

February 2021

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing

JOIN US FOR MISSIONS MONTH

Our 2021 Missions Conference will necessarily be different because of the current health environment. The planning is ongoing. MSPC sent out a survey email from the church asking for congregational input to get an estimate for attendance so we can better plan for distancing and safety. If you plan to attend with your children, it would be especially helpful to respond. ***If you did not receive one and plan to attend, please let Diann know so we can include you. We would appreciate receiving the responses by Feb. 3.***

Our expected guests have confirmed they want to visit with us and are willing to abide any guidelines we set. **The missionary presentations and the keynote messages will be live-streamed. An email update will be sent when the plans are complete with our final safety guidelines and scheduled activities.**

These are the plans as we know them so far:

On Sunday, Feb. 7, Rev. Jim Shull has accepted our invitation to preach on Faith Promise Sunday. We will meet for 2 services: 8:30 am and 10:40 am.

On Sunday, Feb. 14, Dale and Susan Ellison are very much looking forward to being our guests for the Pizza Supper. We plan to gather at 5 pm. This is a family-oriented event, and they will share a presentation after supper.

The Missions Conference weekend will be Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27-28. Rev. Claude McRoberts will be our keynote speaker. **Wiley Smith**, who leads medical mission trips for MTW, and **Joe Johnson**, the new RUF Campus Minister at Mississippi State, will be joining us Saturday afternoon. **Bob McPherson**, who leads prison ministry will be our guest for Sunday School on Sunday. Please pray for Bob as he just lost his wife of 56 years, Becky. If attendance warrants, we will have children's programs Saturday afternoon.

Rev. McRoberts will share the first keynote message on Saturday evening, the second during the worship service on Sunday morning, and the third on Sunday evening. There will be only one morning service at 10:40. The evening service will be moved up to 5 pm. Both services will be live-streamed.

An email update will be sent out later in February to confirm these plans and to let everyone know of all specific changes.

Our annual Faith Promise Pledge drive will begin Sunday, Feb. 7. Please prayerfully consider how you might give to advance the Gospel during the coming year.

Missions Conference

Missionary Presentations:

Sunday, February 14, Pizza Supper 5 pm:



Dale and Susan Ellison
(pictured with Lauren)

Peru Mission

Saturday, February 27, 3:30 pm:



Joe Johnson

Campus Minister | Mississippi State



Wiley and Karon Smith
MTW Medical Missions

Sunday, February 28, 9:40 am:

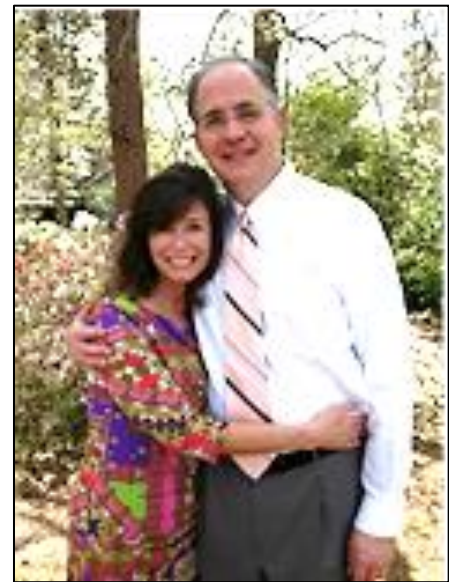


Bob McPherson
Prison Evangelist

Missions Conference

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Claude McRoberts



Mr. McRoberts has been the senior minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, Alabama, since 1999. As newlyweds, Claude and Betsy moved here (to Columbus) in 1991. Claude served here at Main Street as associate minister under Rev. Darwin Jordan, senior minister.

FAITH PROMISE

Here at Main Street, the means used to fund numerous missionaries is called *Faith Promise* and consists of giving above the tithe. It should grow, not replace, our normal giving. Study booklets are available and pledge cards will be distributed beginning in February. We hope to receive the pledges by the end of March.

The amounts pledged will be used to set the Missions Budget for the coming year. While these pledges are non-binding and confidential (no one will come looking for you regarding your pledge and only the Missions Chairman sees them), they should be made prayerfully and seriously. The Missions Chairman, John (Russ) Russell, will total the pledged amounts and inform the Missions Committee what their total budget will be for the next year.

Missions needs grow each year. In addition to living support for missionaries, Main Street would like to offer more missions trip opportunities. So, please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you commit to give between this Missions Conference and the next.

MISSIONS
Month

Prayer and Missions

Matt White

As I sat down to write this brief article, I wondered at times, how can I elaborate on the beautiful, inerrant words found in scripture that were written by the very breath of the Almighty God? How can I attempt to meld together two things as precious as the gift of prayer and the majesty of the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Will I write with a sincere heart, or will I, in sin, attempt to bring glory to my own name, instead of the name of the Living God? For me, as I'm sure are with many, these things are tough, as I am not an expert concerning much, and even less an expert on scripture, prayer, or the Great Commission. So, usually when we reach such points of inadequacy and helplessness, we, being God's people, turn to prayer. In that light, let's look at three questions. Why do we pray? Better yet, what even is prayer? More so, how does it relate to the spreading of the Gospel and God's promise to His people?

Let us look at the second question first. What is Prayer? According to our larger catechism question 178, "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of His Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies". I think that certainly is an adequate answer to the question at hand. To elaborate a bit more, I believe that prayer is a way we worship the Almighty God. When we pray, we are acknowledging the supernatural; His power above all of creation. John Calvin said, "Prayer is the chief exercise of faith". We rely on our graciously given faith, by reaching out to a being that is so far above and beyond anything we can fathom or understand, that we believe that He can hear our thoughts, and feel the deepest pains in our hearts. If we didn't believe these things, we wouldn't pray at all, or at least not with sincerity. When we pray in the way we are instructed by Christ, and with a sincere heart, we are automatically placing ourselves where we belong, as fallen creatures in

need of the sustaining grace and protection of the Almighty Creator. So, prayer most certainly is how we make petitions, confessions, supplications, and give thanks to the Living God, in the name of Christ, by the help of the Holy Spirit. At the same time, it is also the most intimate way that we show our trust and belief (no matter how shaky that trust may be) in the triune God that rules supreme over all His creation.

This leads us to the first question stated above, "Why do we pray?". As discussed, we pray because we need help. We pray to confess sins, and to give thanks as well. One example mentioned earlier is that we often turn to prayer in times of helplessness, inadequacies, or hopelessness. This is true, but let's also think about *how* we pray in these times. Of course, we should revere God Almighty, but often we find ourselves comfortably lying in our beds praying. We pray walking down the sidewalk. We pray driving along the road. We stand casually with friends and family and pray to THE GOD of all creation. At almost any time, in any place, we might offer up a prayer in the name of our Savior. At times I wonder, "why is this?". From where does such confidence come? Is it because we believe ourselves to be so righteous that God will hear us? If so, we must ask, from where could this righteousness come? Clearly, God's Word tells us that Christ has imputed His perfect righteousness unto us. We have absolutely nothing to offer God in ourselves, but through His perfect love for us, we have a mediator and intercessor in whom we can be confident we are heard. Praise God that we, His people, aren't left to rely on ourselves as we approach Him. What a dreadful thing it would be to even utter one word, no matter how earnest we feel it might be, in the direction of the Living God without having been covered in the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Also, to this question, we know our God is immutable. We know this as we read many verses of scripture such as Psalm 33:11, Malachi 3:6, or Hebrews 13:8, among others. So, if God does not change, why do we pray, as if we could

recommend a better plan? God knows the beginning and the end. As with all things, He has ordained the end, and the means He will use to get there. We must accept that we are instructed to pray, and at times, prayer is a means which He will use as He works out His sovereign will. God graciously grants us faith, so we pray, and God uses our prayers as He will. This is also the same thought process we should use when we begin to think about missions.

Then finally, the last question at hand here is "How does prayer relate to missions?". To restate the above, we do not, and cannot know how our prayers will be answered, or how they will be used by God as a means to work out His perfect plan, but yet we pray because we know we should. We pray because our blind eyes have been opened to see that God, and his mercies, are real. We rely on him to sustain us, and we ask. So, in the same way, we do not know who God has chosen as His elect, or what means He might decide to use to regenerate those whom He will. We are told to proclaim the Gospel. We don't *beg* people to "join us". We don't *plead* that they willfully "make a decision" to become saved, as if our coercion would be the reason they come to Christ. We simply tell the good news, passing it from generation to generation, and pray God may use our voices as the potter uses the wheel, to mold His people how He will both here, even in our own households, and abroad to the ends of the earth.

