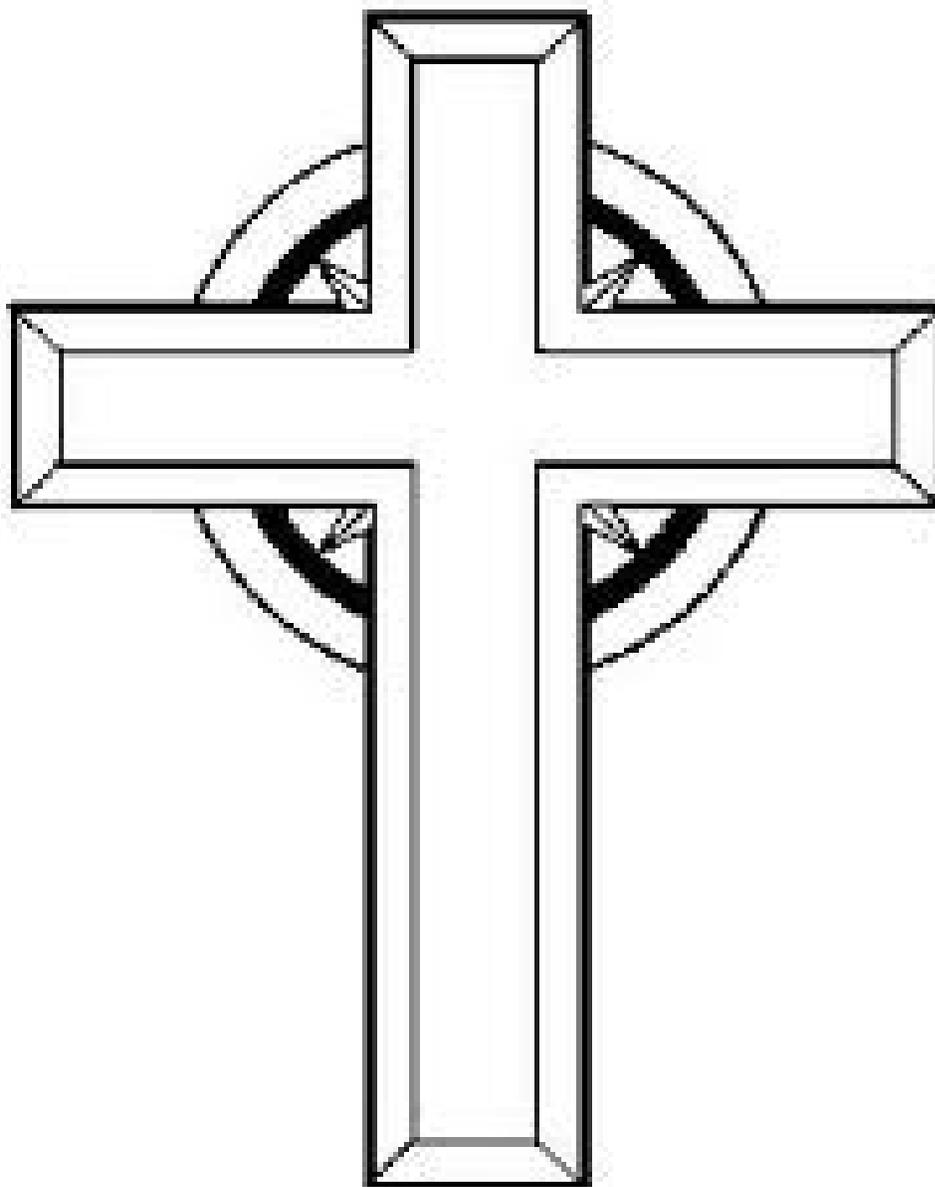


# The First Word



**AUGUST  
2022**

## **August Lectionary**

**August 7  
9th Sunday  
after Pentecost  
Proper 14**

*Semicontinuous:*  
Isa. 1:1, 10-20 and  
Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23;  
*Complementary:*  
Gen. 15:1-6 and  
Ps. 33:12-22;  
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16;  
Luke 12:32-40

**August 14  
10th Sunday  
after Pentecost  
Proper 15**

*Semicontinuous:*  
Isa. 5:1-7 and  
Ps. 80:1-2, 8-19;  
*Complementary:*  
Jer. 23:23-29 and  
Ps. 82;  
Heb. 11:29-12:2;  
Luke 12:49-56

**August 21  
11th Sunday  
after Pentecost  
Proper 16**

*Semicontinuous:*  
Jer. 1:4-10 and  
Ps. 71:1-6;  
*Complementary:*  
Isa. 58:9b-14 and  
Ps. 103:1-8;  
Heb. 12:18-29;  
Luke 13:10-17

