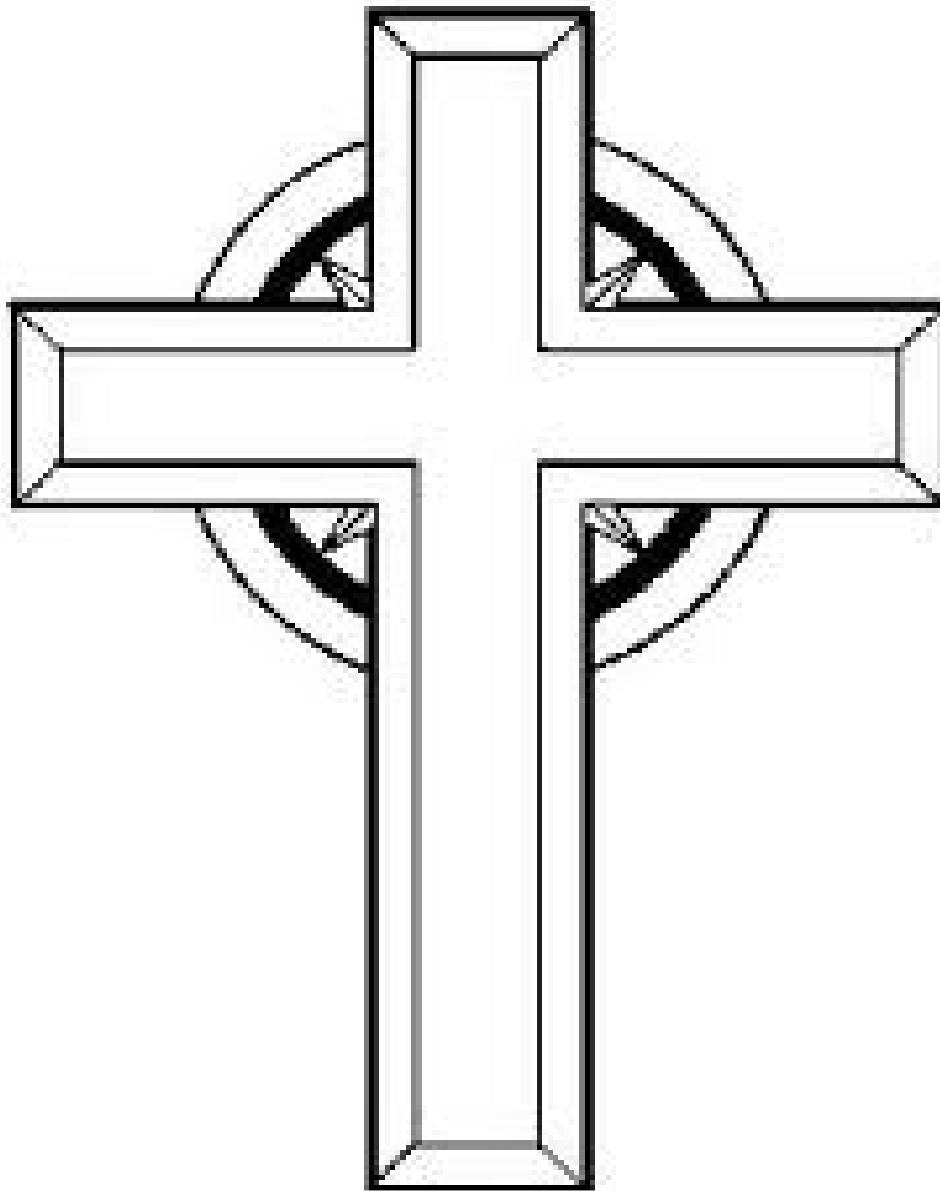


The First Word

**MAY
2025**



May 4

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6(7-20) and Ps. 30 or
Isa. 61:1-3 and Ps. 90:13-17;
Rev. 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 11

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 and Ps. 23 or Isa.
53:1-6 and Ps. 114; Rev. 7:9-17;
John 10:22-30

