If you receive both types of communication (phone call AND text) please notify the church office as we pay per message.*
- **If the answer is no**, then simply text the word: **FPCINFO** to this number: **24251**  
This will automatically add you to the church wide CallingPost system. Please fill out the form that will be text to you. This will let us know who the number belongs to.

#### **Would you rather receive a voice recording of the same message?**

Email or call the church so we can add you to the phone call list.

If you have any questions, please call the church office.

# February Session Minutes

## **Session Minutes 2-27-24**

During the committee reports, Rev. Miles discussed the possibility of employing a Youth Director in conjunction with Trinity Episcopal and First Methodist churches. He also announced that we will be joining with First Presbyterian, Sheffield, for a Good Friday service at their church.

### **Unfinished Business**

Rev. Miles gave an update on the Be Renewed campaign. After discussion about the Standard Operating Procedure, Tom Frith moved that we table further discussion and action until the next meeting. This was seconded and approved. Rev. Miles announced the members of the 2024 Nominating Committee: Tom Frith, Moderator, Nancy Burrows, Dixie Carter, Dick Peck, Bonnie Wallace, Matt Dorrance, and Keith Fraser.

### **New Business**

Rev. Miles discussed the church roll, referencing the Book of Order, G10304. Harland gave a report on the North Alabama Presbytery meeting that was held on February 24, 2024. Tommy Bowser moved that we reschedule the March Session meeting to March 19, 2024. This was seconded and approved.

## **April Committee Schedule**

***All committee minutes are due Tuesday, April 16 at 4:00 pm***

### **Tuesday, April 9**

5:00 pm Christian Education/Library  
 5:15 pm Worship/Meade  
 5:30 pm Congregational Care/Appleby  
 6:00 pm Engagement & Fellowship/Meade  
       Stewardship/Library  
       Mission/Third floor

### **Tuesday, April**

**Tuesday, April 23** 5:30 pm Session Coordinating meeting/Appleby  
 6:00 pm Stated Meeting of Session/Meade

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## April 7

Liturgical color: **White**

Acolyte: **Ava King**

Reader: **N/A**

Ushers: **Patty Redd, Jennifer Stubblefield**

Flowers: **N/A**

## April 14

Liturgical color: **White**

Acolyte: **Henry Morgan**

Reader: **N/A**

Ushers: **Patty Redd**

Flowers: **Dodson**

## April 21

Liturgical color: **White**

Acolyte: **Ceil Marbury**

Reader: **N/A**

Ushers: **Patty Redd, John Tate**

Flowers: **N/A**

## April 28

Liturgical color: **White**

Acolyte: **Gresham Morgan**

Reader: **N/A**

Ushers: **Patty Redd, Jennifer Stubblefield, John Tate**

Flowers: **N/A**

# Happy Birthday

- 1 Hannah McClure
- 2 Jennifer DiCecco
- 2 Jim Zickler
- 4 Jennifer Stubblefield
- 7 Carol Howdysshell
- 9 Cindy Fraser
- 10 Parker Harrell
- 15 Han Ellis
- 19 Julie Bunt
- 20 Rebecca Rockhill
- 20 Linda Upton
- 23 Tom Frith
- 24 Jane Frith
- 24 Alice Gross
- 28 Penney Griffin
- 30 Nancy Palme
- 30 Robert Smith



## **GIVING OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN**

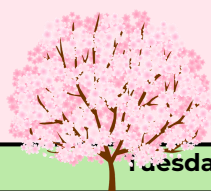
**Have you put your "birthday offering"  
in the Birthday Jar?**



It is a long-standing tradition that we give at least 1¢ for each year of your birth. (Please don't feel that you must give pennies. Dimes, quarters and dollar bills work really well.)

This special offering goes to the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega.

The Birthday Jar is located in a window sill in the sanctuary. Please feel free to drop your change in any time — even if it isn't your birthday! It all goes to the children!



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3:00 Staff Meeting/Library	<b>3</b> 5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 5:30 Caring Place Anniversary	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12-1pm Soup Kitchen
<b>7</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's Choir 9:45 Adult SS nursery 10:00 Children's SS 10:30 Choir practice 11:00 Worship nursery	<b>8</b> 10 am Caregiver Support Group/Meade <b>3:00 Staff Meeting</b>	<b>9</b> 12 pm Shoals Ministerial Alliance <b>5:00 Christian Ed/Library</b> <b>5:15 Worship/Meade</b> <b>5:30 Congregational Care</b> <b>6:00 Engagement &amp; Fellowship/Meade</b> <b>Stewardship/library</b> 6:00 Jr. League/FH	<b>10</b> 5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12-1pm Soup Kitchen
<b>14</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's Choir 9:45 Adult SS nursery 10:00 Children's SS 10:30 Choir practice 11:00 Worship nursery <b>3-5 pm Children's Event/ High Point Rock Climbing/Huntsville</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Run-off Election/FH</b>  3:00 Staff meeting/Library <b>4:30 Committee Minutes due</b>  <b>6:00 Mission Committee/Meade</b>	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 am Men's Breakfast</b>  5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12-1pm Soup Kitchen
<b>21</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's Choir 9:45 Adult SS nursery 10:00 Children's SS 10:30 Choir practice 11:00 Worship nursery <b>12 pm All Saints College Luncheon</b>  <b>5 pm Ladies Bible Study</b>	<b>22</b> <b>4:30 Messenger deadline</b>	<b>23</b> 11:30-1:30 FH reserved 3:00 Staff Meeting/Library 5:30 pm <b>Session Coordinating/Appleby</b> 6:00 pm <b>Stated Meeting of Session/Meade</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12-1 pm Soup Kitchen
<b>28</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's Choir 9:45 Adult SS nursery 10:00 Children's SS 10:30 Choir practice 11:00 Worship nursery	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 3:00 Staff Meeting/Library				



# Prayer List



## Hospitalized

Sherri Baker, NAMC

## Homebound/Nursing Home/Rehab

Penney Griffin, Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home

Lynn Johnson, Green Oaks

## Church Members in need of prayer

Family of Hester Cope

John Palme

Lee Hudkins

Phyllis Nofzinger

Cynthia Briand, home

Kelly Larkins

Michael Hasty

Sara Elizabeth Doss, at home

Nancy Palme, cervical spine injury

## Family & Friends in need of prayer

Family of Janette Wilkinson

Clay Holden, cancer, friend of The Marbury's

Ronny Stubblefield, high grade brain tumor, uncle of Wes Stubblefield

Chuck Gillis, brother of Tom Gillis

Cora McCluskey, mother of John McCluskey

Phillip Mackey, Mitchell-Hollingsworth, son of Jane Mackey

Marna McCay, cancer, friend of Tom Gillis, sister of Kerry Shapiro

Kerri Putman, Glioblastoma brain tumor, friend of Candace Lewis

Marcia Taylor, cancer, sister of Marc Rice

Randy Perkins, cancer, brother-in-law of Jo Lynn McClure

Ken Patterson, cancer, father of Rhonda Tyree

Edna Carter, sister of Mary Young

Sarah Duncan Davidson, friend of Jennifer diCecco

Roger LaBiche, waiting for liver transplant, friend of Kelly LaBiche-Larkins

Ed Smith, father of Wilder Smith