

The First Press

March 2019



"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Luke 9:23

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Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!!!	
<p>Every third Sunday of the month the Church provides a cake during fellowship time to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries that occur that month. This is also the opportunity to contribute a dollar to the "Birthday Fund" for each year you are young! The Birthday Board is exhibited, envelopes and a box are available for your use or you may put your check in the offering plate. Please write on your check "Birthday Fund" so that it will be deposited to the correct account. The Birthday Fund goes towards scholarships for our graduating seniors.</p> <p>Please join us on <i>March 17</i>, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!</p>	

March Birthdays

Joe Allshouse	March 06	Sarah Jean Lindsey	March 25
Gene Brooks	March 09	Cheryl Martin	March 04
Katie Cattaneo	March 22	Grant Muzny	March 22
Gary Cline	March 06	Orville Poole	March 14
Margie Florini	March 10	Robert Raines	March 23
Fred Fuquay	March 10	Linda Rath	March 07
John Gardner	March 19	Jade Rice Coats	March 13
Gage Gould	March 07	Stephanie Sams	March 21
Kathy Harst	March 20	Mari Simmons	March 10
Ann Hiers	March 24	Amy Westmoreland	March 10
Brooke Hopkins	March 18	Penelope	March 31
Yvonne Jones	March 29	Judy Wright	March 19

March Anniversaries

Scott and Randa Couch	March 04
Lacy and Darlene Sellars	March 10
Bob and Barbara Spindler	March 10
Mike and Mary Gayle McGibbony	March 12
Hiram and Susan Cooper	March 18
Bill and Jamie Randall	March 18
Daniel and Joan Clinton	March 29

God Bless You on Your Special Day!



TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

Then [Jesus] said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9: 23

Lent begins soon—on Ash Wednesday, March 6. In my preparations I read these words of Jesus, which mark his turn to the cross. He asks his disciples who they claim he is, and Peter is correct: “The Messiah of God.” Jesus then explains to his disciples that he must undergo great suffering, be rejected, killed, and on the third day be raised. He then gives his disciples this sobering but essential rule of discipleship, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

When I read these words, my attention was drawn to the word “daily.” Daily indicates that discipleship involves more than a casual commitment. We are called to follow Christ daily, hourly, every minute, and with every breath. Every breath you take, is a gift from God and God asks that we use it to spread the gospel. As Jesus told his disciples, “For those who want to save their life will lose it. And those who lose their life for my sake will save it” (9:24).

What does it mean to take up our cross daily? Are we to set aside a time every day to read a devotion? Well, that’s a good start, but what then? When I read our daily devotion, I make an effort to recall the main point throughout the day so, more than reading it—I try to place it into action in my daily living.

Do you remember when I asked the Boy Scouts to recite the Boy Scout Slogan, “Do a good turn daily?” It’s one thing to set your cell phone to remind you to do a good turn every day. But it’s quite another to naturally help others without having to be reminded. The more we do a good turn, the less we have to be reminded and the more we simply become a helping person—and this is not a loss, but a gain!

Lent is a season of forty days, plus Sundays, leading to Easter Sunday. As followers of Christ, we commit to spending these forty days taking up our cross daily. Every day we make specific promises to read scripture, deny something in our day that we take for granted, do a good turn, or spend time with God in prayer. At first such efforts may seem like a task or a chore. Yet, the more we pray, read, sing, and give ourselves away, the less difficult it becomes (losing our life), and the more joyful and beneficial it becomes (finding/saving our life).

Following this article, I've listed some ideas that may help you "take up your cross daily" during the season of Lent. This list of potential activities may even spark your imagination to think of other activities that will help you follow Christ. Pick one or two and give them a try. Try one that seems easy at first; then choose one that seems difficult to you. Sometimes the most difficult expressions of faith are the most rewarding. In all your efforts, pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to you, giving you the means to take up your cross.

I hope you will join us for Ash Wednesday on March 6, with supper at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come with a sense of expectancy, seeking to lose your life for the sake of Jesus' name, and in the process, finding your life. I will be praying for each of you during Lent, that you will take up your cross daily and follow Jesus.

Lacy

LENTEN DISCIPLINES

Lent is a time for the church to journey together toward Easter. Lent is not about being miserable, sad, and dismal in anticipation of Jesus' crucifixion. It's a time to repent and walk more closely to the source of our salvation.