May 18

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 and Ps. 148 or
Lev. 19:9-18 and Ps. 24:1-6;
Rev. 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15 and Ps. 67 or Deut.
34:1-12 and Ps. 109:21-31; Rev.
21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29
or John 5:1-9

prayer Requests



Diane Keen
(Carol Jones Sister)
Health Concerns

Brennen Bowen
Health Concerns

Toni Oakes
(Ed Oakes Sister)
Health Concerns

Allison L. Jones
(Scott Jones Mother)
Health Concerns

Amy Sullivan
(Pam Sullivan's Daughter-In-Law)
Health Concerns

Julian Gardner
Surgery Recovery

Colin Krieger
Prayer Request
Recovery from fall

Sandra Mims
Health Concerns

Jim Loveland
(Holly Longton's father)
Health Concerns

Ginny Oakes
(Ed Oakes Mother)
Prayer Request

Patty Jones Family
Prayer Concerns

Lyla Fulton (2 Years old)
(Holly Longton's Great Niece)
Cancer Diagnosis

The Threadgill Family
On the loss of Mr. William Threadgill

“Come and Have Breakfast (or Lunch)” John 21:12
Fried Chicken or 153 Fish

Fellowship Lunch for April was this past Sunday. Before Sunday School began, I took my dish of Orange Fluff to the kitchen. Hope Oakes, Susan Smith, and Jenn Mearkle were already there putting out placemats and salt and pepper shakers. Susan saw my hesitation in finding a place for my dish in the refrigerator and suggested it would fit in one of the drawers.

When the worship service was over, we gathered in the Fellowship Hall. The tables were laden with more food than would be eaten. If you were there, you remember that Tom Hatcher had to call us to attention for “Happy Birthday” and the blessing because the real purpose of the Fellowship Lunch had already gotten started.

The real purpose of Fellowship Lunch is the noise of the conversations in the serving lines, at the tables of seven or eight who balance eating and discussion for the quickest hour of the week, the talking among the members of the shepherding group who gather the trash, run the dishwasher, and divvy up leftover fried chicken.

When I joined First Presbyterian in January of 2018, I soon experienced my first Fellowship Lunch. My first thought about the lunch was this: Isn’t once a month a little too often to put on a lunch? (Cooking is a challenge for me.)

After seven years of Fellowship Lunches, I get it. All the time I have spent washing dishes, drying utensils, sweeping the floor, and wiping tables has been what has made me know that this church is where I belong. There are few things more important to me than serving the Father with a group of loving believers. This I am blessed to do at First Presbyterian Church.

The Fellowship Lunch for this month is Sunday, May 18. I’ll see you there.

John 21:10-13

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Hope DeVenney

Financial Information:

The information presented below reflects First Presbyterian Church finances as of April 30, 2025.

YTD Income:	\$64,733.40
YTD Expenses:	\$53,927.67
YTD Balance:	\$10,805.73

2025 Pledge Total	\$163,160.00
April Total Pledged:	\$ 54,400.00
April Total Received:	\$ 56,930.00

Corrected March Financial Information

March Financial information reflected an incorrect expense amount. The expense amount recorded reflected the budgeted expenses for April, not the actual. The correct information is as follows:

YTD Income:	\$50,904.90
YTD Expenses:	\$42,767.66
YTD Balance:	\$8,137.24

May Birthdays

Penny Voorhees	May 4
Lee Hackett	May 5
Tammy Gavin	May 9
Tom Moore Hatcher Jr.	May 11
Allison Jones	May 14
Ben Crouse	May 17
Eric Waits	May 18
Landon Bowen	May 20
Abigail Conway Monroe	May 28
Emmett Richardson	May 30