**August 28  
12th Sunday  
after Pentecost  
Proper 17**

*Semicontinuous:*  
Jer. 2:4-13 and  
Ps. 81:1, 10-16;  
*Complementary:*  
Prov. 25:6-7 and  
Ps. 112;  
Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16;  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

## First Word Reflection, August 2022

Re: Peacemaking

<sup>15</sup> *“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. <sup>16</sup> But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. <sup>18</sup> I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”*

<sup>21</sup> *Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”*

<sup>22</sup> *Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.”*

(Matt. 18:15-22, CEB)

Stanley Hauerwas uses the above verses of Scripture to discuss peacemaking within the church. He draws distinction between being “peaceful” for the sake of avoiding conflict and peacemaking, that of confronting sins individually and corporately.

Peacemaking, presented here by Jesus and expanded upon by Hauerwas, presupposes that conflict follows. When someone is confronted by a wrong committed it is human nature to be, at first, defensive. This defensiveness is present when individuals are unable to recognize themselves and the one confronting as people in need of forgiveness, and to whom forgiveness is granted. A defense, and the conflict that follows, comes from our *want* to be right and does not account for our collective *need* to be forgiven. Despite our displeasure at such a spot-correction, I would much rather know that I have offended than for another to bear such offense privately.

We are called to be peacemakers, and such a mission necessarily leads to conflict, disagreement. It is uncomfortable to confront those who wrong us no matter how serious or trivial; still, it is our mission. As Christians we are not called to be peaceful and avoid conflict, but peaceful in the sense that we confront wrongs as they occur. We may deem it offensive to hear of our wrongs, but it cannot be more offensive than the wrong we have committed against others in the first place.

The most challenging truth found in the passage above is that, as Christian peacemakers, we confront wrongs not for the sake of drama or conflict, but for forgiveness. Jesus’ answer to Peter is clear - as often as we confront those who wrong us, we are equally prepared to forgive them. It is easy to confront others seeking self-righteousness in a “gotcha” moment; it is more difficult to confront others and be ready to forgive.

If we as Christians are called to do such peacemaking and seek confrontation so that forgiveness may follow, how are we, as a church and as a society, to respond when we are confronted with our own sins? Hauerwas had this to say of Christian inaction or direct involvement in the suffering of Jews in Nazi Germany:

*This is particularly true when so often the wrongs we must remember are those that no amount of effort or goodwill can make right. No matter how hard Christians work against anti-Semitism, there is finally nothing that can be done to make “right” the terror of the Holocaust. If there is to be reconciliation between Christians and Jews, it cannot come through forgetting such a terrible wrong but by learning to face that history as a forgiven people.*

(Hauerwas, *Peacemaking: The Virtue of the Church*, 1985)

Cont.....

Cont.....

And so today we are continually confronted with religious and societal wrongs against people of all colors and creeds. At first, we are defensive. Why are we equally condemned even if a church or a Christian “did nothing” to contribute to the social injustices apparent? It is because the church and its Scriptures have been used throughout history to oppress certain groups of people despite the Gospel’s message of freedom from such oppression. As explained above, we are not called to defend ourselves as those seeking self-righteousness, but to face the terrible wrongs in history and contemporary society as a forgiven people.

Peacemaking is not passivity. Though we may have “done nothing” to contribute to the suffering of others, we are required by Christ to *do something* as we work toward justice. It is as equal a wrong to be inactive amid injustice as it is to do the injustice. Christians are called to speak truth to injustice even when such wrongs do not affect us directly, this the definition of compassion. If we believe in God’s kingdom and our work towards it then we are called to be peacemakers, confronting individual and societal sins so that forgiveness may be duly granted. The peace that follows from such processes will be truly meaningful and not the superficial peace that comes from ignoring that the problem exists.