Fasting and "giving up something" can be part of the Lenten disciplines, but so can "taking on something." Lent is a season to learn God's trust and to put that trust into action. With the aid of the list below, you are invited to make a commitment to discipline yourself and grow in God's trust during the season of Lent.

Inward and Personal Disciplines

- Spend time in solitude each day.
- Read a book for spiritual growth.
- Read twice through the Gospel of this year's lectionary cycle (Luke).
- Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, readings, and reflections.
- In your prayer life, focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking.
- Give yourself a gift of three hours to do something you say you never have time to do.
- Find a way to go to bed earlier or to sleep in, to get enough rest.
- Make a list of people with whom you need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide you in thinking and responding to them.
- Take control of your life by: _____.
- Participate in the special worship opportunities offered at our church, or another church.
- Give up a grudge or a re-living of a past event.
- Forgive someone who has hurt you.

- Add more movement into your daily routine.
- Dance your prayers to a favorite piece of music.
- Other promptings: _____.

Outward and Social Disciplines

- Listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service—with love and energy.
- Plan to visit a home-bound neighbor or church member each week of Lent.
- Write a letter of affirmation each week of Lent to a person who has touched your life.
- Go to coffee or dinner with someone you want to know better.
- Begin to recycle waste from my home.
- Give blood and concentrate on the cross.
- Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- Pray to God to help you resist a prejudice you have, and for ideas in opposing it.
- Talk to the pastor about something you would like to do in the church.
- Rebuke the spirit of criticism and the temptation to speak it.
- Live out your baptismal promise to "turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world" by:
_____.
- Other outward and social promptings: _____.

As a way of being accountable:

- ____ Post your intentions for Lent in a place that you will see each day.
- ____ Share your plan with at least one other person, and tell that person your experiences during Holy Week.

Session Notes

Helen Bumpas, newly-elected Elder to the Session Class of 2020, will be installed during morning worship on March 10. She will serve as moderator of the Membership and Outreach Committee, but we don't expect her to stop her work on the Fellowship and Mission Committees.

The Session reviewed our 2018 annual statistical report which is sent to the General Assembly of the PC(USA). Some of the figures for 2018 include:

Members	286
Baptisms	1
Christian Education Participants	77
Average Sunday Attendance	114
Annual Income	\$479,037

The March Family Night Supper has been moved to the first Wednesday, March 6, at 6:00. The Fellowship Committee will be providing pancakes and other breakfast treats prior to our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 that evening.

Other items from the Session reports:

- Special dedicated accounts are being set up for special projects and for travel expenses for our Haiti mission projects in addition to our support of the St Luc School being financed through the Mission Endowment Fund.
- Possible speaker for an adult educational program is Stephen R. Haynes, professor of religion at Rhodes College in Memphis.
- The Building and Grounds Committee is trying to stay ahead of roof leaks!
- The Living Last Supper will be presented on Sunday mornings during Lent.

Kathy White,

Clerk



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The PW Mission Committee outreach project, “Days for Girls,” meets on *March 14, and March 28, at 9:00 a.m. (the second and fourth Thursday of each month)*. We are making feminine hygiene kits for girls in poor areas of over 100 countries. “Days for Girls” refers to the days the girls miss from school each month. We need women who can sew, cut, or iron! Please join us. You can read more about this project at www.daysforgirls.org

The PW Day Circle Bible Study meets *Tuesday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m.* (the third Tuesday of each month), to study our 2018-2019 PW/Horizons Bible Study, **God’s Promise—I am With You.**

The Women's Wednesday Study continues their Lenten study of The Last Week: A Day by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Copies of the book are available when the group meets, Wednesday mornings, 10:30 a.m. in the church Library. Please join us to discuss, share insights and learn something new about the week of Palm Sunday to Easter.

SAVE THE DATE!

Presbyterian Women of Arkansas SPRING GATHERING, Saturday, April 6, 2019, Jonesboro Arkansas.

SYNOD OF THE SUN GATHERING, July 25-27, 2019, Tulsa, OK.

Dear Friends in Christ,

To be presented an Honorary Life Membership of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Inc. is an honor I feel very humble to accept. To be given this membership by you who have worked, worshipped, studied, sang, laughed, and played by my side—or me by your side—is a precious gift. I am so grateful to have each of you in my life. You are the best of the best!