May 4

May 5

May 9

May 11

May 14

May 17

May 18

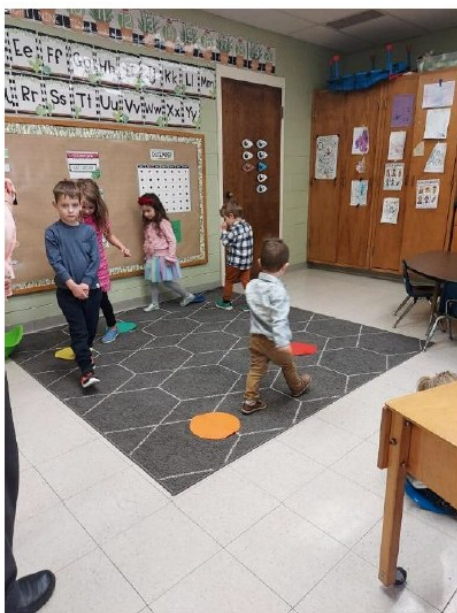
May 20

May 28

May 30



**We are seeking volunteers for
the Children's Message.
Contact the office if you
would like to help!**





JOIN A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY

Nursery Care

Nursery Care is available in the Education Building from 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. from ages birth to kindergarten.

Children's Sunday School

Grades 1 & 2 – 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Grades 3 & up – 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School children will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Sermon – During Worship

Children's Lesson – Ages 4 – Kindergarten

Please pick up children in a timely manner after the service.

Adult Sunday School – Tom Richardson 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The Agape Sunday School class, taught by Tom Richardson, has begun a study of the weekly lectionary readings. The Revised Common Lectionary is a set of scripture readings designed to guide worship and study throughout the church year, beginning with Advent. The lectionary is organized on a three-year cycle, with each year focused on one of the Synoptic Gospels: Year A is Matthew, Year B is Mark, and Year C--our current year--is Luke. In addition to the Gospel, each lectionary lesson typically includes an Old Testament lesson, a Psalm, and an Epistle lesson. Many Christian denominations around the world use the lectionary as a thematic focus for worship; this common worship supports a spirit of unity for Christian education and Christian life. Tracie includes the monthly readings in First Word each month. The readings and resources for study can be found at pcusa.org and workingpreacher.org. All are welcome in Sunday School!

Adult Sunday School – Dennis Harmon 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

In this Sunday School Class, we are studying the book "WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ANGELS." – a story of powerful guardians, a mysterious presence, and God's messengers by Dr. David Jeremiah.

Prayer Group

Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.

The Prayer Group meets every Wednesday in the Parlor. All are welcome to join us.



Join us for
Prayer Group
every Wednesday
at 12:30 p.m.
in the Parlor.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705



Christian Witness Committee

The Christian Witness Committee is offering you an opportunity for "Alternative Gift Giving" for Mother's Day, May 11th. You may make a gift to honor or memorialize a special family member or friend.

Through the Loaves and Fishes program, we at First Presbyterian are committed to feeding children's hungry minds as well as their bodies. Since the beginning of the program we have distributed reading-readiness and reading books to children in our community who eat lunch at Loaves and Fishes; with your help, we would like to continue to do so.

If you would like to make a gift in honor or in memory of a family member or friend, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church designated for Loaves and Fishes Book Fund. Acknowledgement of this remembrance gift will be mailed to the contributor and the recipient, if applicable, and also published in the First Word. Remember to include mailing addresses.

Contributor: _____

Address: _____

In Honor/Memory of (Circle One): _____

Address of Honoree: _____

2 Cents A Meal 2025 Update



Your spare change is adding up!

Together we have raised \$286.73.

Way to go FPC!



PCDP

TRANSPORTATION FAIR

Friday, May 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Did you know that the Columbus Community Event "Little Hands, Big Trucks" was born from a former PCDP student who had memories of the PCDP Transportation Fair? It's true, and PCDP continues to make lasting memories.

The Annual PCDP Transportation Fair is Friday, May 9th at 9 a.m. in the church parking lot. We would love for you to stop by for this fun event.

We are still looking for fun vehicles to attend.
If you know of anyone, please let us know.





**JOIN US FOR
Faith, Food, and
Fellowship**

**Saturday, May 10th
8:00 a.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705**

Pill Bottle Donation Drive

We are still collecting empty pill bottles for our Pill Bottle Donation Drive. Don't throw those empty pill bottles away; drop them off in the church office. The bottles will be washed and mailed to a ministry in Ohio for use in international medical missions.

