

June 2020

Main Street Presbyterian Church

# The Main Thing

Dear Main Street Church,

It is with thankfulness and excitement that the elders announce our return to in-person worship services on Sunday, June 7th. In Psalm 122 King David said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'" Worship is the centerpiece and high point of church life. It is a taste of heaven. I know we all have greatly missed our gatherings. It is time to return.

We are aware that the Coronavirus still poses a threat to some in our church. Therefore, **we strongly encourage those who are immunocompromised and others who are vulnerable due to age or underlying health problems to stay home. Any congregant who is not comfortable with gathering in person for any reason should stay home. We will continue to provide a live stream option so you can safely follow along with the service in your home.**

Below is a 3 Phase Plan explaining HOW we will return to in-person gatherings. We ask all our members to familiarize yourself with the plan, and the CDC and State government guidance documents mentioned. We are trusting that you who come will use common sense precautions, will assess the risks for you and your family, and will respect others in the sanctuary.

Unfortunately, there will be no Sunday school classes or nursery until further notice. We are equipping the Baby Break Room, Fellowship Hall, and a few classrooms with live streaming if you need to take a child out of the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please call me or one of the ruling elders. See you June 7th.

Your Pastor,  
Todd

## Main Street Presbyterian Church

### 3 Phase Covid-19 Plan

#### General Guidelines

- We encourage all members to read the CDC Guidance for Communities of Faith, and Governor Tate Reeves "Safe Worship" Guidelines for in-person worship services. You can access these documents through the following links: [CDC Guidance for Communities of Faith "Safer Worship"](#)
- We ask that if you answer yes to any of the following questions you DO NOT attend in-person worship services at MSPC.
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in the past 14 days?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

- Immunocompromised congregants and older individuals should stay home and livestream the service until the threat of Covid-19 has mitigated to an appropriately comfortable level.
- Any congregants not yet comfortable with gathering in-person due to COVID-19 should livestream the service for the time being.
- Please show Christian grace toward those who hold a differing opinion on these matters than your own. This is a matter of Christian liberty and prudence.

### 3 Phase Plan

- **Phase 1** – Livestream Only (March 22- May 31)
  - Livestream, worship from home
  - No in-person meetings
- **Phase 2** – In-Person Services (following social distancing guidelines) & Livestream (June 7)
  - Sunday service starting at normal time- 10:40am
  - Precautions Implemented (including, but not limited to)
    - Livestream option available for those staying at home
    - Masks and hand sanitizers available at entry points
    - Social distancing in sanctuary (including worship team)
    - Available seating designated
      - Congregants encouraged to keep 6 feet distance
      - Family units to sit 6 feet away from other family units
    - Parents encouraged to use good judgment in bringing young children
    - Childcare and nursery NOT provided
    - Bulletins placed on pews
    - Offering plates at the back of church
    - Baby Break Room and Fellowship Hall equipped with livestream of service for parents with young children
- **Phase 3** – Sunday School & Nursery Services Resume
  - Sunday morning childcare and Sunday School returns
  - All activities and hosted activities with childcare resumes
    - Community Groups, Wednesday evening meetings, Happy Hearts
  - Precautions continued TBD





# Happy Hearts

Bess Swedenburg

COVID-19 has caused a dreadful season of change, illness, lonesomeness, and death for our country. Happy Hearts has missed being together for the last three months and will not meet in June. I do hope we will be able to celebrate in July. My memory bank has been stirred during this time and one of the songs I have heard over and over in my head has been a song Robin Weaver sang at several of my family members' funeral services in our sanctuary.

"In times like these you need a Savior, in times like these you need an anchor,  
Be very sure, be very sure, Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.  
This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One, This Rock is Jesus, the Only One,  
Be very sure, be very sure, Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!"