Blessings,

BJ

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



Steve Holcombe	August 1
Richard Brown	August 3
Tom Young	August 4
Emmie Waits	August 6
Glenda Kay Crusoe	August 7
Max Dornan	August 7
Susan Smith	August 10
Ted Gardner	August 11
Dorothy Fortman	August 12
Dona Porter	August 12
Meg Waits	August 17
Mike Longton	August 19
Jackson Dollar	August 20
Paula Wilkes	August 20
Jessica Richardson	August 21
Maridith Geuder	August 22
Katie Bishop Hughes	August 24
Ed Oakes	August 26
Fran Brown	August 29

# *prayer* Requests



**Diane Keen**  
(Carol Jones Sister)  
Health Concerns

**Richard Brown**  
Health Concerns

**Jon Fortman**  
Health Concerns

**Toni Oakes**  
(Ed Oakes Sister)  
Health Concerns

**Scherrel Sturdivant**  
Recovery from Stroke

**The Family of Maridith Geuder**  
Prayer Request

**Bridgette Beinhaur**  
Ed Oakes Cousin  
Health Concerns

**Patty Jones & Family**  
In the loss of her Husband,  
James Jones

**John Frazier**  
In the loss of his Mother,  
Chellye Hoover Frazier

**Jane Hunt**  
Health Concerns

**Brennen Bowen**  
Health Concerns

**Sandra Mims**  
Health Concerns

**Ginny Oakes**  
(Ed Oakes Mother)  
Prayer Request

**Bonnie Boyd**  
Health Concerns

**Diana Revord**  
Health Concerns

**Emmagene Crunk**  
Health Concerns

**Tom Porter & Family**  
In the loss of his Mother,  
Peggie Porter

## **Memorials**

**Mr. James Jones**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Gary Goodwin**

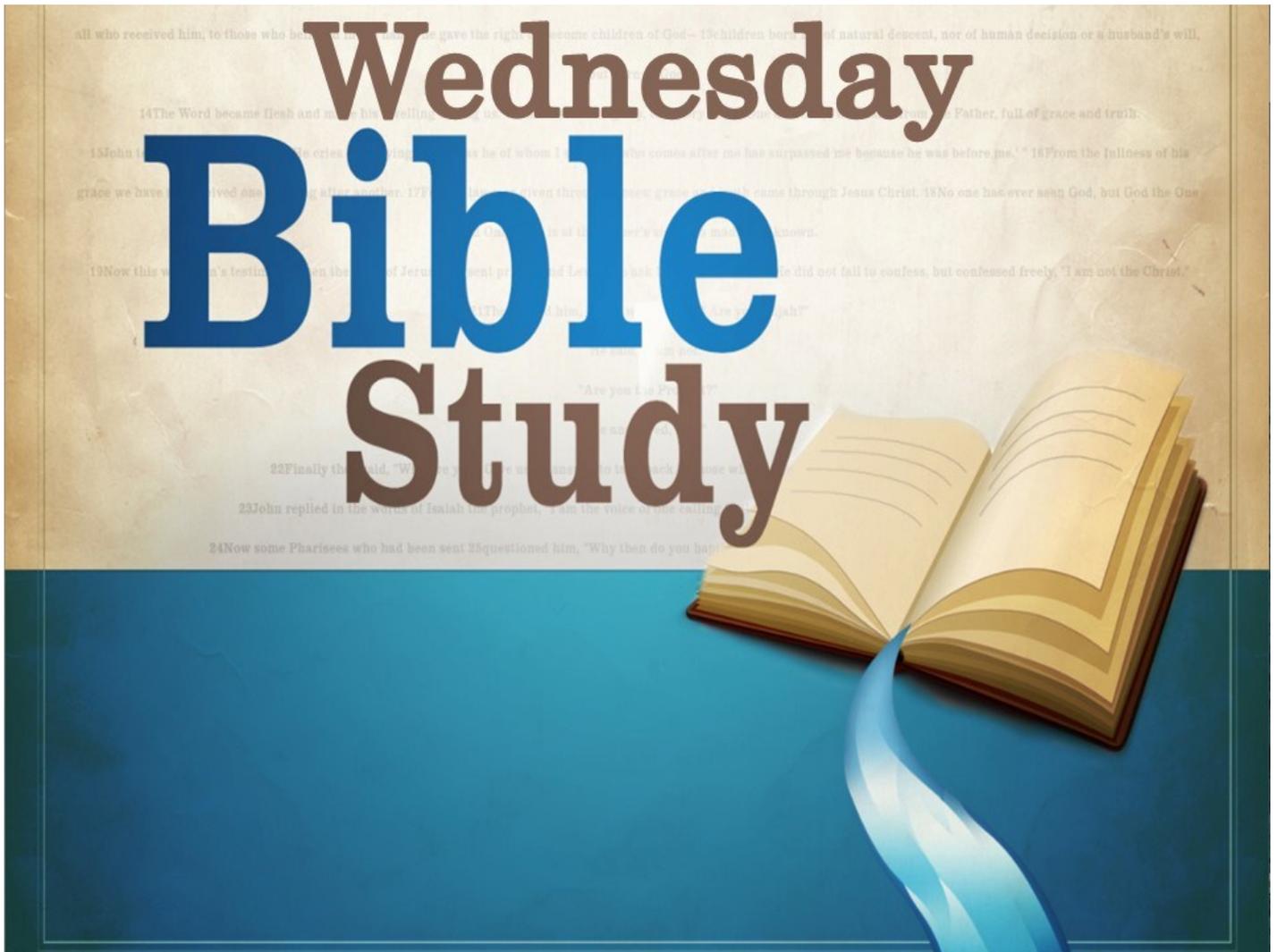
**Mrs. Chellye Hoover Frazier**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brown**  
**Mr. & Mrs. John Owings III**

