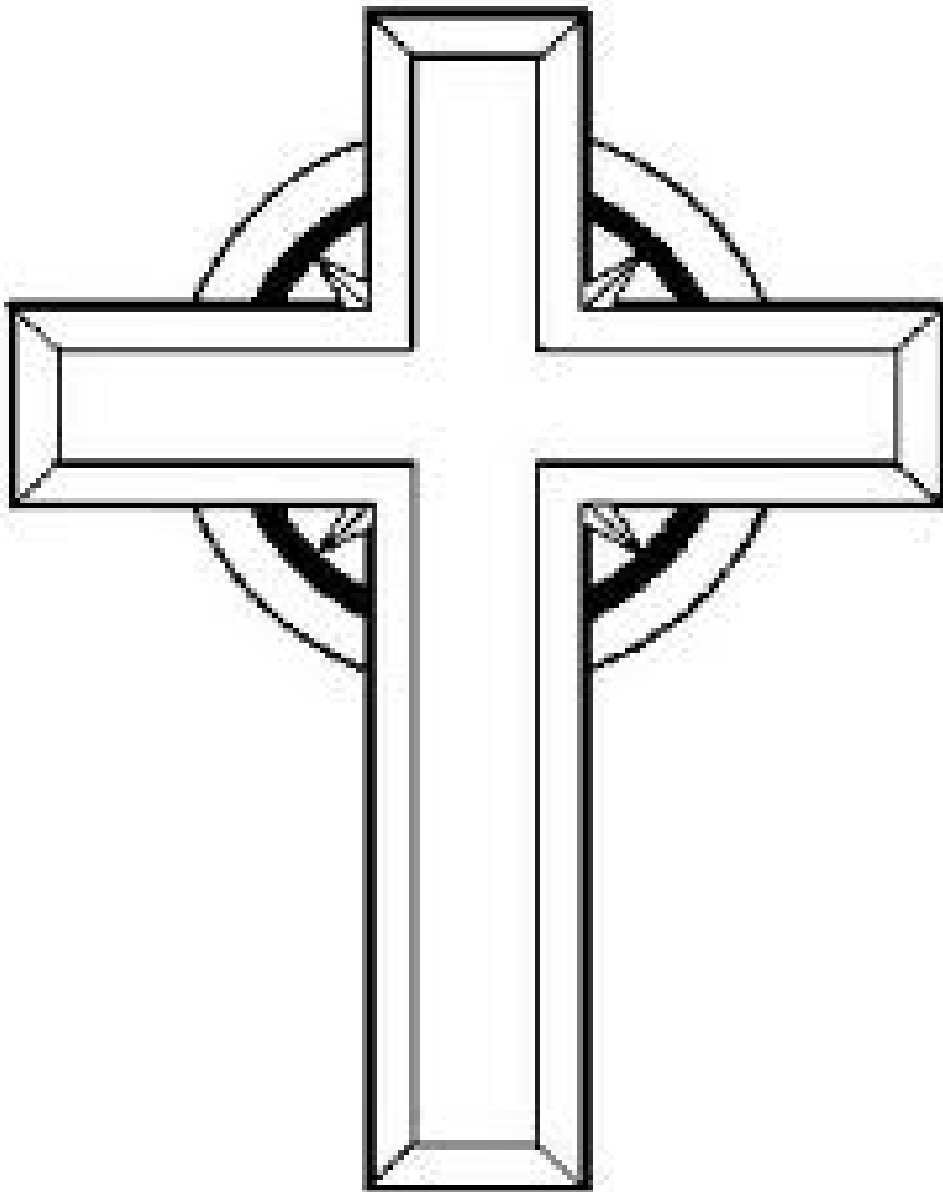


A Publication of First Presbyterian Church • Columbus, Mississippi

The First Word

**OCTOBER
2026**



October 4

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous:

Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
and Ps. 19;

Complementary:

Isa. 5:1-7
and Ps. 80:7-15;
Phil. 3:4b-14;
Matt. 21:33-46

October 11

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous:

Ex. 32:1-14
and Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23;

Complementary:

Isa. 25:1-9
and Ps. 23;
Phil. 4:1-9;
Matt. 22:1-14

October 18

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous:

Ex. 33:12-23
and Ps. 99;

Complementary:

Isa. 45:1-7
and Ps. 96:1-9 (10-13);
1 Thess. 1:1-10;
Matt. 22:15-22

October 25

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous:

Deut. 34:1-12
and Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17;

Complementary:

Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18
and Ps. 1;
1 Thess. 2:1-8;
Matt. 22:34-46

First Word Reflection

Re: Tartans (Again!)