Several verses later:

"In times like these I have a Savior, in times like these I have an anchor,  
I'm very sure, I'm very sure my anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.  
This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One, This Rock is Jesus, the Only One."

a George Beverly Shea song

These times have been different, difficult, and seemingly long! We can truly praise God that John Mark Russell recovered from the virus and that no others of our church family have contracted the disease. However, we are all ready to be returning to the things we love and enjoy doing! I am not referencing fun or lighthearted things, though that would be nice too! I am thinking of returning to our sanctuary to worship together. We, as God's children, are not meant to worship alone, or out in the woods or at the lake, though many say it is a meaningful method of worship. I, too, am guilty of that occasionally and can appreciate enjoying God's creation as an expression of Him as the Creator! The stars in the night sky, the mountain peaks, oceans' waves, an old sprawling oak tree, a calm lake early in the morning, the list goes on and on. These are gifts from our Heavenly Father and good reasons to praise Him, but not the same as worship services. From Hebrews 10:23-25, we read, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." So, we are meant to gather together in corporate worship and enjoy spiritual interaction, encouraging one another! I am personally so ready to meet with each of you, whom I love dearly and miss worshipping with as my church family. It will be a day of rejoicing when we are together, praising our Savior, trusting Him to deliver us through this pandemic, singing hymns in unison, hearing our elders pray and our pastor deliver his message in person - worshipping together! We might consider not hugging each other as some may not be comfortable doing that. It will not be easy, for indeed, we need the hugs desperately. Soon.....I pray!

One of the saddest consequences of COVID-19 has been the deaths of our loved ones and not being able to have our friends and family gather for funerals as we have always done, especially in the South. Again, our Happy Hearts group is grieving the death of one of our precious members, Brad Talley. Brad enjoyed Happy Hearts, he enjoyed being a greeter before Sunday morning worship services, he had an amazing attitude concerning his illness and forthcoming departure from this life to the next. He and Alice have been a precious example of how to cope with death, giving God the glory all along the journey.

We are blessed to have had this family come to Main Street and worship with us. They have participated regularly and taken active roles in the ministries of our church. But best of all, they have loved us, and we have had the privilege of loving them. Brad will be missed when we gather again, but we will rejoice knowing that he no longer suffers, and he is enjoying being in the presence of the Lord. As Paul said, "To die is gain." Alice and her family had a private family service and then met in our fellowship hall for a meal together. That was a blessing for each person involved. It felt so good to be serving a family we love in our usual way. Remember to pray for Alice and all of her family as they adapt to a new life.

Another of our Happy Hearts members, Debbie and Bertram Jenkins are grieving over the death of their son-in-law, Keith Cole. Keith was diagnosed with Signet Ring Cell Carcinoma and suffered a painful, traumatic illness. Our church family has been praying for Monica, Keith and their son, Michael, for quite some time. We will continue to pray for Monica and all of her family as they adjust to their new life without their dearly beloved. Her faith has remained strong throughout Keith's illness and passing. I am confident her witness has touched many lives. Because of COVID-19 we have had difficulty expressing our sympathy to this family. If you would like to send a card to Monica, her address is Mrs. Monica Cole, 115 Allys Avenue, Mooreville, MS 38857.

Where do we turn to find comfort? To the only One who can give peace and comfort. Whether we are distressed over the limitations inflicted upon us because of the pandemic or the sadness we experience when we grieve our losses, we are blessed to know that God is our Rock, our Song, our Salvation, our Comforter and Sovereign Lord!

The following verses will hopefully provide encouragement and peace to you:

- Psalm 3:5 "I lie down and sleep, I wake again, because the Lord sustains me."  
Psalm 33:20-22 "We wait in hope for the Lord, He is our help and our shield."  
Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."  
Psalm 46:1-2 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.  
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way."  
Psalm 56:8 "You number my wanderings, put my tears in Your bottle."  
Psalm 73:26 "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever."  
Psalm 121:8 "The Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore."  
Psalm 135:6 "The Lord does whatever pleases Him in the heavens and on the Earth."  
Psalm 141:8 "But my eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign Lord, in You I take refuge."  
Psalm 150:6 "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord"  
(this is the last verse of the Psalms - a great way to end the book.)  
Numbers 6: 24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."





