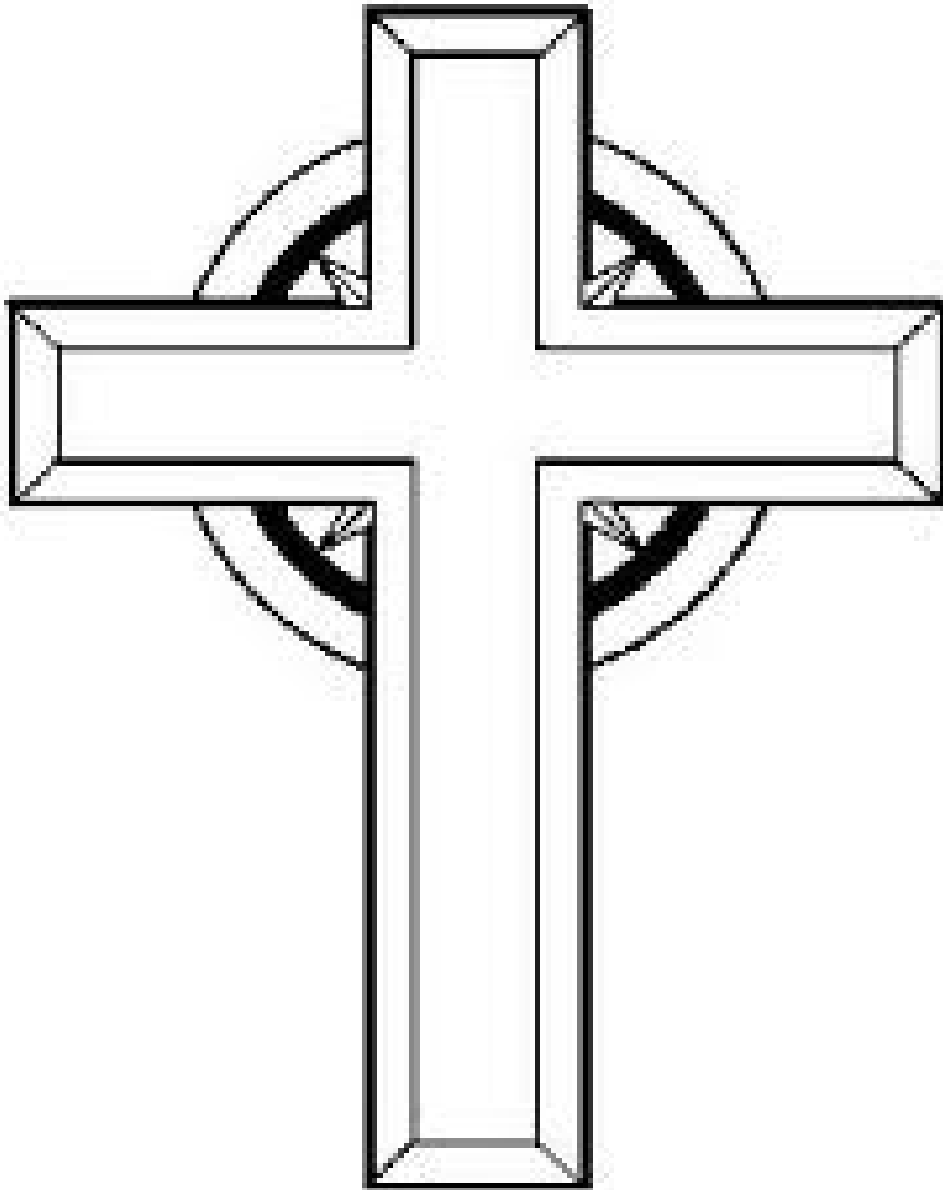


The First Word

**MAY
2026**



May 3

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 and
Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16 or
Prov. 4:10-18 and
Ps. 119:9-32; 1 Pet. 2:2-10;
John 14:1-14

May 10

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31 and
Ps. 66:8-20 or
Ezek. 34:1-7a and Ps. 115;
1 Pet. 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 17

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
and Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35
or Isa. 45:1-7 and Ps. 21:1-7;
1 Pet. 4:12-14; 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11

May 24

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or
Num. 11:24-30 and
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b;
1 Cor. 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21;
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

May 31

Trinity Sunday

Gen. 1:1-2:4a and
Ps. 8; 2 Cor. 13:11-13;
Matt. 28:16-20

Mother's Day Reflection

“Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs without fear.
When she speaks, her words are wise,
and she gives instruction with kindness.”
Proverbs 31: 25-26



My mother was a Steel Magnolia. She had a kind and gracious exterior and a backbone of unyielding determination. As a child of the Depression, Mother put herself through business college and secured her first bookkeeping job when she was 20. She and daddy wanted a family, but she wasn't able to have her first child until she was 37. Two more daughters would follow.