Thank You with Love,

Wayma Rowe

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Arkansas

Spring Gathering



“Let Your Light Shine”

Matt. 5:16

Saturday, April 6, 2019

First Presbyterian Church

710 Southwest Drive, Jonesboro AR

Registration 8:30 am / Gathering 9:30 am

Worship Leader: The Rev. Carol Clark, Little Rock

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Stewart Smith, General Presbyter, Presbytery of Arkansas

Mission Speaker: Melinda Hunt, Solar Under the Sun

(The offering collected will go to Solar Under the Sun)



**Donations of in-kind toiletry items (hand/body soap, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)
will go to Breaking Bonds and In His Wings ministries**

Deadline to Register: March 31st / Fee: \$8.00 (includes lunch)

Contacts: Marlita Stuart (870-930-4715) or Patty Minga (870-530-4576)

Please contact Sally Pierce if you wish to attend.

501-538-7890

REGISTRATION FORM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARKANSAS PRESBYTERY

2019 Spring Gathering

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

First Presbyterian Church, Jonesboro, AR



"Let Your Light Shine"

Registration: 8:30 am / Gathering: 9:30 am

Registration and \$8.00 Fee (includes lunch)

Due by Tuesday, March 31, 2019

Participant Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Church & City _____

Please note food restrictions or allergies:

Childcare request: (Please provide a sack lunch for your child)

Name of Child _____ Age _____

Name of Child _____ Age _____

Make check payable to Presbyterian Women & send with this form to:

First Presbytenan Church
710 Southwest Drive
Jonesboro, AR 72401
Attn: Marlita Stuart



STATISTICS			
January Attendance:			
Dates	Worship	Visitors	Sunday School
2/3	108	2	21
2/10 (Scout Sunday)	132	27	21
2/17	116	5	26
2/24	97	10	20
January Financial Statistics:			
	Year to Date	Budget:	YTD% of Budget:
Pledge Income:	19,341	269,902	7.2%
Other Income:	2,641	56,105	4.7%
Legacy Income:	8,333	100,000	8.3%
Total Income:	30,315	426,007	7.2%
Total Expenses:	32,367	426,007	7.6%
Income to Expense:	(2,052)		
MARCH COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees Meet: The week of March 18. Contact your Moderator for specific place, date, and time. • Session Meets: Wednesday, March 27, 6:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. • Diaconate Meets: Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m. in the Library. 			

BARGAIN BOX		
January Sales and Donations		
1/2		280.00
1/9		409.00
1/16		263.30
1/23		191.00
1/30		241.00
	Total	\$1,384.30
January Expenditures		
Single Parent Scholarship		1500.00
Bargain Box Supplies		77.47
H. Turner (brochure)		20.00
BD Cake & Christmas Luncheon		269.38
	Total	\$1,597.47
<u>Bargain Box 2018</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>
January	1369.10	1500.00
February	1136.75	1000.00
March	1092.50	1300.00
April	881.40	1000.00
May	1710.50	1054.37
June	1222.02	1500.00
July	919.85—3 weeks	500.00
August	1621.50	2042.50
September	1225.00	1545.29
October	2121.00 5 weeks + memorial	1000.00
November	1635.10	1033.38
December	1409.00	2069.38
TOTAL	16,343.72	15,544.92

Bargain Box Continued...**Bargain Box Workers for March**

- 3/6** Gwen Davis and Becky Sommer
3/13 Sally Pierce and Kathy McConkie
3/20 Frances Bateman and Carolyn Beane
3/27 John and Frankie Ochsner

THE BARGAIN BOX IS IN NEED OF HOUSEHOLD AND OTHER ITEMS! Please bring your good, clean, useable items to the church. Don't forget to ask other members of your family, your friends, neighbors and co-workers for their donations as well. All of the sales we make goes back to individuals and organizations that help the needy in our area. Thank you so much for your continued support, Michael Carr and the Bargain Box Staff.

Won't you consider volunteering in the Bargain Box on sales days? By giving your time you would be helping your neighbors, nursing students (scholarships), and children in distress. You also get to know and bond with other members of our church family. All very rewarding! The Bargain Box is open 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, is easy to learn, and quite entertaining most days. Please call me at 501-525-0153, if you'd like to learn more, or to sign up! Thank you, Rosemary Nipper



LIKE us on our new Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Bargain Box."

