

April 2021

Main Street Presbyterian Church

# The Main Thing

## The Lord's Supper and Christian Love

Paul's main reason for writing the letter to the Corinthians was to address the problem of disunity among the congregation. A number of difficulties evidence this lack of unity. There was a party spirit among the people. Some identified themselves with Paul, some with Apollos, others with Peter or Christ (1 Cor. 1:10-17). This led to divisions within the church. There was an inability to work through problems which resulted in frivolous lawsuits (1 Cor. 6:1-11). Religious liberty was being practiced with no concern for the spiritual condition of others (1 Cor. 8). Spiritual gifts were sought after for personal gain rather than the edification of the church (1 Cor. 12-14). These were the pastoral issues confronting the apostle Paul in Corinth.

To combat these problems Paul appealed to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the nature of Christian love. The Lord's Supper was instituted as a sign and seal of our oneness with Christ. Our union with Christ is the basis for our union with one another. Paul makes this clear when he taught, "The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread." The selfishness and divisiveness that permeated the Corinthian church was inconsistent with the Lord's Supper. When the church gathers for the Lord's Supper it is a reminder of our unity in Christ. Paul sharply rebukes the Corinthians for their ignorance of this fact. In the very practice of the Lord's Supper a deep seeded selfishness was revealed, "for in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk."

The Lord's Supper is a reminder that we exist with and for others. Self-interest, although legitimate in its proper place, must bow the knee to the interest of the corporate body. Something has gone tragically wrong when the Christian community becomes a me, me, me oriented community. The root of all the problems in Corinth was selfishness, and the apostolic remedy was love. The Biblical doctrine of love is emphatically selfless. Paul's characterization of love bears this out: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7) Each time we "come together" for the Lord's Supper we are reminded that we are part of a body, the body of Christ. If we are to function as a body, we must exercise selfless love.

This emphasis upon the corporate over the individual is needed in our age. We live in a culture dominated by self-interest. We are culturally conditioned to prioritize personal interests rather than the well-being of others (whether the church, family, or state). "Individualistic self-fulfillment," says D. A. Carson, "becomes the prime good." Paul's teaching on selfless love is out of step with 21<sup>st</sup> century American life. Carson provides another cogent observation, "It has taken the end of the twentieth century to make self-centeredness a virtue."<sup>1</sup> This philosophy of life confronts us wherever we turn.

The Lord's Supper serves as a safeguard against the contemporary call to selfish individualism. When we come together as God's people, we are reminded that we are one body. We are also reminded that we function as one body through the exercise of love. The Christian community's love for one another is one of our best forms of witness to our neighbors. This is the primary teaching of Jesus' "new commandment." "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

Pastor Matocha

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<sup>1</sup> Carson, *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*, (Grand Rapids: Michigan, Zondervan, 1996) pages 48-49 & 205.



**Bryant & Sarah Bean**  
**Molly & Graham**



**Ian & Ashlyn Marble**  
**Millie & Sophie**

**Where are you from?**

Bryant and I both grew up in Columbus! We lived in Tupelo and Memphis for several years prior to returning home 2 years ago.

**What brought you to Columbus?**

We moved back to Columbus for Bryant's work and to be close to family.

**What is your occupation?**

Bryant works in the restaurant business, and I am a registered nurse.

**What is your church background?**

Bryant and I were both raised in a church here in Columbus.

**How did you hear about MSPC?**

Growing up in Columbus, we have always been familiar with it.

**What is your favorite book of the Bible or portion of Scripture?**

Romans

**What is your favorite Christian hymn/song?**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Do you have any hobbies?**

Spending time with family and raising our kids

**Where are you from?**

Both of our parents were in the military, so we have lived all over. Most recently we moved from Travis Air Force Base, California.

**What brought you to Columbus?**

Ian's in the Air Force so we moved here for his job as a T-6 instructor at Columbus Air Force Base.

**What is your occupation?**

Ian is a pilot, and I am a stay-at-home Mom.

**What is your church background?**

We were both raised in the PCA church.

**How did you hear about MSPC?**

We heard about Main Street Presbyterian online.

**What is your favorite book of the Bible or portion of Scripture?**

Our favorite books of the Bible are Romans and Ephesians.

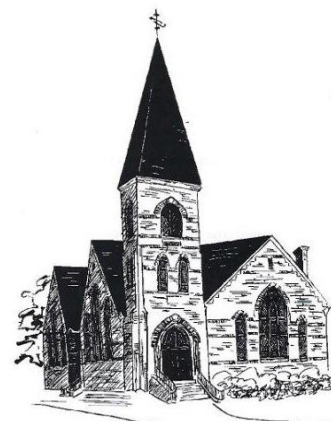
**What is your favorite Christian hymn/song?**

*In Christ Alone*

**Do you have any hobbies?**

Ian likes to hunt and fish, and I like crafting or DIY projects.

*Welcome, New Members!*



*Main Street Presbyterian Church*



## Main Street Christian School



Spring has arrived and with it comes warmer weather, which means lots of outside time! My younger threes class is full of energy, and I knew from the first day of class that this group of inquisitive kiddos loved to be in the great outdoors. Although we may be confined to our school playground, nature is still all around us and there are so many learning opportunities.

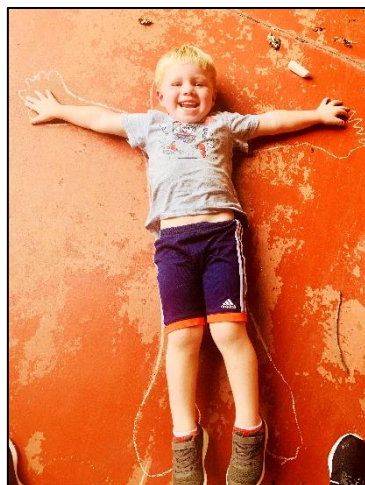
One day the children discovered a butterfly balancing on a teeter totter. The butterfly was kind enough to stay put while the children explored its wings, antennas, etc. This sparked a conversation about its life cycle!