Although she continued to work her 8 to 5 job, mother's primary focus was raising her three girls. She nursed us through sicknesses, guided us through our major "problems" and never missed school or church events. She was always there when we needed her. When Mother determined that all her girls would go to college, she found a financial path for each of us, and we got those degrees.

After daddy passed, Mother resolved to continue to work as long as she could, finally leaving her last part-time office job at age 88. A year later, she retired from her 42-year "volunteer" position as Sunday school secretary. Of course, Mother never retired from raising us. She died at age 97, but to this day I feel the presence of my Steel Magnolia.

Over the years I've come to realize I've been surrounded by a grove of Steel Magnolias, all imbued with strength from God. Some of these women had children, and some didn't. Most were older, but some younger. Many were friends of mine, and others only acquaintances. Their lives of kindness to others, generosity of spirit, and powerful resilience provided role models for me. I gained wisdom and strength, and in a way, these Steel Magnolias became my mothers as well.

It is only fitting that Mother's Day is in May, a month when Magnolia blossoms gloriously adorn the landscape in the South. These majestic flowers serve as visual reminders of all the women who have shared their strength with us. And these floral gifts from Mother Nature remind us to give thanks to our God for blessing us with the many mothers in our lives.

Written by: Lynda Umfress



PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAISE REPORTS

Hope Oakes says the prayers have worked and she is much better.

Jean Bowen (Grandmother of the Bowen children) is doing much better.
She has been able to return home with sitters.

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

Noah Russell Nagy

Continued Prayers

Harolyn Jones

Recovery from fall (broken knee)

Hilda Nance

Hillary Richardson's Aunt
Recovery from stroke

Colby Huffman

(Friend of Halli Powers)
Continued Prayers

The Davis Family

On the loss of Dickey Davis
(Hope Oakes' Uncle)

Sherean Harrington

(Hope Oakes' Stepmother)
Continued Prayers

Jon & Dorothy Fortman

Continued Prayers

Ginny Oakes

(Ed Oakes' Mother)
Continued Prayers

Simon Storer

(Friend of Lee Hackett)
Cancer Diagnosis

Stephanie Pellum

(Paul & Sandra Mims Daughter)
Health Concerns

Doug & Kandi Aultman & Family

Continued Prayers

Wayne Bruchey

Health Concerns

The Lane Family

On the loss of Dr. James Lane
(Friend of Marthalie Porter and mentor to
Allee Kate Weathers)



May Birthdays

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
Tracie Hanson	May 24
Abigail Monroe Conway	May 28
Emmett Richardson	May 30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



"Let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14

Thank you to our faithful children's message volunteers. You are a blessing.

Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.





JOIN A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY

Nursery Care

9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Nursery Care is available in the Education Building for 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 Message – 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.

Beginning Sunday, January 11, the Agape Sunday School class (Tom Richardson, teacher) will embark on a study of selected literary works (primarily Scottish) that have a theological focus. The study will examine how writers have used biblical references within their works and how they have responded to particular issues of the history of the Presbyterian Church, to major points of church doctrine (especially the influence of John Calvin), and to important ethical and moral questions that have arisen from the social and political application of church doctrine. The literary selections will be provided to the class. The class meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the parlor of the education building.

Prayer Group

Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.

The Prayer Group meets every Wednesday in the Parlor.

All are welcome to join us.



Join us in Children's Church!





Join us for Prayer Group


Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Parlor

3200 Bluecutt Road

Columbus, MS

All are welcome!



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, May 2nd

8:00 a.m.

Join us on the Hill for
food and fellowship.





First Presbyterian Church will be serving
Loaves & Fishes Friday, May 15, 2026

Volunteers are needed. Show your support by signing up today!