A reflection from the archives of Reverend BJ Chain (October 2022).

This month we celebrate Reformation Sunday. The ceremony of Kirkin' O' the Tartan is wholly American, though it is based on Scottish history and legend. After Prince Charles' Scottish forces were defeated by the English at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Scotland once again came under British rule.

To control these Scots, an Act was passed that forbade the carrying of arms and the wearing of kilts or tartans which represented their Scottish heritage. Orders were given for British troops to kill any person dressed in or displaying such tartan. This Act prompted the Scots to secretly carry with them a little piece or strip of their tartan as they went to the Kirk. The minister then slipped a blessing into the service for the tartans.

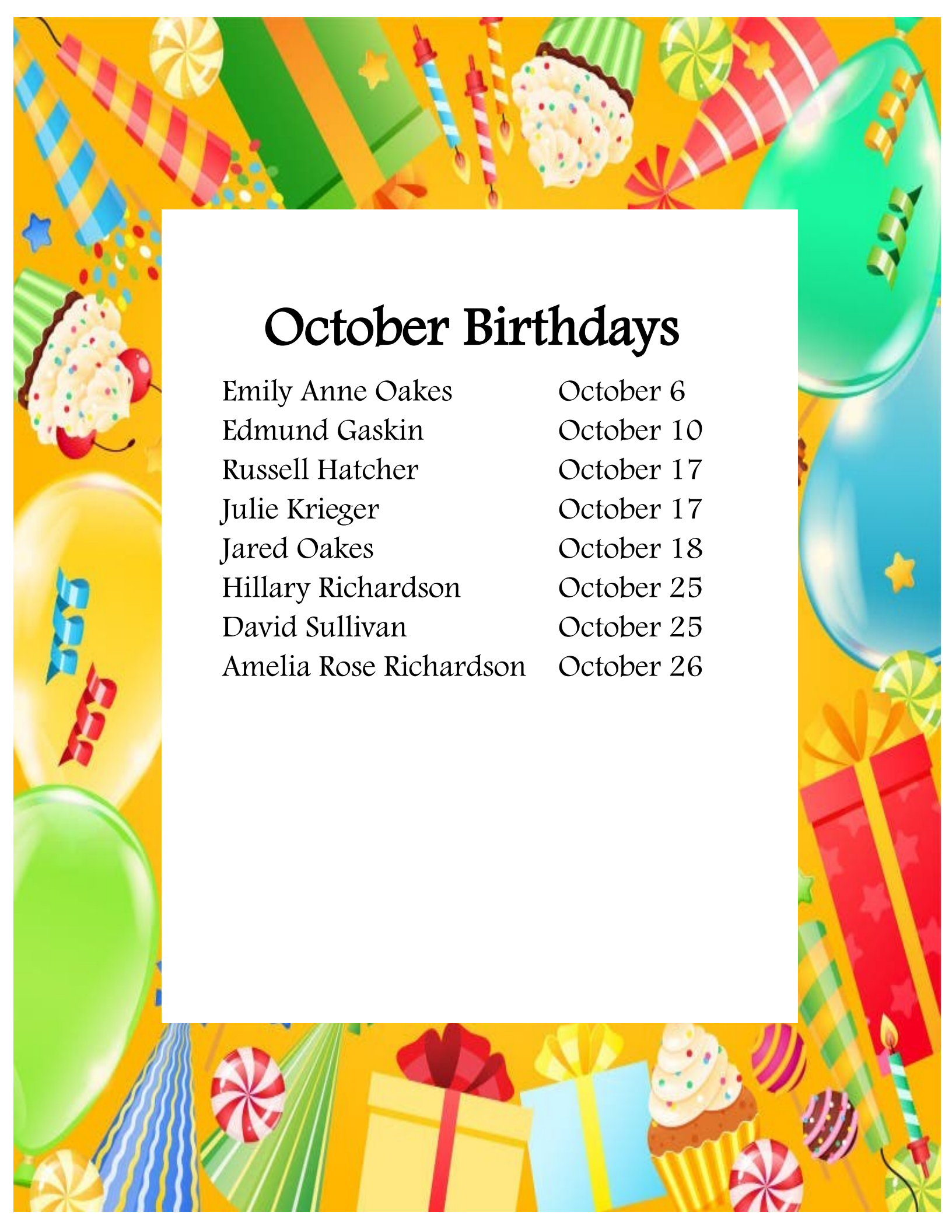
The prohibition against the tartan lasted for nearly 50 years. When at last repealed, the Church of Scotland celebrated with a Service of Family Covenant, at which time the tartan of each family was offered as an expression for the Lord's blessing.

The Scots were, are, different from the English. A different culture, a different way of being, a different way of worshiping God. They dressed and talked differently and were unable to be who they were. According to England, they were the "others" we usually talk about.

Whether we are conservative or liberal, democrat or republican, this flavor of Christianity or that one, we often fall into the trap of saying or thinking something like, "Thank God I am not like those other people." We may even pray it.

It can happen with any of our social categories. Race, ethnicity, geographical origin, sexual orientation, gender, you name it. Anything that makes someone different from us. If those differences either are or can be perceived as negative, we might say, "Thank God I am me and not them."

For the Scots, they were "other," and the church's message was clear, assimilate or face oppression. In other words, agree to be oppressed peacefully or we will oppress you anyway. You are different, they'd say, and we don't like that. Like the Scots and our denomination's Scottish heritage we are celebrating this month, who in our society must hide little strips of their own tartans just to make it into the church for a blessing?



October Birthdays

Emily Anne Oakes	October 6
Edmund Gaskin	October 10
Russell Hatcher	October 17
Julie Krieger	October 17
Jared Oakes	October 18
Hillary Richardson	October 25
David Sullivan	October 25
Amelia Rose Richardson	October 26

October Pulpit Supply

October 4, 2026 ~Rev. Buren Blankenship

October 11, 2026 –David Mills

October 18, 2026 ~Dr. Tom Richardson

October 25, 2026 –Melissa McDuffie

MS Food Network Stokes Beard Elementary Delivery Schedule:

Thursday, October 1st~Fall Intercession~No Delivery

Thursday, October 8th~Fall Intercession~No Delivery

Thursday, October 15th~Lee Hackett

Thursday, October 22nd~Volunteer Needed

Thursday, October 29th~Volunteer Needed

Please show your support by signing up today.

The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

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.

The Agape Sunday School class (Tom Richardson, teacher) has begun a study of the gospel of Matthew. Matthew is the gospel for this year in the lectionary readings. We are following the gospel lectionary readings each week, but we are also looking at background texts to help understand each Sunday's selection. The lectionary readings can be found in First Word or at pcusa.org under the "Worship with Us" tab. 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 for Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Parlor

3200 Bluecutt Road

Columbus, MS

All are welcome!

*For information regarding the weekly FPC Prayer
Group, please contact Cathy Young at 662-386-5750.*



Men's Prayer Breakfast



Join us on The Hill for
food and fellowship.



