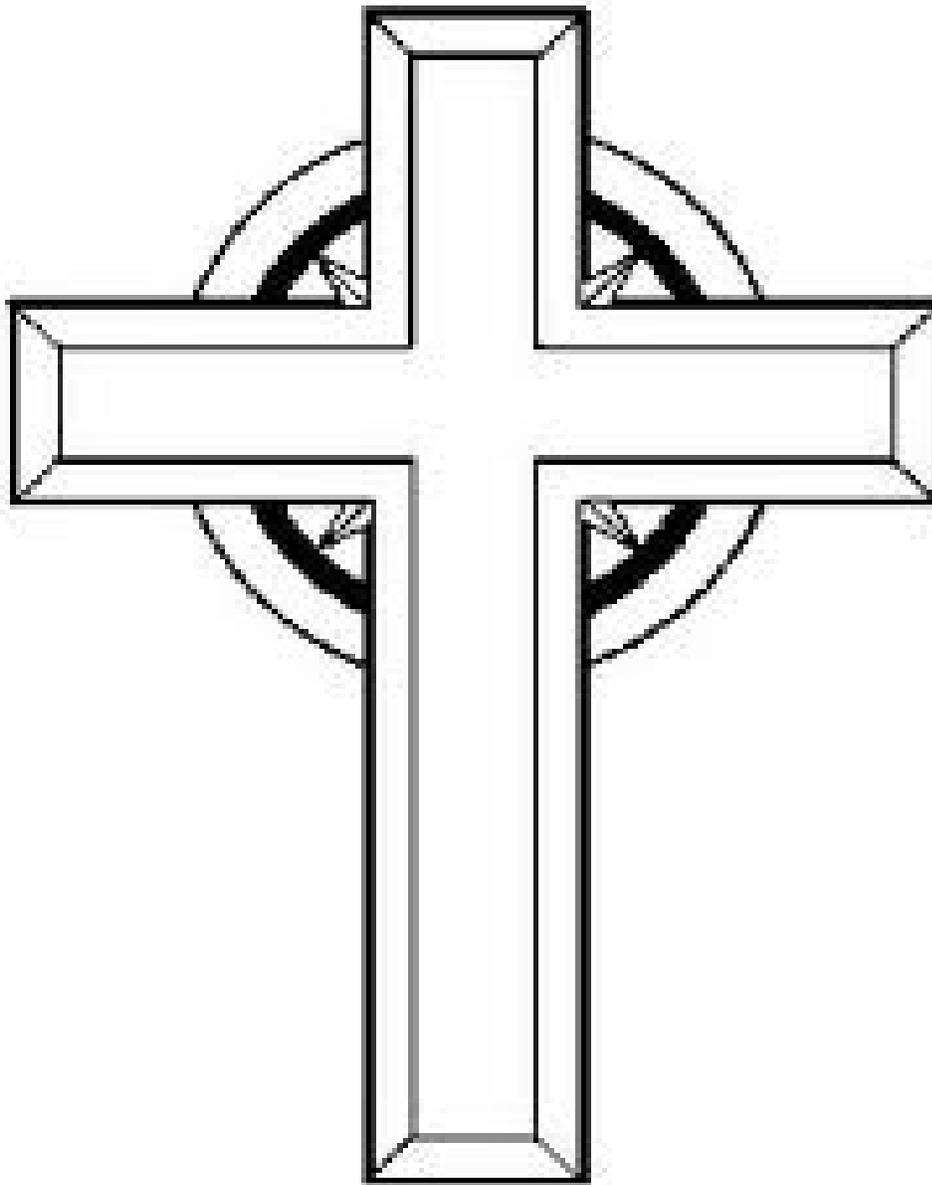


The First Word

**DECEMBER
2025**



**December 7
2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 11:1-10
and Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19;
Rom. 15:4-13;
Matt. 3:1-12

**December 14
3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 35:1-10
and Ps. 146:5-10
or Luke 1:46b-55;
James 5:7-10;
Matt. 11:2-11

**December 21
4th Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 7:10-16
and Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;
Rom. 1:1-7;
Matt. 1:18-25

**December 24
Christmas Eve**

Isa. 9:2-7
and Ps. 96;
Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

**December 25
Nativity of the
Lord/Christmas Day**

Dawn: Isa. 62:6-12
and Ps. 97;
Titus 3:4-7;
Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20
Day: Isa. 52:7-10
and Ps. 98;
Heb. 1:1-4 (5-12);
John 1:1-14

**December 28
1st Sunday of Christmas**
Isa. 63:7-9 and Ps. 148; Heb.
2:10-18; Matt. 2:13-23

The Season of Advent: A Time to Reflect and Rejoice

Many of us celebrated the season of Advent as children. Other of us were introduced to Advent as adults. All of us may appreciate a reminder of the symbols of Advent.