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



BOOK STUDY

HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

THE WOUNDED HEALER

In our own woundedness,
we can become a source
of life for others



Wednesdays 1:30

April 15

April 22

April 29

May 6

May 13

May 20



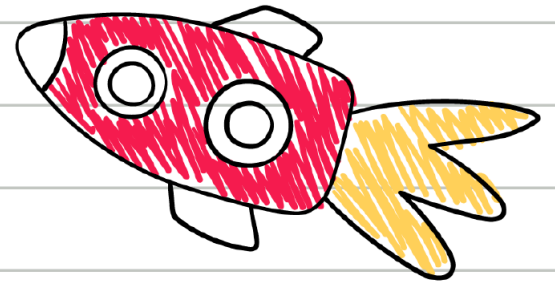
Led by Pam Rhea

deaconrhea@gmail.com

JOIN US

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS



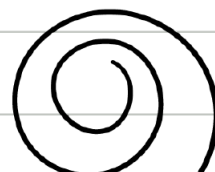
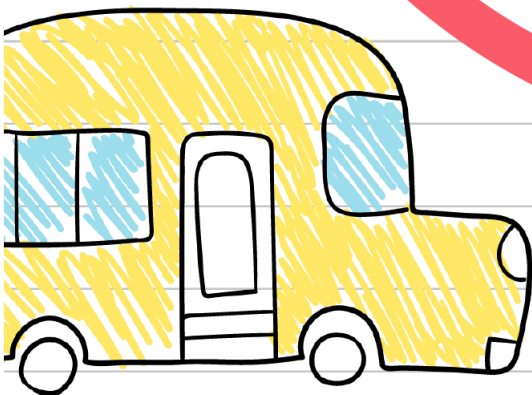
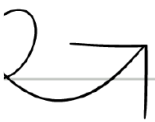
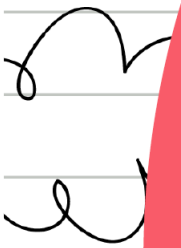
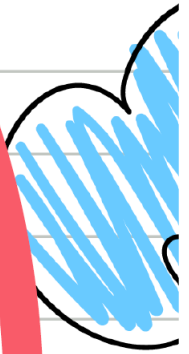


First Presbyterian
Child Development Program

Presents

Remarkably You
End of Year Program & Graduation

May 21, 2026
9:00 A.M.
FPC Sanctuary





Join us for lunch

May
Fellowship Meal

Sunday, May 31, 2026
Following worship

Shepherding Group 3
will provide fried chicken.

Please bring your favorite side
or dessert to share.



Loaves and Fishes Book Program - Mother's Day "Alternative Gift Giving"

The Christian Witness Committee is offering you an opportunity for "Alternative Gift Giving" for Mother's Day, which is May 10th. This opportunity allows you to make a gift honoring or memorializing 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 the Loaves and Fishes Book Fund. Acknowledgement of this remembrance gift will be mailed to the contributor and the recipient, if applicable, and published in the First Word. Remember to include mailing addresses.

Contributor: _____

Address: _____

In Honor/Memory of (Circle One): _____

Address of Honoree: _____

*Thank
you!*



Virginia Oakes and Georgie Willis are the generous ladies who have supplied First Presbyterian Church handmade crocheted blankets that we will share with families who have special prayer needs.

Virginia is the mother of Ed Oakes. She and Georgie Willis are great friends and enjoy crocheting together.

We are grateful for the ministry these ladies help us provide.



BE TRULY
glad
THERE IS
WONDERFUL
JOY AHEAD

>> 1 PETER 1:6 <<



Sullivan Hill is graduating from kindergarten
at Columbus Christian Academy.

Sullivan is the son of Robert and Kelsey Hill and the brother of
Eleanor Hill. He is the grandson of Bill and Laurie Hill and John
and Kathy Walsh. Sullivan was born on June 26, 2020.

Sullivan likes playing baseball and is a Boy Scout. His favorite
things are *The Scooby Doo Show*, monster trucks, and dogs.
Sullivan is known for his wild imagination and the world's greatest smile.
His favorite food is pizza with a root beer!



Congratulations Allee Kate Weathers!