If you don't have empty pill bottles, you can still help. Join the Deacons and the Congregational Care Committee Tuesday, May 13th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
for a

Pill Bottle Washing Session

Please join us for as much time as you have available.





First Presbyterian Church will be serving
Loaves & Fishes Friday, May 16th
Volunteers are needed. Show your support by signing up today!





BIG HOUSE BOOKS

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO READ

The Deacons are starting to collect again for Big House Books!
Here's how you can help!

- 1) Money for postage. People can donate to the church (and put a line in the memo) or straight to BHB via <https://bighousebooksms.org/>.
- 2) Donating used books in good condition. All donations must be paperback. They have a list of popular genres and authors here: <https://bighousebooksms.org/2021/01/28/accepted-titles/>

We plan to make another trip to Jackson with our donations, Saturday, May 17th. All ages are welcome. Contact Hillary Richardson for more information.



BIG HOUSE BOOKS

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO READ

ACCEPTED TOPICS & GENRES

Activity books - crossword	Piñess	Roleplaying games
Activity books - sudoku	Foreign language learning	Romance - comedy
Activity books - word find	Gardening and outdoors	Romance - steamy/seduction
Addiction and recovery	GED study guides	Romance - vampires
Almanacs	Ghosts	Science
Anger management	Graphic novels	Science fiction
Animals	Hinduism	Self help - overcoming hardship
Art & photography	History	Self help - adulting
Astrology	Homemaking	Self help - communication
Automotive repair	Horoscopes	Self help - finding yourself
Beekkeeping & insects	Horror	Self help - general health
Bible study	How to draw	Self help - gratitude
Bibles	Humor	Self help - identity
Black author fantasy	Information technology	Self help - inspirational
Black author fiction	Islam	Self help - leadership
Black author fiction - hood/urban	Journals (soft cover)	Self help - legal
Black author historical fiction	Judaism	Self help - parenting
Black author memoirs	Large print books	Self help - relationships
Black author romance	Law and legal reference	Self help - spiritual guidance
Black history	LGBTQ fiction	Sketch pads
Books on tape/cd	Manga	Small business management
Buddhism	Men's health	Spanish bibles
Calendars	Mental health	Spanish language books (all genres)
Card games	Military fiction	Sports
Cartoons	Music history	Spy thrillers
CDL testing study guides	Mystery	Stock market investing
Celebrities	Mythology	Suspense
Christian fiction	Occult	Tarot
Christianity - devotionals	Paganism	Television & film
Christianity - prayer books	Paranormal romance	Thesauruses
Christianity - revelations	Paranormal fiction	Thrillers
Coloring books	Personal finance	Trades - Carpentry
Comic books	Pet care	Trades - Electrician
Composition Notebooks	Philosophy	Trades - HVAC
Computer science & coding (within 3 years)	Pilates	Trades - Plumbing
Cookbooks	Planners	Trades - Woodworking
Credit management	Poetry	Travel books
Dictionaries	Presidents and leaders	True crime - historic murders
Diet management	Prison experience	True crime - unsolved murders
Dreams	Prisoner resource guides	Westerns
Exercise	Psychological thrillers	Yoga
Fantasy	Psychology	Young adult/Youth