SALE! SALE! SALE! Bargain Box offers different discounted sale items each week. Please come and check them out. We are open every Wednesday, 12:00 P.M.— 3:00 pm. All proceeds from our sales stay in Garland County for those in need. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ash Wednesday—March 6

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Worship at 7:00 p.m.


Ash Wednesday falls on March 6 this year, so the Fellowship Committee is moving the March **Wednesday Night Breakfast to March 6 at 6:00 p.m.** Yes, I said BREAKFAST! They will serve eggs, bacon, pancakes and other breakfast items to enjoy prior worship at 7:00 p.m. You don't need to bring any food items. Just enjoy your church family and attend the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. to hear beautiful music from the choir and receive the imposition of ashes. Read the following passages before coming to worship:

Isaiah 58: 1-12
2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21



YOUTH Upcoming Events



For the Month of March	BRING NON PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR THE HOMELESS ALL MONTH
Sunday, March 3 ALL YOUTH	Movie & Dinner: Meet at the Cinema Ten No later than 3:30, we'll see The Lego Movie 2 (PG) after we'll walk to Rod's
March 16-24	Spring Break—No Activities
Sunday, Mar. 31 ALL YOUTH	Picnic in the Park
	 We'll walk over to Arlington Park have a picnic and we'll play games and take a hike.

Jackson House Donations in March: Canned Soup. First Presbyterian provides two people to bag and hand out groceries every Monday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **If you'd like to volunteer, please call Jeanette Cline, 623-7233, or 701-0399.** Put your faith in action and become part of FPC's efforts to feed the poor!



***REQUIEM* by John Rutter**

**Tuesday of Holy Week
April 16, 7:00 p.m.**

**Sanctuary of
First Presbyterian Church
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church will again unite with the Choir of the Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, and voices from Henderson State University and the Hot Springs community to present John Rutter's *Requiem* for their special Lenten program on April 16 at 7:00 p.m. Rutter's *Requiem*, published in 1986, is based on five of the seven movements of the Latin *Requiem*, plus a setting of "Out of the Deep" (Psalm 130) and the inspiring anthem, *The Lord is My Shepherd* (Psalm 23), which Rutter composed earlier.

The performance will be conducted by Deleen Davidson, the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, and accompanied by Organist/Pianist, Elsen Portugal, with other supporting instrumentalists. This unique gathering of musicians from across the region, along with the excellent acoustics and beautiful architecture of the Sanctuary will enrich the performance of this critically-acclaimed *Requiem*, and deepen the congregation's experience of Lent.

The performance is free and open to the public, and a love offering will be received. For more information, call First Presbyterian Church, 213 Whittington Avenue, at (501) 624-5646 or go to the church website at www.firstpreshotsprings.org. Invite your friends to "the church with a heart in the heart of the city!"



Flower Angels

When you look at the beautiful flowers by the pulpit on Sunday mornings, did you ever wonder where they went after church? Well, there are two possibilities for their destination. The person who donated them can take them home, or they can be left for distribution. The deacons and Jan Meyers are the “flower angels” of FPC. Monday mornings, Jan creates artistic vases with the flowers and greenery. A deacon will come by and pick up these “rays of sunshine” and deliver to those in our church needing a bit of cheer. So thanks to all of you who provide the beauty of the Earth to FPC members!

2019 Flower Board—Pick your date and include your special dedication. If you do not wish to write it on the board, or if space does not allow, please call, email or visit the office. You may do this at any time well in advance of your day. *Cost is \$38.50*

We are grateful to everyone who purchases flowers that enhance our Sunday worship experience. Those donating flowers are welcome to take them home following the worship service. Otherwise we will make sure they are delivered to someone who is ill or homebound as a reminder of our prayers and presence.

Project HOPE Food Bank provides (at no charge) First Presbyterian Church with emergency food boxes for distribution to families we know are in need of food. Each food box cost a little over \$32, which is entirely supported by donations to Project Hope. If you'd like to make a donation to Project Hope to help insure that families in our community do not go hungry, please send your tax exempt gift to: Project Hope Food Bank, P.O. Box 39, Hot Springs, AR 71902. For more information please call: 501-623-3663



Recycle Aluminum—Help the Earth—Help Others!!!
Bring your aluminum cans to the church for recycling! Rev. Sellars collects the cans, turns them in to the recycling center and adds the proceeds to the Pastor's Discretionary fund. Please place cans in the kitchen, in or by the Aluminum Recycling Bin. No foil please; the recycling center will not accept it. Your aluminum can contributions, large or small, do make a difference!!!