Saturday,
October 3, 2026



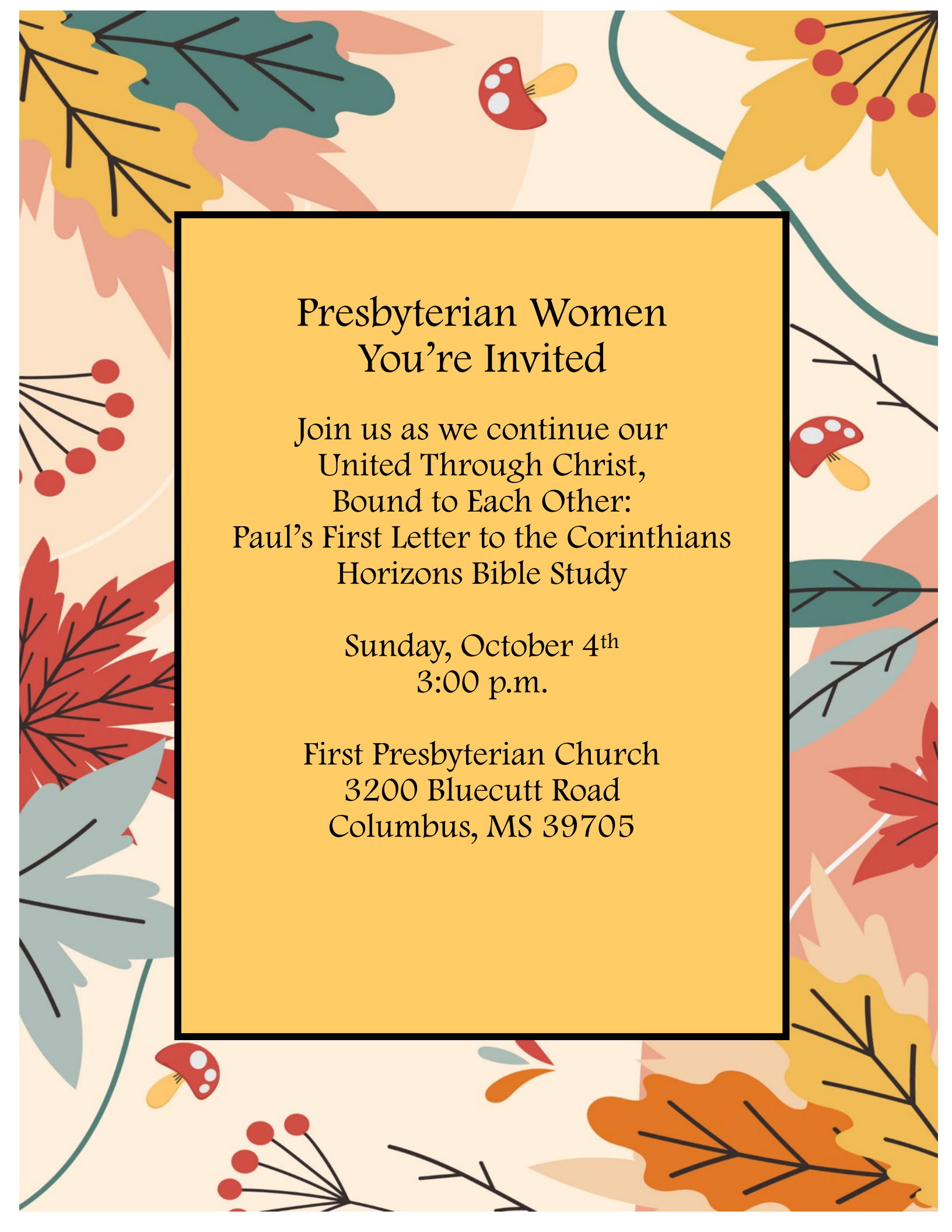
8:00 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Rd.
Columbus, MS 39705

Everyone is welcome





Presbyterian Women You're Invited

Join us as we continue our
United Through Christ,
Bound to Each Other:
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians
Horizons Bible Study

Sunday, October 4th
3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
3200 Bluecutt Road
Columbus, MS 39705



Safe Haven, Inc. was organized in August 1983, as a volunteer support group for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The need for such an organization was demonstrated by the significant number of victims who were treated at the Golden Triangle Regional Medical Center. Although such victims could obtain treatment for physical injuries, they and their children were still faced with going back into the same abusive situation, due to lack of resources for intervention or shelter. The efforts of the hospital social workers resulted in a community response in the form of organized volunteers who were trained to provide crisis counseling to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As their efforts expanded, community service clubs, organizations, law-enforcement agencies, and churches were organized in a cooperative effort to provide temporary shelter, emergency crisis counseling, and referral to other community agencies to meet the victim's needs.

Since then, Safe Haven has incorporated under the direction of a Board of Directors and employs full-time and part-time staff members. Services currently provided by Safe Haven include a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, community outreach, legal, medical, and mental health referrals, school programs on dating violence and sexual violence prevention, community education, volunteer training, a rape crisis program, and a domestic abuse intervention program.

Safe Haven receives funding from federal and state grants, private foundations, local city /county government, United Way, civic organizations, churches and individuals.

The information above was obtained from the Safe Haven, Inc. website. For further information about Safe Haven, visit their website: <https://mssafehaven.com>.

In support of this mission, Presbyterian Women have launched the Safe Haven Bags of Hope Drive.

We will be collecting items for the entire month of October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ways that you can support this mission are by donating monetarily or by donating items needed from the list below.

Monetary donations should be made out to the church and designated to the Safe Haven Bags of Hope Drive, which can be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday.

Please see the list below if you would like to purchase items. Items can be dropped off in the fellowship hall.

Items Needed: (10 of each)

Please be sure that all items purchased are small/medium sized to ensure that they fit in the bags.