NOTE: All donations must be paperback

POPULAR AUTHORS

Ashley Antoinette	E.L. James
Jeffrey Archer	William Johnstone
Margaret Atwood	Robert Jordan
David Baldacci	Jonathan Kellerman
Steve Berry	Stephen King
C.J. Box	Dana Knotts
Dan Brown	Louis L'Amour
Sandra Brown	Kiese Laymon
Jim Butcher	C.S. Lewis
Lee Child	Robert Ludlum
Agatha Christie	Sarah J. Maas
Tom Clancy	George RR. Martin
Harlan Coben	Freida McFadden
Colleen Coble	Terry McMillan
Jo Quavis Coleman	Stephanie Meyer
Michael Connelly	Fern Michaels
Patricia Cornwell	Toni Morrison
Catherine Coulter	Carla Neggers
Robert Crais	Jo Nesbo
Michael Crichton	James Patterson
Jeffery Deaver	Jodi Piccolit
Erie Jerome Dickey	Anne Rice
Janet Evanovich	Nora Roberts
Vince Flynn	J.K. Rowling
Ken Follett	John Sandford
Diana Gabaldon	V.E. Schwab
Lisa Gardner	Sidney Shelton
Terry Goodkind	Sister Soujah
Sue Grafton	Nicholas Sparks
Zane Grey	Danielle Steel
John Grisham	J.R.R. Tolkien
Colleen Hoover	Jessyn Ward
Greg Iles	Stuart Woods
Lisa Jackson	Teri Woods

UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

Binders
Children's books
Encyclopedias
General romance
Hardback books
Harlequin romance novels
Homeschool curriculum
Looseleaf papers
Magazines
Spiral bound books
Yearbooks

Please consider donating to a shelter, nursing home, little free library, or recycling!



Join us in recognizing our

FPC GRADUATES

ABIGAIL MONROE CONWAY, KIERA ELKINS, ZOE ELKINS,
ASTRID MILLER, AMELIA ROSE RICHARDSON,
ALLISON KRIEGER

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH | 11 AM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

rsvp to: +662-328-5992
email: firstprescolumbus@gmail.com



Join us
Sunday, May 18th
for Fellowship Lunch

Fried chicken will be provided by
Shepherding Group 3.
Please bring your favorite side
or dessert to share.



Join us for fellowship and fun!

Come enjoy some girl time
with your "Hilltop Sisters"

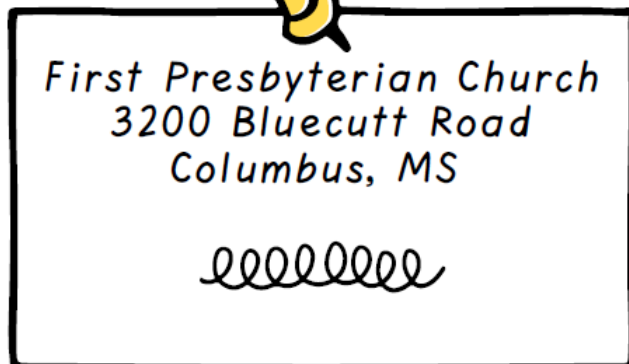
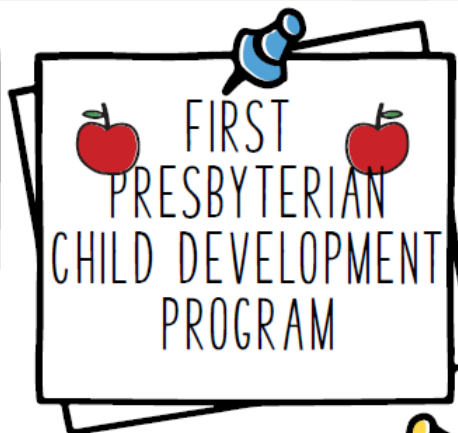
Presbyterian Women You're Invited

Sunday, May 18th
3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39701

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION!



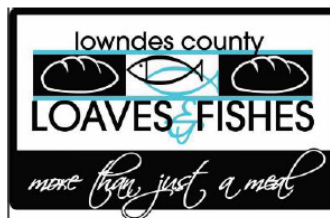
FPC Clean Up/Work Day

Saturday, April 12th

Thank you to all who participated in the FPC clean up/work day.
We were able to accomplish some long-needed tasks on the Hill.

Becky Owings joined some choir members and our director, Andrew Miller, in the ongoing process of sorting through sheet music stored in the choir room. A lot was accomplished-with a lot of fun enjoyed in working together.





FPC would like to provide bottled water when we serve at Loaves and Fishes.

Please consider donating cases of 8 oz. bottled water.