The Advent wreath was invented by Johann Hinrich Wichern in 1839, to help the young boys in a settlement house that Wichern had founded in Hamburg, Germany. Its purpose was to provide the boys a “physical sign” to understand Advent.

The candles that make up the Advent wreath are each symbolic of an element of the Christmas story.

The candle that is lit the first Sunday of Advent is called the Prophet’s Candle. This candle is purple and represents the hope and prophecies of the coming of the Messiah. The Prophet’s Candle symbolizes Hope.

The candle of the second Sunday of Advent is The Bethlehem Candle. This candle is purple and represents the preparation for the birth of Jesus and the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The Bethlehem Candle symbolizes Peace.

The candle of the third Sunday of Advent is The Shepherd’s Candle. This candle is pink and represents the joy of the coming of Christ as the shepherds experienced on the night of the birth of Jesus. The Shepherd’s Candle symbolizes Joy.

The candle of the fourth Sunday of Advent is The Angel’s Candle. This candle is purple and represents the message of love announced by the angels to the shepherds. The Angel’s Candle symbolizes Love.

The center candle that is lit on Christmas Eve is The Christ Candle. This candle is white and represents the birth of Jesus. The Christ Candle symbolizes the Savior Jesus.

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.



PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAISE REPORTS

Julian Gardner!!!

His Mother's words: "After 16+ years...Julian no longer has to wear AFO braces and was able to do something huge and a little emotional. He went shoe shopping for shoes that fit his actual feet. Not his feet + plastic + Velcro + hardware; just his feet." Congratulations Julian! You are literally a "WALKING" miracle.

Carol Jones!!!

Carol Jones, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, is recovering well from her surgery. The surgery was a success and prayers were answered. The pathology report shows surrounding biopsies are negative. Carol is cancer free. She will follow up with doctors in Tupelo.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sandra Mims

Continued Prayers

Brennen Bowen

Continued Prayers

Toni Oakes

(Ed Oakes' Sister)

Continued Prayers

Allison L. Jones

(Scott Jones' Mother)

Continued Prayers

Hope Oakes

Continued Prayers

Noah Russell Nagy

Continued Prayers

Mary Anne Hamblen

Hillary Richardson's Mother,

Recovery from knee surgery

Sherean Harrington

(Hope Oakes' Stepmother)

Continued Prayers

Julian Gardner

Continued Prayers

Ginny Oakes

(Ed Oakes' Mother)

Continued Prayers

Simon Storer

(Friend of Lee Hackett)

Cancer Diagnosis

Scott Starkweather

Recovery from fall

Doug & Kandi Aultman & Family

Continued Prayers

Hilda Nance

Hillary Richardson's Aunt

Recovery from stroke



December Birthdays

Sue Weiger	December 4
Arlin Dollar	December 5
Jon Fortman	December 10
Mark Porter, Jr.	December 13
Hope Oakes	December 15
Allie Porter	December 16
Taylor Richardson	December 17
Claire Hackett Ellis	December 18
Egan Monroe	December 21
Sue Hatcher	December 22



Financial Information:

The information presented below reflects First Presbyterian Church finances as of December 2, 2025.

YTD Income:	\$202,344.30
YTD Expenses:	\$155,998.10
YTD Balance:	\$ 46,346.20

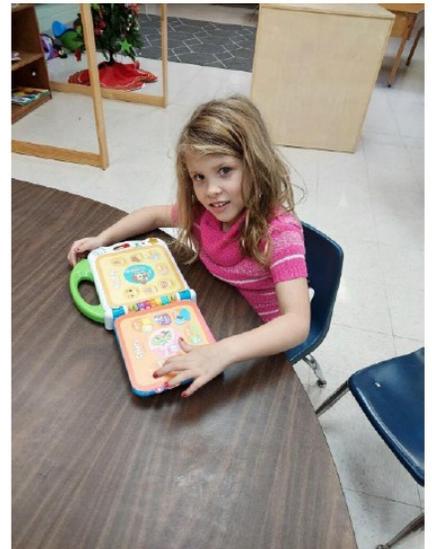
2025 Pledge Total	\$163,160.00
December 2, 2025 Total Pledged:	\$149,600.00
December 2, 2025 Total Received:	\$162,600.00



Children's Message

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





Staff Love Gift



It is customary to distribute a *Love Gift* each Christmas from the congregation to our Church Staff in appreciation of their hard work and dedication to First Presbyterian. If you would like to participate in this year's "*Love Gift*", please place your gift in the offering plate by Sunday, December 14th. Please designate the donation: "Staff Love Gift" unless you would like to designate a specific person, if so, please add their name.