EASTER LILIES

We are now taking orders for Lilies to be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21. Please fill out this form and include it with your payment. You may drop it in the offering plate or mail it in to the church office.

Order deadline: *April 15*. The cost is **\$23.50**

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Lilies _____ *X 23.50 = \$* _____

In Memory of: _____

And/ Or

In Honor of: _____

Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church

Memo: Easter Lily

2018 CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership			
Prior Active Members	282	Adjusted membership	282
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	9	Certificate	3
Youth Professions	3	Deaths	4
Professions & Reaffirmations	2	Deleted for any Other Reason	3
Total Gains	14	Total Losses	10
Total Ending Active Members	286		
Baptisms			
Presented by Others	1	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	114
At Confirmation	0	Female Members	173
All Other	1	Friends of the Congregation	21
		Ruling Elders on Session	16
		Do you have Deacons?	Yes
Age Distribution of Active Members			
25 & Under	25	People with Disabilities	
26 - 40	28	Hearing impairment	16
41 - 55	31	Sight impairment	11
56 - 70	92	Mobility impairment	19
Over 70	110	Other impairment	10
Total Age Distribution	286		
Christian Education			
Birth - 3	1	Grade 7	3
Age 4	0	Grade 8	1
Kindergarten	1	Grade 9	0
Grade 1	0	Grade 10	2
Grade 2	0	Grade 11	5
Grade 3	0	Grade 12	2
Grade 4	1	Young Adults	0
Grade 5	0	Over 25	48
Grade 6	1	Teachers/Officers	12
		Total Christian Education	77
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	1	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Black/African American/African	4	White	281
Middle Eastern/North African	0	Multiracial	0
Hispanic/Latino-a	0		
		Total Racial Ethnic	286
Financial Data			
Annual Income	479,037	Mission Expenses	53,002
Annual Expenses	487,243	Personnel Expenses	308,765
		Facilities Expenses	71,640



Memorials Received in February in Memory of...

Ben Bateman

from

Gale and Martha Brown

Earl and Patricia Bateman

Judy Hoefer

Bill Jones

from

Larry and Jan Meyers

Wayma Rowe

Steve and Karen DeMott

Judy Hoefer

June Scully

Joan Jones

Jim Worthey

from

Bob and Sally Pierce

Agnes Mathis

from

Bruce and Sally Simpson

Columbarium

Have you visited our Columbarium lately? Do you know we have one?

The Columbarium is the beautiful room, beside the stairs, leading to the balcony. When you are there, a peaceful, calm feeling surrounds you; stained glass, lovely woodwork, and close proximity to the sanctuary all make it a perfect place of forever rest.

Take some time to visit our Columbarium, again, or for the first time. If you are considering it for yourself or your family, please call the church office for more information, 624-5646.



How to Reach Us

First Presbyterian Church
www.firstpreshotsprings.org
 213 Whittington Avenue
 Hot Springs, AR 71901
 Church Phone: 501.624.5646 Fax: 501.624.2938
 Business Office Hours
 Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Rev. Dr. Lacy S. Sellars, Jr.
 Home: 501.318-9904, Cell: 501.282.0209
 Email: revlacy@sbcglobal.net

Support Staff

Ms. Yasmin J. Martin, Communications Coordinator,
 Email: firstpreshs213@sbcglobal.net
 Ms. Randi Oney, Financial Secretary,
 Email: randi1948@sbcglobal.net
 Mr. Randall Pierce, Sexton

Ms. Deleen Davidson, Choir Director, 501.463.4514
 Mr. Elsen Portugal, Organist, 501.693.8388
 Ms. Jamie Randall, Youth Director, 501.622.8878
 Mr. William Randall, Jr., Children's Choir, 501.622.8878
 Ms. Linda Glover, Church School Supt., 631.375.0817
 Ms. Jan Meyers, Historian, 501.624.2282

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session, 501.626.4859
 Mr. James Matheney, Treasurer, 870.866.5242
 Ms. Helen Bumpas, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, 501.767.6997
 Ms. Jackie Edwards, Board of Deacons, 501.625.2025