Donations may be dropped off at the designated area in the Education Building.



The Worship & Music Committee is seeking individuals to make announcements, read scripture and/or liturgy on Sundays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tori Pumphrey at tpumphrey27@gmail.com or send an email to the church at firstprescolumbus@gmail.com.

PCDP NEWS

We cannot believe that May is here, and preschool graduation is right around the corner.

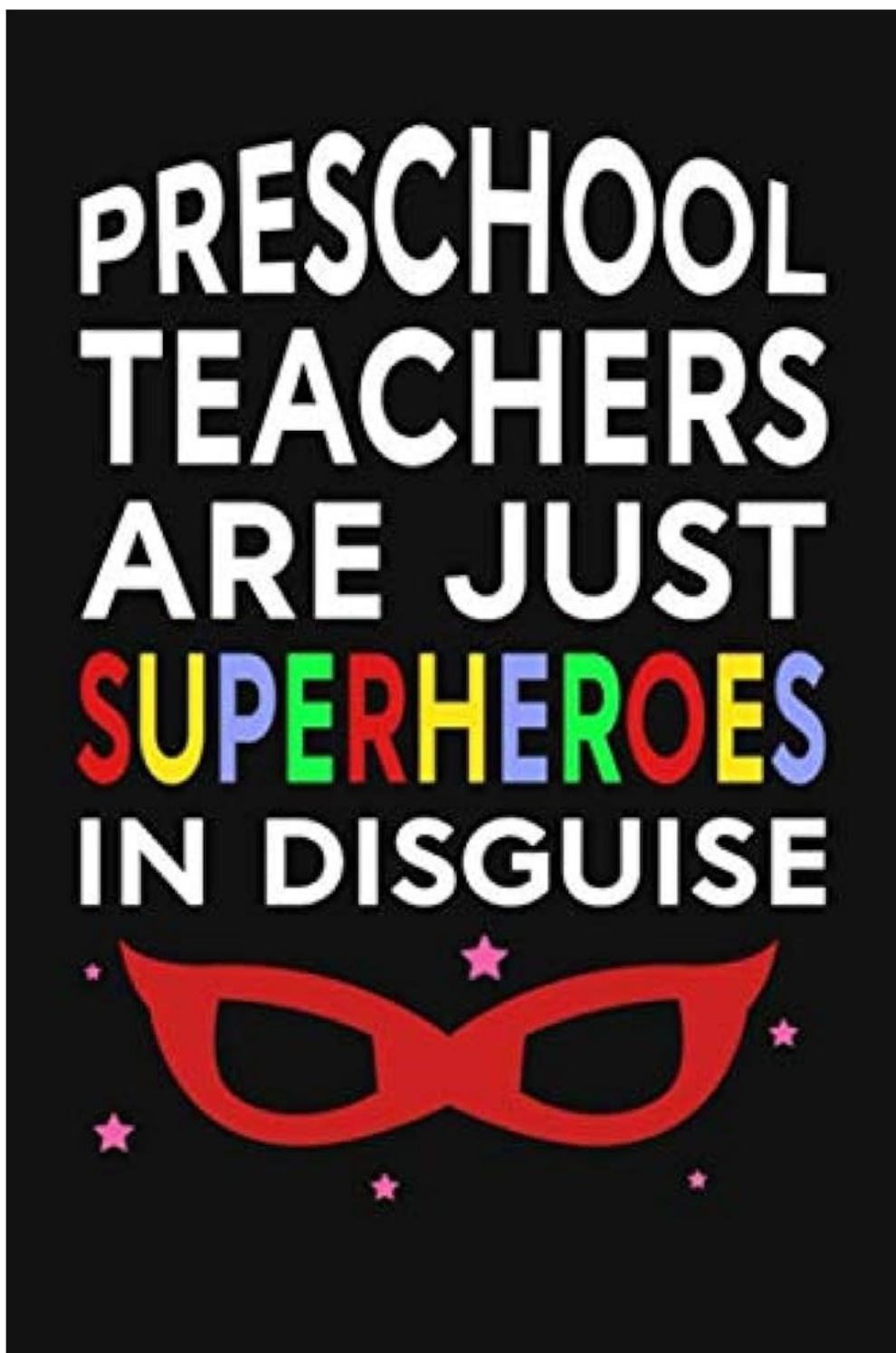
We will be learning all about different modes of transportation the week of May 5th with our Transportation Fair May 9th. All about the ocean is our unit of study for the week of May 11th and Summer Fun is our final unit for the school year. PCDP graduation and end of year program is Thursday, May 22nd at 11am. We would love for you to join us!