On a particularly warm day, the children were bringing me flowers from around the playground. Some of the flowers were full of pollen and I was able to rub some on their fingers. This led to a discussion about pollination and the importance of insects that spread pollen from flower to flower. I also reminded them that bees drink from flowers, so do not pick ALL the flowers they see.

My favorite experience teaching outside is our "pecan lesson." We have a large pecan tree in one of our play areas. The big, tall tree came from one small pecan that grew in nutrient rich soil and had lots of sunlight. I often tell the children that they are like the little acorn. The nutrient rich soil is the Bible, and the sunlight is God's love! I ask them what they will look like if they grow up surrounding themselves in God's word and love. Their responses always include flexing their muscles and telling me that with God's help they will be big and strong.

The younger threes class at Main Street Christian School has respect for our world and for God's creatures big and small!

Ms. Emmie





## Women in the Church

Hello Ladies,

A big thank you to all who contributed to our gift card shower! We have showered our new babies and our bride.

The Easter Egg hunt will be on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, here at the church. What does an Egg hunt need? Eggs stuffed with candy! We will be stuffing eggs on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1 pm. Come help if you can.

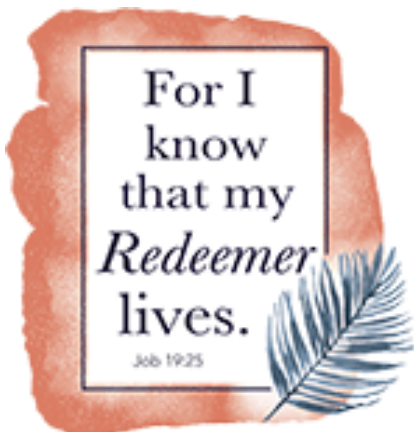
WIC in the Morning will meet April 6th in the WIC room at 10. WIC at Night will meet April 7th at 7 p.m. at the home of Janie Williams.

Easter is such a special and spiritual time for us. We get to rejoice and celebrate all Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection. I love Christmas and I know lots of people do, but Christmas would be nothing without Easter. Why would anyone celebrate a baby's birth as we do, if we didn't know what he did at the end of his life?

Have a wonderful and blessed Easter!

In his service,

Janie



## April Volunteers

- April 4** Kathyryn Matocha, Ivy Harris, Meryl Fisackerly
- April 11** Shirley Swoope, Margo Allgood, Karmel Crandall
- April 18** Frances Glenn, Pat Russell, Jelaine Fondren
- April 25** Amber Henson, Jennifer White, Laurie Flora

### Budget Report

March Offerings

\$ 24,673

### April Counter

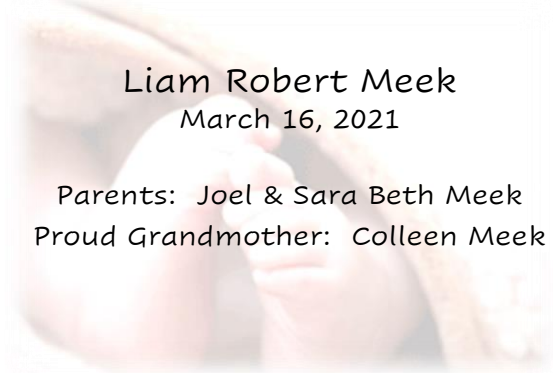
Jay Nail

Liam Robert Meek

March 16, 2021

Parents: Joel & Sara Beth Meek

Proud Grandmother: Colleen Meek





# April

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Maundy Thursday Service 6 p.m.</i>	2 <i>Good Friday</i>	3  <i>Bill &amp; Jami Laws</i>
4  <i>EASTER Communion</i>	5	6 <b>WIC</b> 10 a.m.  Sandra Pilkinton	7 <b>WIC</b> at Night 7 p.m.	8  Beth Ferguson	9  Richard Fleming	10
11	12  <i>Gee &amp; Becca Allgood</i>	13	14 <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <b>WIC</b> at Night 7 p.m.	22	23  Paige Pilkinton	24  <i>Tom &amp; Robin Tait</i>
25	26  Jennifer White	27  <i>Brinton &amp; Meryl Fisackerly</i>	28 <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 6:30 p.m.  Austin Krohn	29	30	

MSPC Elders and Deacons

*Our Shut-Ins:*

Louise Armstrong  
 Carol Carpenter  
 Phillip Goodwin  
 John Mark Russell  
 Faith Whitlock  
 Expectant Moms:  
 Kailee Chilcutt, Katie Herb,  
 & Emily Krohn

President Joe Biden  
 Officials in Washington  
 Governor Tate Reeves

Mayor Robert Smith  
 Police Chief Fred Shelton  
 Sheriff Eddie Hawkins  
 State, City, and County Officials

Helping Hands  
 Life Choices Pregnancy Center  
 All Churches and Pastors in Columbus  
 Palmer Home

Coronavirus  
 The financial pressures of small business owners, our  
 congregation, and local businesses  
 The financial needs of the Church



## **Main Street Presbyterian Church**

701 Main Street  
P. O. Box 26  
Columbus, MS 39703



## **Main Street Presbyterian Church** (A Presbyterian Church in America Congregation)

### **Sunday Schedule**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship