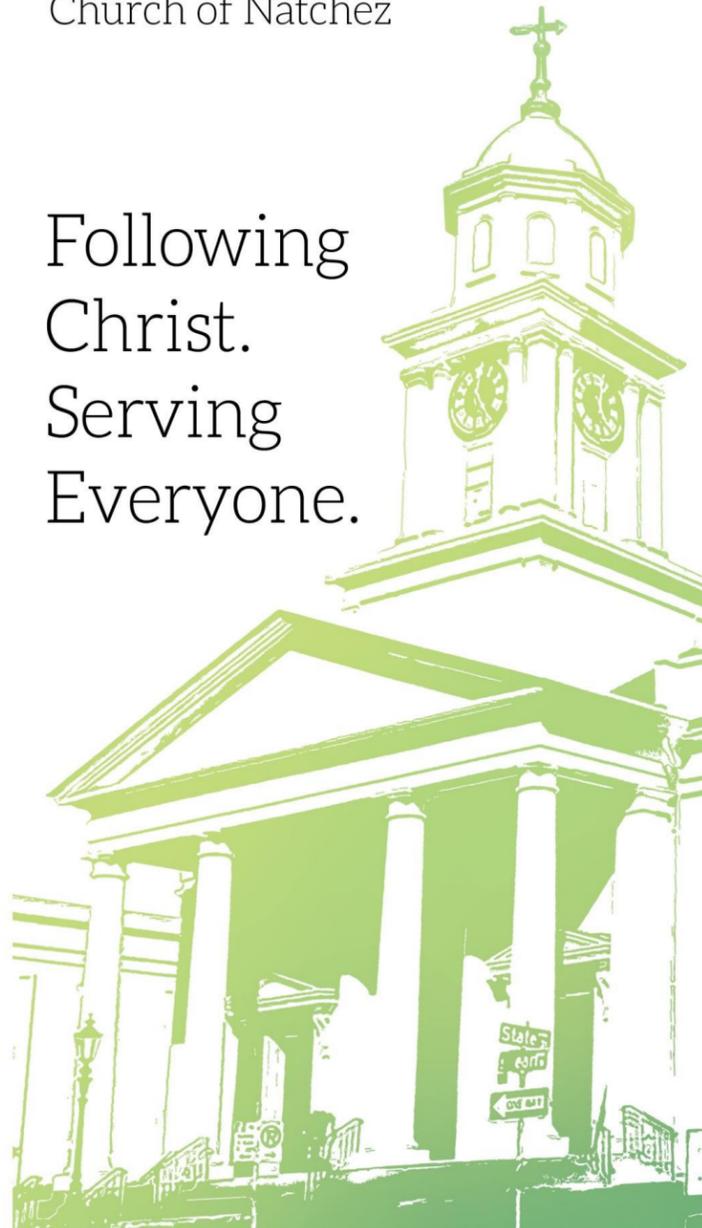


THE LINK ~ April, 2018



First Presbyterian
Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



From the Pastor: An Easter Season Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator God, Maker of the universe, we give you praise for the work of your hands, of your word, of your breath. We acknowledge with thanksgiving that, as insignificant as we may seem in the complexity of the cosmos, you have elevated us to be your children. You have created us in your image and have infused us with yearning to be united with you, our Source and our Fountain of being.

But you also have charged us to be stewards of the small orb that we call earth, a place you have blessed with beauty and diversity. Ours is a home where life is fragile; indeed, the mist-like shroud that surrounds the planet is itself fragile, perhaps in peril. Forgive our inattention to the command you gave us to love you with all our hearts and minds and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

We believe, O wondrous God, that you call us to love all the created earth: mountains and seas; rocks and shores; fruits and blossoms; and all the creatures of the land, sky, and waters. You surprise us again and again with the richness of your creation, from the inkiest depths of the oceans you created to the star-filled heavens. How manifold are your works, O God.

From the very center of your mystery, stars and galaxies without number multiplied too long ago for our finite minds to comprehend. And with precision and grace, you scattered the perfect seeds to begin the creation that has blessed us as your children. Give us hearts and minds and imaginations large enough to acknowledge the boundless range of your cosmos and the elegance and economy of minute particles pulsing in the perfection of your creative power.

Great Maker, open our hearts to know with confidence that however vast your creation, you are with us even now as we call your name, even as when sometimes we tremble with fear at your awesome power and the unfathomable stillness of the universe on a clear and starry night. You have taught us to know that you love us deeply, as deeply as where the stars dwell. You came to us to live among us to express the depth of your love in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. You came to show us that you yearn for us as we yearn for you. Thanks be to you, wondrous God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, I pray for God's continued blessings upon you,

Joan

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thursday, April 5

5:30 a.m. Coordinating Council meeting-library

Monday, April 9

Noon Worship Ministry meeting

5:30 p.m. Session meeting

Monday, April 16

5:30 p.m. Deacons' meeting

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, April 2, for Easter.