Women:

Toothpaste
Facial Wipes
Breath Freshener
Kleenex (purse size)
Deodorant
Hand Cream
Shampoo
Washcloths
Wet Wipes
Lip Balm
Adult Activity Books

Pens

Children: (Other appropriate child items are welcomed. We have bags for ages 0-5 and 6-10.)

Socks (Children 5 - 8 years old)

Children's Books

Coloring Books

Children's Activity Books

Crayons

Stickers

Children's Toys (Small handheld)

We will be accepting items throughout the month of October as this is a continuing effort to support this mission.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the bags, please feel free to contact Cathy Young to confirm prior to purchasing.

Phone: [\(662\)386-5750](tel:6623865750) or Email: reflib53@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of this mission.

Presbyterian Women

JOIN US
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
AT 11:00 A.M.
FOR KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN



Kirkin o' The Tartan HIGHLAND GAMES

FOLLOWING WORSHIP, JOIN US OUTSIDE
FOR OUR VERSION OF HIGHLAND GAMES!



HAGGIS HURL
CABER TOSS
BROAD JUMP
SHEAF TOSS
TUG O'WAR

OCTOBER 18, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3200 BLUECUTT RD
COLUMBUS, MS 39705

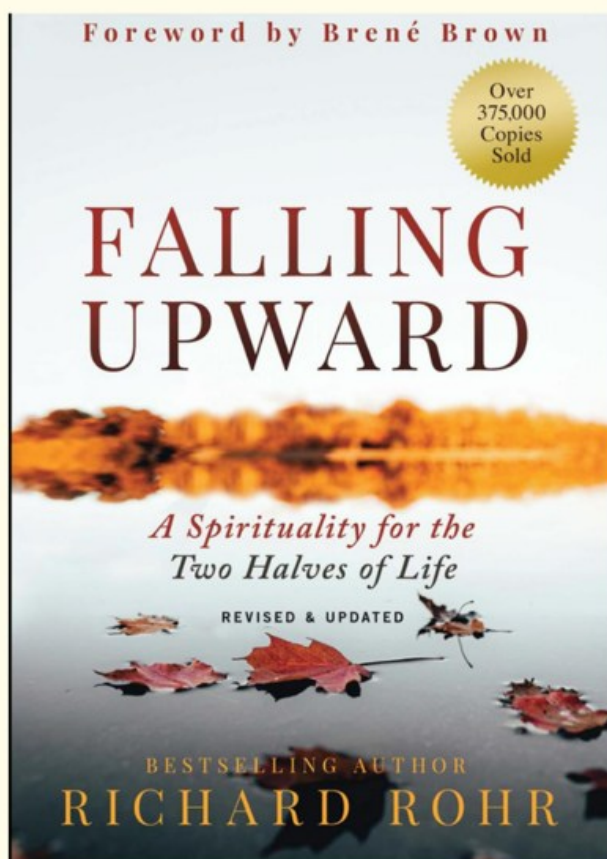


BOOK STUDY

PLEASE JOIN US

GUIDANCE
FOR LIFE'S
SPIRITUAL
JOURNEY

BRING
YOUR
FRIENDS



DRAWING ON THE WISDOM FROM MANY HONORED SOURCES, ROHR EXPLORES THE TWO HALVES OF LIFE TO SHOW THAT THE HEARTBREAKS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS OF LIFE'S FIRST HALF ARE ACTUALLY STEPPING STONES TO THE SPIRITUAL JOYS THAT THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE HAS IN STORE FOR US.

WEDNESDAYS 1:30
OCTOBER 7 - NOVEMBER 4

DISCUSSION LED BY PAM RHEA
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR OWN BOOK

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3200 BLUECUTT ROAD
COLUMBUS, MS 39705
(662) 328-5992

PCDP NEWS

Our PCDP preschoolers are looking forward to a busy October!
We will be closed for Fall Break October 5th- 9th.

We have been having fun learning about the fall season. We have made apple pie, had a leaf hunt, and have been making fall themed art. The children painted the leaves hanging in the education hallway and did a great job!

Once we return from fall break we will introduce our camping and woodland animal theme. This is always a lot of fun!

CM Farm's mobile pumpkin patch will visit us on October 29th from 8:30 to 11:30. They are bringing several games, a corn pit, pumpkins for painting, and a barrel train. Volunteers are needed. Please let us know if you can help.

Our Kinder-prep class has started their fine motor journals. If you have any craft supplies you are not using we would love to have them.



PCDP... School days are the best days!



PCDP... School days are the best days!



PCDP... School days are the best days!