**Mrs. Peggie Porter**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hatcher**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brown**  
**Mr. & Mrs. John Owings III**

**Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Holmes**  
**Mr. & Mrs. John Farra**

## **Honorariums**

**Mr. Al Hatcher**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Butler**



Join us every Wednesday  
@ 12:30 pm in the Parlor

Bible Study and Prayer Group  
with Reverend B.J. Chain



Join us the 1st Thursday  
of every month @ 6:30 am

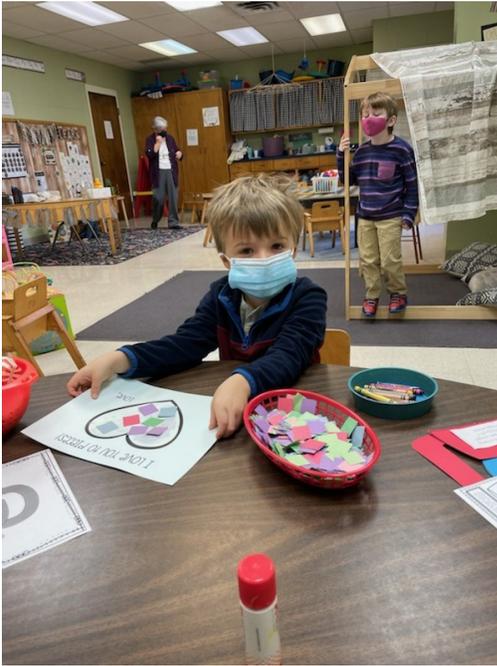
Faith

Food

Fellowship

with Reverend B.J. Chain

# Join Us every Sunday for Children's Church



We have so much fun.





August Fellowship Potluck  
Sunday, August 28th  
following worship

Shepherding Group 2 will provide meat.  
Please bring your favorite side or dessert.

As the days heat up, we want to help others who might not have proper cooling in their homes. We are accepting NEW fans or monetary donations to purchase fans for the upcoming warmer months. Thank you in advance ❤️



**GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL HUB FOR VOLUNTEERS & NONPROFITS**

*Helping Hands*  
**Annual Fan Drive**

**United Way**

For more info contact Jennifer Garrard at (662) 328-8301

Starting now throughout the Summer, NEW FANS may be donated to Helping Hands Monday-Thursday from 8am-12:30pm. Monetary donations are also accepted and fans will be purchased on your behalf.

Checks can be mailed to PO Box 1241 Columbus, MS 39703

Did you know that some residents of Lowndes County will be without air conditioning this summer? Let's help them beat the heat!



**HELPING HANDS OF COLUMBUS**

# PCDP NEWS



The teachers at PCDP have been busy getting ready for our first day back. Our parent meeting is August 23rd at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Open house is August 30th and our first day is August 31st. Here's to a great year!!



## Recipe's of the month

### Crab Meat Spread *from Ms. Genie Hutchison*

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (8 oz.) Pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 small onion, grated to juice
- Dash of garlic salt
- 2 tsp. mayonnaise
- Bottled chili sauce
- 1 (8 oz.) ctn. Fresh/frozen lump crab meat, well drained and minced
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

#### Directions:

Mix together cream cheese, Worcestershire sauce, onion, garlic salt, and mayonnaise; mound on serving plate. Cover with layer of chili sauce (about 1/2 bottle). Sprinkle minced crab meat over top. Garnish with chopped fresh parsley. Refrigerate until well chilled. Serve with crackers.

### Crusted Grapes *from Fran Brown*

#### Ingredients:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 4 lb. red grapes, washed and dried well
- Brown sugar
- Pecans, chopped

#### Directions:

Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Stir in grapes.  
Put the mixture in a 9 x 13 inch dish.  
Cover with brown sugar and sprinkle with pecans.  
A great dish for brunch.

*These recipes are shared from our FPC Cookbook.*

***First Presbyterian Church***

***P.O. Box 9681***

***Columbus, MS 39705***

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