Allee Kate will graduate from Mississippi University for Women on May 8, 2026, Magna Cum Laude. She will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

Her attendance at MUW has been an incredibly fulfilling journey towards her future. Named Psychology Student of the Year for two consecutive years, she has met every challenge with determination to achieve her goals. Allee has served as Vice President of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology. She has worked alongside her professor, Dr. Dorothy Berglund, in an extensive research study, while working for Dr. James Lane, Clinical Psychologist and mentor.

Allee plans to take a gap year during 2026/2027 to prepare for the next step of her future goals, graduate school.

Allee Kate is the daughter of Joey and Tracie Hanson. She is the granddaughter of Peggy Barksdale and the late Travis Barksdale. She is also the granddaughter of Judy Hanson and the late Milton Hanson.



Congratulations Colton Merchant!

Colton Merchant, son of Clay and Shannon Bowen and grandson of Susan Smith, will graduate in May of 2026 from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a minor in Marketing. Colton's college career has earned him Dean's list and President's list honors as well as recognition for his efforts in several of his individual and group projects from various professors.

Colton will continue his education in the Master's of Business Administration program and plans to expand his knowledge of business with partnerships and collaborations with area and national corporations through internships and cooperative programs.



Congratulations PCDP Pre-K Graduates!

Jack Bowerman
Charley Sue Star Chism
Callie Crawford
Cody Fiske
Madison Miller
Rosalie Moxley
Willow Shalachman
Emerson Skinner





PRESBYTERIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
PLAY. LEARN. GROW.



I cannot believe it is May! The school year has flown by and we have had so much fun. To wrap up our year we will have an end of year program and graduation on Thursday, May 21st at 9am in the sanctuary. We would love for church members to attend!



PCDP's 8-week summer program begins on June 9th with class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30.



A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated supplies throughout the school year!

PCDP! WHAT AN AMAZING YEAR!











PCDP TEACHERS ARE THE

BEST



in the

WEST



FPC



Appreciates all that you do

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IS MAY 11 - 15

**BE SURE TO TIP YOUR HAT TO OUR
AMAZING TEACHERS**



WANTED



USA

Due to amazing teaching,
dedication, and love for students,

LEZLI WAITS

is wanted for being part of the
Best in the West Teacher's Gang.

★ Ordered by Sheriff

WANTED



**Due to amazing teaching,
dedication, and love for students,**

JENNIFER MEARKLE

**is wanted for being part of the
Best in the West Teacher's Gang.**

★ Ordered by Sheriff

WANTED



Due to amazing teaching,
dedication, and love for students,

HAILY CRAWFORD

is wanted for being part of the
Best in the West Teacher's Gang.

★ Ordered by Sheriff

WANTED



USA

Due to amazing teaching,
dedication, and love for students,

AMANDA BOWEN


is wanted for being part of the
Best in the West Teacher's Gang.

★ Ordered by Sheriff

Come Worship With Us Every Sunday!
 Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.
 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. ALL are welcome!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
3 5th Sunday of Easter 8:30 a.m. Admin/Finance Meeting 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea 12:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	4 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care/ Christian Action Meeting	5	6 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. "The Wounded Healer" Book Study led by Pam Rhea	7 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Final Delivery for the School Year) 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	8	9
10 6th Sunday of Easter Happy Mother's Day! 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Johnny Wray	11	12	13 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. PCDP Teacher Appreciation Breakfast/Parent Send-Off 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. "The Wounded Healer" Book Study led by Pam Rhea 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting <i>*All Committee Meeting minutes due to church office.*</i>	14 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	15 Loaves & Fishes (Volunteers Needed) 	16
17 7th Sunday of Easter 8:30 a.m. Session Meeting 11:00 a.m. Communion Worship Rev. Buren Blankenship Senior Recognition Sunday	18	19	20 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. "The Wounded Healer" Book Study led by Pam Rhea (Conclusion)	21 9:00 a.m. PCDP "Remarkably You" End of Year Program & Graduation 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	22	23
24 Day of Pentecost 11:00 a.m. Worship Melissa McDuffie	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26	27 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. "The Wounded Healer" Book Study led by Pam Rhea	28 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Susan Smith) 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon	29	30
31 Trinity Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Chip Hatcher 2 Cents A Meal Fellowship Lunch following worship—Group 3						