Check out some of the fun activities we have enjoyed this month.



In Honor of Teacher Appreciation Month,
FPC would like to recognize our PCDP SUPERHEROES.
Thank you so much for all you do!

Enjoy some fun facts about each of them and about PCDP.





PCDP "SUPERHEROES" FUN FACTS

Hello, I am Mrs. Lezli.

Kinder Prep Class Teacher since November 2006.

I love flowers: my favorites are hydrangeas and daisies. Everyone knows that I love dogs. Dachshund and Golden Retrievers are my favorites. I love spending time with my family, going to concerts and hiking. A few of my favorite hobbies are sewing, reading mystery novels, crafting, and cooking. I also enjoy shopping at TJ Maxx, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, and Amazon on-line. My favorite color is red. I love Texas Tech and UGA. My favorite snacks are kind bars, anything chocolate, gummy bears, Coke Zero, and coffee. My favorite restaurant is anything Mexican. My favorite fast-food restaurant is Chick Fil A.

Hello, I am Mrs. Darlene.

Kinder Prep Class Teacher since 2015.

I love all flowers, but my favorite is the yellow rose. If you know me at all, you know that I love cats, especially my fur babies. In my spare time I enjoy walking and going to concerts. I don't really enjoy shopping, but do on occasion visit Hobby Lobby and Wal-Mart. My favorite color is yellow. I love my MSU Bulldogs! My favorite snacks are nuts, cheese, dried fruit, Hershey kisses, and Diet Caffeine Free Coke. My favorite restaurant is Harvey's or anywhere but home. My favorite fast-food is chicken and waffles from Slim Chickens!

Hello, I am Mrs. Jenn.

3-Year-old Class Teacher since June 2021.

I love plants; my favorites are cosmos, zinnias, and sunflowers. My favorite animal is the Fennec Fox. In my spare time I enjoy gardening, crocheting, listening to music, or shopping at 5 Below or on Amazon. I also enjoy reading. My favorite authors and books are Holly Black, Tolkien, any Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and WWII. My favorite color is orange. I don't really have a favorite sports team, but if I had to choose, I'd say LSU. My favorite snacks are Smart Pop Popcorn, Peanut Butter M & Ms, Diet Dr. Pepper, and Fizzy H2O Lime. Golden Bowl and Peppers are two of my favorite restaurants. My favorite fast-food restaurant is Chick Fil A.

Hello, I am Mrs. Haily.

Toddler Class Teacher since 2024.

I love flowers; my favorites are tulips. My favorite animal is the fox. In my spare time I enjoy crocheting, reading and shopping at Hobby Lobby, Michaels, TJ Maxx, and Joann Fabrics. My favorite color is mint green. My favorite movie/tv show: Twilight Saga and Gone With The Wind. MSU is my favorite sports team. My favorite snacks are apples with caramel dip, brownies, and Kroger brand seltzer water. Café on Main is my favorite restaurant. My favorite fast-food restaurant is Chick Fil A.

Hello, I am Ms. Amanda.

Toddler Class Teacher since 2024.

I love flowers; my favorites are roses. My favorite animals are cats. In my spare time I enjoy walking, relaxing, and shopping at Wal Mart and Belk. I also enjoy reading; my favorite author is Abraham Hicks. My favorite colors are yellow and pink. My favorite fragrance is floral. My favorite TV shows are comedies. MSU is my favorite sports team. My favorite snacks are tomatoes, cake, and coffee. My favorite restaurant is Harvey's. My favorite fast-food restaurant is Hardees. And I love Starbucks!



