

*First Presbyterian Church*

**THE LINK ~ MAY, 2018**

*From the Pastor:*

The month of May is full and ripe, ready to open to us a feast of opportunities to serve our neighbors and to live fully the joyful life that is ours.

\*May 6: This is the Sunday when we will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord.

\*May 13: We will honor mothers on this day.

\*May 20: It is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church! And on this day we will baptize and welcome new members into our congregation. Further, we will recognize 2018 high school graduates during worship. Finally, we will join in a celebratory luncheon after worship.

\*May 27: The last Sunday in May is Trinity Sunday, a day to remember the wondrous love and creative power of the triune God whom we worship -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*May God bless us in this month to continue to grow in his Spirit and in his Truth.*

According to Luke, Ascension Day is the fortieth day after the resurrection of Christ. In the Presbyterian tradition, this day has been one of the most important in the church year -- the day to celebrate the ascended and reigning Christ, the one who rules not only over the church but over the entire world.

In the first two chapters of The Acts of the Apostles, God's plan for the church begins to unfold. After the Ascension of the Lord, God's Spirit anoints the disciples in a new and mighty way on Pentecost Day: the disciples receive new gifts of teaching and healing; the church is born; the ministry of the church begins with the baptizing of 3,000 new members (Acts 2:41).

It was the beginning of many centuries of church work, now including ours -- of trying to get it right; of living as disciples who follow the call to love and serve in the manner of Jesus as revealed in Scripture.

The Lord promises to be present to us in the Spirit today. In his Spirit, all things are possible. Much work remains to be done. Come -- let us serve the Lord together in joy!

Giving thanks for you and praying for God's abundant blessings upon you,

*Joan*

MONTHLY MEETINGS

<b>Monday, May 7</b>	Noon	Worship Ministry meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Spiritual Life Ministry meeting
<b>Thursday, May 10</b>	5:30 a.m.	Coordinating Council meeting-library
<b>Monday, May 14</b>	5:30 p.m.	Session meeting
<b>Monday, May 21</b>	5:30 p.m.	Deacons' meeting

GENERAL INFORMATION

**The Church Office**

The Church office will be closed on Monday, May 28, for the Memorial Day holiday.

**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.

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.

**FPC To Host Natchez Festival of Music Performances**

The Natchez Festival of Music will hold *children's music workshops* in Fellowship Hall (the gym), from 10-11 a.m. every Saturday in May. The schedule is as follows: May 5—The Three Little Pigs (A Musical Stage Production); May 12—Fairy Tales in Music (Songs from the Greatest Fairy Tale Musical Movies); May 19—A Musical Instrument Petting Zoo (An Interactive, Hands-On Musical Experience for Kids); May 26—Painting with Emotion (Draw and Paint Your Own Pictures Inspired by Music). These programs are free and open to all!

On Thursday, May 10, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary, FPC will host a program called "*Phantom & Beyond: The Majestic World of the Organ*" presented by Joseph Britain. The power and versatility of the pipe organ to move an audience are legendary. Joseph Britain will move seamlessly from some of the true giants of classical organ literature to Broadway favorites like The Phantom of the Opera and film scores by John Williams to classic rock. Tickets are available at [www.natchezfestivalofmusic.com](http://www.natchezfestivalofmusic.com).

On Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary, FPC will host a concert entitled "*The Two Faces of Bernstein: A Centennial Celebration of America's Preeminent Renaissance Musician.*" The year 1918 saw the birth of the modern age as well as the birth of Leonard Bernstein, one of the most profound musicians in American history. Bernstein, who would go on to become one of the most prolific American composers of the 20th century, was a true Renaissance man in terms of being a great musician, conductor, and lecturer. The impact that he has had on our musical journey over the last 100 years has catapulted us to where we are today in American classical music and musical theatre.

Tickets are available at [www.natchezfestivalofmusic.com](http://www.natchezfestivalofmusic.com).

WORSHIP MINISTRY

On Sunday, May 20, we will collect a special Pentecost Offering. Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$14 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

Of the money collected, *forty percent* stays at FPC to develop and support programs for young people in our church and community. Twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers serving in communities around the world. An additional twenty-five percent supports Ministries with Youth to help guide youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word. They remaining ten percent is devoted to children at-risk.

Donations may be turned into to the church office (made out to FPC and labeled "Pentecost Offering") or you may give online at [presbyterianmission.org/give/Pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/give/Pentecost). If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

## SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

### **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.

### **Wonderful Wednesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**



5:15 p.m. Supper

6:00 p.m. "Movies in May"

In May, Wonderful Wednesdays will feature "Movies in May" on May 2, 9, 16, and 23. On May 30, Lance Harris will present the program. Come enjoy the food at 5:15 and program at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. After each movie, the group will discuss themes, life choices, and characters that arise in the movie. And there will be time for questions and discussion after Lance's program on the final Wednesday of the month. Starting in June, various summer Wednesday evening programs will be announced as they are scheduled.

## MISSION MINISTRY

### **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. Contributions received in-hand by May 15 determine 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 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.

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

**Tuesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

7:00 a.m. — Men's Prayer Breakfast

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**Tuesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

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

## 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!



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children meet for Sunday School each week at 9:15 a.m. They also meet during Wonderful Wednesdays for supper and Bible activities. A nursery is provided for infants and toddlers.



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

They also meet for Bible Study and activities each Wednesday night as part of our Wonderful Wednesday program.

Sunday, May 20, is Senior Recognition Sunday. We will recognize our graduating senior during the 10:30 worship service. Those graduating this year are Katie Borum and Piper Mophett. We will also recognize Cecile Croquet, a foreign exchange student living with the Borums. We are happy Cecile has been part of our church family this year.



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY

Time to Celebrate! Celebrate the church's birthday on Pentecost Sunday! Celebrate aging! Celebrate our high school seniors who are graduating! Celebrate all of our members' birthdays! Join us May 20, for a celebration covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall, following the 10:30 service. The church will provide a birthday cake, chicken and tea. It's party time at First Presbyterian Church, so join us for great food and fellowship!



## BIRTHDAYS

May 3	Bryan Johnson
May 10	Bobby Meason
May 12	Denise Seale
May 13	Lennon Aldridge Nicole Harris
May 17	Madeline Merritt
May 19	Dotty Stubbs Sue Ann Wilt Ruby Mooney
May 20	Dave Troutman Pam McDonald Elfriede Seyfarth
May 22	Joyce Borum
May 24	Tatum Brumfield
May 25	Everette Ratcliffe
May 26	Phyllis Mashburn



## 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).



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Wednesday, May 2**

9:30 a.m. PW Coordinating Team meeting

**Tuesday, May 8**

10:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle

Noon Ruth Circle

**Wednesday, May 9**

3:30 p.m. Lydia Circle

**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

**First Presbyterian Church**

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Rev. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor

Victor Zurck, Music Director

Deon Buford, Sexton

Aretha Davis, Playschool Director

Shirley Greene, Financial Secretary

Pam McNeil, Office Administrator



First Presbyterian  
Church of Natchez

Following  
Christ.  
Serving  
Everyone.