# June 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lucas White	2 <i>Robin &amp; Betty Weaver</i>	3 Meghan Matocha <i>Vee &amp; Beth Ferguson</i>	4 Parker Weber	5	6 <i>Roger &amp; Joy Day</i>
7 <b>Welcome Back Communion</b>	8	9	10	11 Kelly Weber	12	13
14 Lydia Duncan Rhonda White <i>Ed &amp; Rhonda White</i>	15	16 Robert Glenn <i>Ron &amp; Linda Simpson</i>	17 Kitty Brewer Gray Flora	18 Brad Talley	19 Jonathan Crandall <i>Richard &amp; Nell Fleming</i>	20 Allan Brewer Nicholas Hairston
21  Caiden Krohn	22	23	24 Phillip Goodwin	25	26	27
28	29 <i>Trip &amp; Bethany Hairston</i>	30				



## Welcome to the World!



Chandler Hus Johnson  
Born on May 5, 2020

Parents: Hunter & Anna Gaines Johnson

Emily Ellen Wilson  
Born on May 7, 2020  
Parents: Brad & Ellen Wilson

Eleanor (Nora) Grace Singletary  
Born on May 11, 2020  
Parents: Kyle & Katie Singletary

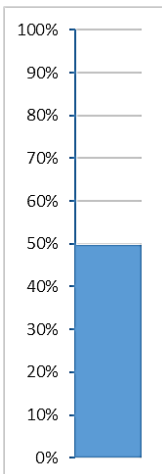
Lillian Stephanie Rose Landon  
Born on May 19, 2020  
Parents: Tristan & Anna Landon



## Women in the Church

Plans are being made for a summer study to begin the middle of June. The book 12 Extraordinary Women by John MacArthur will be the focus of the study. Please watch for details to be announced in the bulletin or by email.

## FAITH PROMISE PLEDGE PROGRESS



### 2020 GOALS:

\$45,000 OPERATIONAL

\$55,000 PRAISE

\$65,000 HALLELUJAH

PLEDGE DEADLINE IS  
SUNDAY, JUNE 7



### Praise:

Main Street re-opening June 7, 2020

### Prayer:

MSPC Elders and Deacons

#### Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong

Betty Weaver

The Family of Keith Cole

Phillip Goodwin

Debbie Jenkins

John Mark Russell

The Family of Brad Talley

Faith Whitlock

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President Donald Trump

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

Palmer Home

All Churches and Pastors in Columbus

### Coronavirus

The financial pressures of small  
business owners, our congregation,  
and local businesses

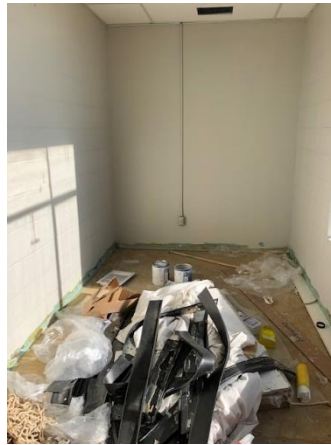
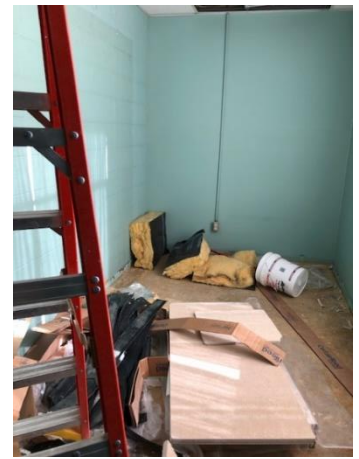
The financial needs of the Church

### Budget Report

May Offerings  
(at the time of printing)

\$ 17,975

# Nursery Renovations 2020

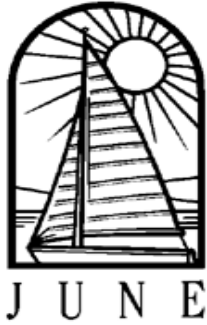


**Thank You!**

Jon Kilpatrick  
Nathan Kilpatrick  
Mark Koutsovalas  
Lane Pennington  
Ed White

## Main Street Presbyterian Church

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



### **Sunday Schedule**

9:00 a.m. Church Officer Prayer Time  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

### **Wednesday Schedule**

5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities  
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
and Prayer Time

### **Thursday Schedule**

Weekly Prayer Meeting at Noon

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