Stokes-Beard Elementary Meal Kits

In keeping with our commitment to Matthew 25, the Congregational Care/Christian Action Committee and the Christian Witness Committee are preparing meal kits for families that we already assist through the Backpack Program for students at Stokes-Beard Elementary.

Each meal kit will contain items that can be prepared for a hot meal. The items will be placed in a resealable gallon bag. For example, a spaghetti meal bag will contain a box of pasta, a can of meat sauce, and a can of green beans. Each bag will contain a recipe card.

- You can donate funds to this effort to purchase the items that will be needed for the kits.
- You can volunteer your time to help put the meal kits together.
- You can pray for this effort and for the families affected by this situation.

What a blessing to be a part of such a warm and generous congregation!

'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:37-40





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

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705

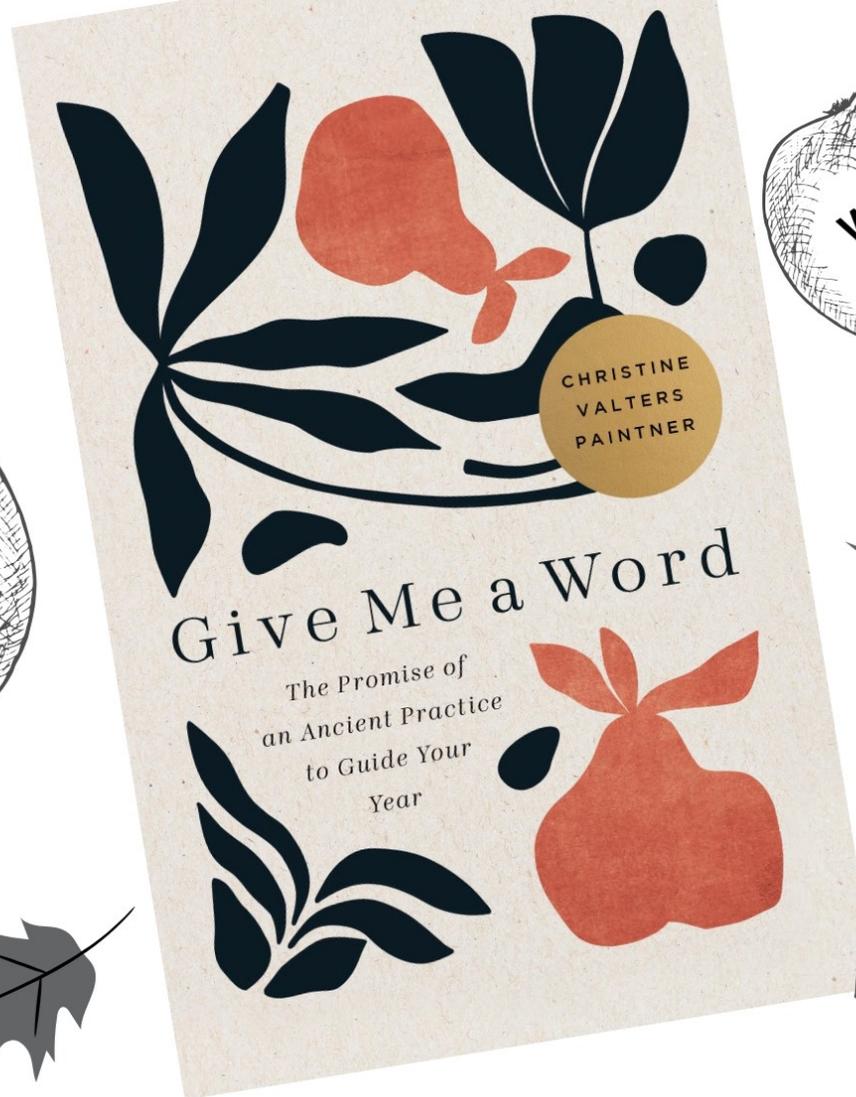
Advent Book Study

Led by Pam Rhea

WEDNESDAYS AT 1:30PM

First Presbyterian Church

3200 Bluecutt Road Columbus, MS



Come Join Us!

- November 12 - Introduction
- November 19 - Listening for a Word
- December 3 - Praying with the Word
- December 10 - Reflecting on the Word
- December 17 - Living the Word

contact for more details:

deaconrhea@gmail.com



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

**Saturday, December 6
8:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705**



Presbyterian Women
You're Invited
to a
Christmas Gathering
Sunday, December 7th
3:00 p.m.

Susan Smith's Home
1011 College Street
Columbus, MS 39701

HOLIDAY TREATS

As you are able, please bring your favorite holiday treat to share. Drinks will be provided.

SHARE THE WARMTH

Help share the warmth this holiday season in support of the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library's Coat Closet Drive. Please bring a coat or a package of socks for those in need. Coats and socks may be men's or women's.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

December

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

DECEMBER



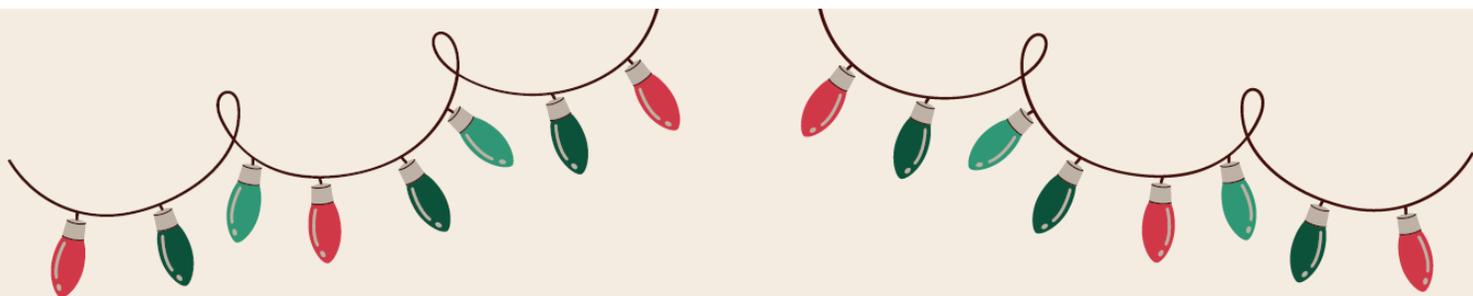
14

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SHEPHERDING GROUP 1 WILL PROVIDE SOUPS
SHEPHERDING GROUP 4 WILL SET UP AND CLEAN UP.**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE
SANDWICHES OR DESSERT TO SHARE.**



PCDP PRESENTS

Santa's Lost Elves

FRIDAY

19
DEC

11:00AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SANCTUARY
3200 BLUECUTT RD
COLUMBUS, MS 39705





First Presbyterian Church

"Come up The Hill to worship; go down The Hill to serve."

*Fri., November 14th, approximately 410 meals were served, and 53 children's books were distributed.
Thank you to our faithful volunteers, 17 volunteers helped make this happen!*



Christmas On The Hill



Sundays On The Hill



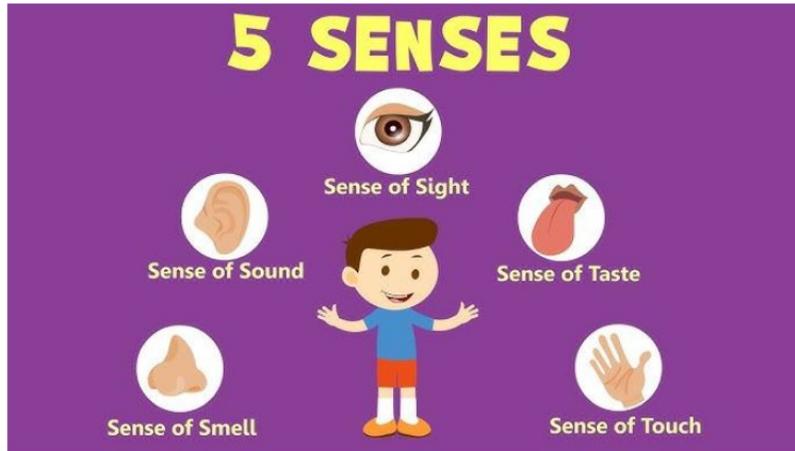
PCDP assembled 46 Thanksgiving dinners in a bag for Helping Hands as one of their service projects.

As you can see even the smallest hands can make a big impact.

Thank you for your continued support of PCDP.



"My 5 Senses Week"



Mrs. Jenn's Class took a walk up the hill to "SEE" what they could find.



The most exciting finds: Everett found a pinecone, and Mrs. Jenn found a Luna Moth Caterpillar.