Community Outreach

Natchez Children's Services meets the second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. in the church library.

The Festival of Music Board meets the second Thursday of each month from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the Westminster Room in Stratton Chapel.

Mission Mississippi meets Tuesday, April 3, at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for lunch and a meeting.

Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 157 meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Cub Scout Pack 158 meets every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the gym.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

April 1, Easter Sunday:

8:15 Worship in Stratton Chapel with communion

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary with communion

Jim Franklin will be the guest choir director and Sharon Rouse will be the guest organist for this service.

One Great Hour of Sharing—Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, you will find envelopes in the pews to put donations for this special offering or you may write a check and label it "One Great Hour of Sharing." Drop it in the offering plate, leave it in the church office or donate on-line at www.pcusa.org.

Let's share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

Wonderful Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 26

5:15 p.m. Supper

6:00 p.m. Bible Study led by Lee Jones from April 4- April 25

New Member Class

Rev. Joan Gandy's New Member Class begins April 8 at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Anyone (including those who are already members) interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of the church is invited to attend.

Lectionary Bible Study

You are invited to join Rev. Gandy every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the church library for a lectionary Bible study.

MISSION MINISTRY

Everett Washington will be attending a "Teens 4 Christ" meeting April 13-14, in preparation for a mission trip to Guatemala this summer. Please keep him in your prayers.

F.U.E.L.

The 2018-19 academic school year will be FUEL's seventh year to reach hungry school age children in Adams County and Concordia Parish. From September through May, FUEL distributes weekend food bags to 40 area school age children who may otherwise go without food over the weekend. Annual campaigning for monetary contributions for weekend food bags begins today with contributions received in-hand by May 15 determining the number of children FUEL can commit to reach the following academic year. The cost to feed one child during the academic year is about \$300.00. All monetary contributions, regardless of amount, are needed.

In the spirit of anonymous servanthood, contributor names and individual amounts are undisclosed, but the host-organization bookkeeper issues receipts to donors for their charitable donations. The current host-organization for bookkeeping and a place for staging and storage services is First Presbyterian Church.

Checks for donations should be sent to First Presbyterian Church, 400 State Street, Natchez, MS 39120, made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with memo: FUEL.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for infants through 4 years old from 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday mornings and at appropriate times for all other church functions. We do, however, welcome children of all ages in our services!

For older children, Children's Bulletins, along with activity bags filled with paper, puzzles, color pages, and crayons are provided. You may leave the bags in the pews at the end of the service and we'll replenish them for the next week!



Youth Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Youth Bible Study and activities meet each Wednesday. The teachers are Ralph Loe & Helen Smith.

The youth need your help! They are holding a cake auction (any baked goods are welcome!) at the Church picnic on April 15. Please plan to bake something to donate for the auction--and remember to purchase a sweet treat or two to take home for yourself!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY

FPC's annual church picnic will be at 5:30 p.m. on April 15 at Routhland, 131 Winchester Road, home of Catherine and Everette Ratcliffe. The church will provide the main dish, as well as drinks. Bring your favorite picnic food--and don't forget a blanket/chair to sit on! The youth will be auctioning off cakes and sweets to raise money for their summer trip.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24

7:00 a.m. — Men's Prayer Breakfast

Gwen Washington is cooking this month!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24

2:00 p.m. For location, contact Sue Ann Wilt (601-445-2242)



BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Zach Moreland
April 4	Brenda Hicks
April 5	Debbie Hudson
April 7	Al Hollingsworth
April 11	Ryan Sharp
April 20	William Kennon
April 21	Sarah Smith
April 23	Beth Anderman
April 25	Susanna Sharp
April 26	Jackson Moody
April 27	Tanna Davis



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Wednesday, April 4

9:30 a.m. PW Coordinating Team meeting

Tuesday, April 10

10:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle

Noon Ruth Circle

Wednesday, April 11

3:30 p.m. Lydia Circle



PLAYSCHOOL

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)

If you would like to volunteer to read to the children, please contact Aretha Davis, Playschool Director (601-445-0700).

First Presbyterian Church

400 State St., Natchez, MS 39120

601-442-2581 fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net

Rev. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor

Victor Zurck, Music Director

Deon Buford, Sexton

Aretha Davis, Playschool Director

Shirley Greene, Financial Secretary

Pam McNeil, Office Administrator

FPC OFFICERS

ELDERS:

Class of 2018: Chuck Borum, Sarah Carey, Mary Jo McNerney, Anne Vidal Willet

Class of 2019: Rosemary Hall, Bobby Meason, Danna Mooney, Helen Smith

Class of 2020: Hal Hicks, Leigh Anderson, Phyllis Mashburn, Ken Andermann

DEACONS:

Class of 2018: Jon Borum, Diane Hammers, Esther Jeffus

Class of 2019: Sandra Burkes, Denise Seale, Sarah Smith

Class of 2020: Edie Christian, Ryan Sharp, Gwen Washington