PCDP "SUPERHEROES" STAFF

Our teachers bring many years of teaching experience to enrich our program. The teachers at PCDP are trained in child development and regularly receive in-service training through professional development classes. They bring creativity, enthusiasm, management skills, and love to their classrooms.

Mrs. Lezli

Lezli Waits is the Director, as well as the teacher for the Kindergarten Prep class. Lezli has been teaching the 4-year-old class since 2006. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education.



Mrs. Darlene

Darlene Walrod has been volunteering in Mrs. Lezli's class since 2015. Darlene shares her love of all things colorful and glittery by helping with all the art projects in the classroom.



Mrs. Jenn

Jennifer Mearkle, our amazing Threes teacher brings a vast knowledge of early childhood education to the program. Jennifer has a Child Development Associate. Jenn also serves as Director Designee when needed.



PCDP "SUPERHEROES" STAFF (cont.....)

Mrs. Haily

Haily Crawford, Toddler Class Teacher, brings many years of early childhood experience to PCDP.
Haily will also serve as a Director Designee when needed.



Ms. Amanda

Amanda Bowen, Toddler Class Teacher, loves helping our students learn.
She also floats between all classrooms as needed.





PRESBYTERIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
PLAY. LEARN. GROW.

First Presbyterian Child Development Program, PCDP was established with the intent to provide high quality preschool instruction for young children and to serve as an outreach mission of the church to the Columbus community. We hope to set the foundation for a lifelong love of education while recognizing the inborn worth and value of each child as a unique creation of God's plan. We strive to offer love and encouragement to every child.

PCDP has provided high quality childhood education services since 1977, with highly qualified Teachers/Early Childhood Professionals in every classroom. The teachers engage with the children in ways that develop strong language skills.

PCDP Faculty:

- Lezli Waits, Director of PCDP
Kinder Prep Class
- Jennifer Mearkle
Three-Year-Old Class
- Haily Crawford
Toddler Class
- Amanda Bowen
Toddler Class Assistant
- Darlene Walrod
Volunteer

Our primary goals include teaching children to:

- Grow in understanding and appreciation of their friends.
- Enjoy creative expression through music, art, and other activities.
- Develop gross motor skills along with body and space awareness.
- Feel confident, secure, and loved in a school setting.
- Develop a lifelong love for learning and exploration.

PCDP uses research-based quality curriculum and state learning standards to guide our classroom learning environment. All activities are developmentally appropriate. Our program strongly believes that quality early childhood education is essential and worth the investment.

Come Worship With Us Every Sunday

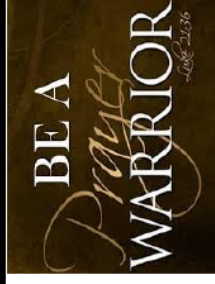
Choir Practice

9:00 a.m. Every Sunday


Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Social Gathering: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Worship: 11:00 a.m.



Join us for Prayer Group
every Wednesday at
12:30 p.m. in the Parlor

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	2	3
4 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:30 a.m. Session Meeting David Mills	5 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	6	7 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	8 8:00 a.m. Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	9 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. PCDP Transportation Fair	10 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
11 4th Sunday of Easter Happy Mother's Day! 11:00 a.m. Worship Pam Rhea	12	13 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Congregational Care/ Christian Action Committee Pill Bottle Washing Session	14 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting	15 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	16 Loaves & Fishes  Volunteers Needed	17 Big House Books Packing Party & Delivery
18 5th Sunday of Easter 11:00 a.m. Worship Johnny Wray Fellowship Lunch following Worship (Shepherding Group 3) 3:00 p.m. PW Gathering	19	20	21 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	22 11:00 a.m. PCDP Graduation & End of Year Program 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	23	24
25 6th Sunday of Easter 11:00 a.m. Worship Melissa McDuffie 2 Cents A Meal Offering	26 Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed	27	28 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	29 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	30	31