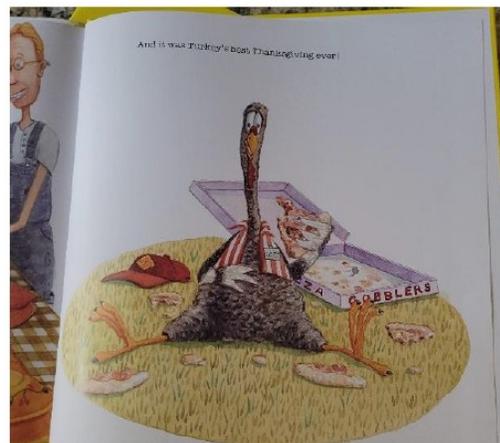
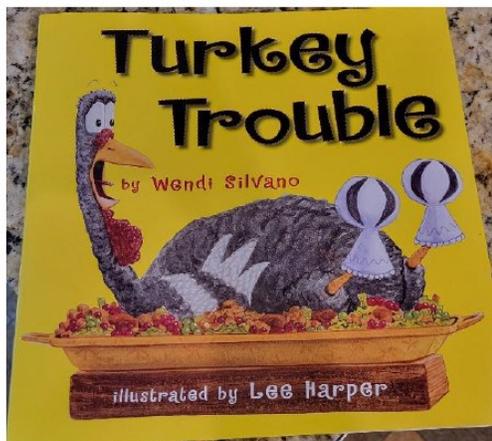
PCDP Thanksgiving Parade



Turkey Trouble

Our three and four year olds had a very special Thanksgiving feast! We read the book, Turkey Trouble by Wendi Silvano. The story is about a turkey who hides from the farmer by disguising himself as all the different farm animals. He dresses up as a horse, cow, pig, sheep, and a rooster. The other farm animals tell him that each disguise is not very convincing. He finally has the idea to dress as a pizza delivery man and delivers pizza to the farmer and his wife. The book ends with the farmer and his wife eating pizza for Thanksgiving. They have the best Thanksgiving ever and the turkey was very relieved.

Once the story was finished, Mrs. Tracie placed pizzas, turkey feathers, and a pizza delivery costume at the classroom door. She knocked and hid back in her office. We opened the door and the children were amazed that a real turkey delivered pizza for their feast.



December 2025
Shepherding Group Duties

All Groups share December duties as needed.

Shepherding Group 1

Deacons: Lee Hackett, Mary Frances Nelson

Sunday, December 14th

Fellowship Meal – Soup

Shepherding Group 2-Ushering Duties

Deacons: Roger Burlingame, Jennifer Mearkle

December 21st

December 24th – Evening Service

December 28th

Shepherding Group 3-Ushering Duties

Deacons: Sue Hatcher, Holly Longton, Hope Oakes

December 7th

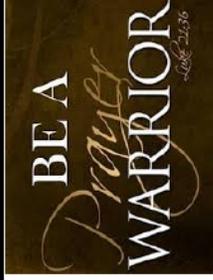
December 14th

Shepherding Group 4

Deacon: Eric Waits

Fellowship Meal set-up and clean-up

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	2	3 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. Advent Book Study Led by Pam Rhea	4 PCDP Cookie Decorating Party 11:30 a.m. Christmas Family Gift Wrapping Party	5 PCDP Cookie Decorating Party	6 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 a.m. Admin./Fin. Meeting 11:00 a.m. Worship Johnny Wray 12:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 3:00 p.m. PW Gathering at Susan Smith's House	8	9	10 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. Advent Book Study Led by Pam Rhea 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting	11 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols Fellowship Lunch following worship Shepherding Group 1-Soup Congregation- Sandwiches or dessert Shepherding Group 4- Set-Up/Clean-up	15 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care/ Christian Action Meeting	16	17 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. Advent Book Study Led by Pam Rhea Committee Meeting minutes due to church office.	18 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	19 11:00 a.m. PCDP Christmas Program	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent 11:00 a.m. Communion Worship Rev. Buren Blankenship	22 Office & PCDDP Closed	23 Office & PCDDP Closed	24 Christmas Eve Office & PCDDP Closed No Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas Day Office & PCDDP Closed 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	26 Office & PCDDP Closed	27
28 1st Sunday of Christmas 8:30 a.m. Session Meeting 11:00 a.m. Worship Melissa McDuffie	29 Office & PCDDP Closed	30 Office & PCDDP Closed	31 Office & PCDDP Closed No Prayer Group	January 1 Office & PCDDP Closed Happy New Year! 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	January 2 Office & PCDDP Closed	The Office & PCDDP will re-open on Monday, January 5th.