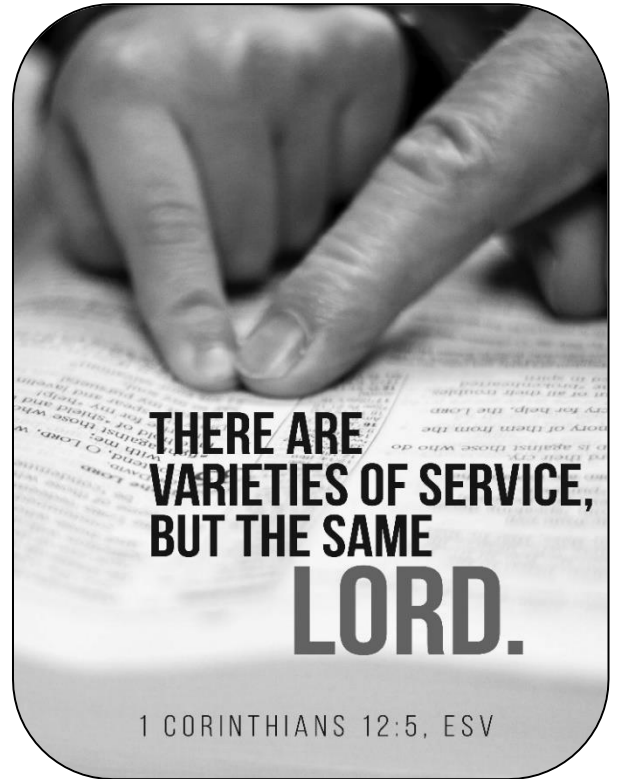
This is why we should pray for missions at Main Street, and for our missionaries whom God has called to be those voices around the world. As previously mentioned, I often feel inadequate when I pray, so I tend to rely heavily on the Word for help. Even though it took a long time to understand it, Psalm 51 has played a huge part in my life. When I don't know what to pray, or how, this chapter is usually where I start. As a child, I heard these words sang by the choir over and over again (I can hear it now, "Restooooore.... the Joyyyyy!"), and at the time I didn't even know where they were found in the Bible. As I got older, I began to realize why it was such an inspiring

prayer for me and so many of God's people. I won't recap the whole chapter, but in discussing missions, I would like to emphasize verses 11-13. David asks God in this prayer "restore to me the joy of your salvation...then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you." In Matthew Henry's commentary he states, speaking of David, "by this Psalm he is, and will be to the worlds end, teaching transgressors, telling them what God had done for his soul". We "teach them" of salvation in Christ. Not that they would *learn* their way into the grace of God, but that they might see what has been done for us as fellow transgressors, and that it might be a means God uses to regenerate hearts of stone. David realizes that the restoration of his joy must come from God, just as all things do. He also knows that he cannot adequately "teach transgressors" until God has restored this joy, only after he acknowledged his sinfulness and need of God's mercy in the first eleven verses. Praise God that nothing is outside of His sovereign will.

February is "Missions Month" at Main Street. With these things in mind, please pray for our mission work and those who we support as they proclaim the Gospel. Come hear them report of their lives abroad and activities they are involved in, and together we will pray for the lost in our community, state, country and around the world. Finally, in the same way as David, let us pray that our joy in Christ's saving work be restored by the One who saves, so that as the world grows darker, the light of Christ might shine even brighter as we proclaim what has been done for us.

Before they call I will answer;
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Isaiah 65:24
ESV



Know that I am
with you and
will keep you
wherever you go.

GENESIS 28:15, NRSV

Making a Difference One Life at a Time

Colleen Meek

I did not grow up in a “Christian home,” however as an adult, I regularly recount and recall the Divine providence of my Heavenly Father, that is His rule over all things, at work in the life of a very ordinary little girl growing up in Cape Town, South Africa. When I consider God’s timing of the “saints” whose paths He orchestrated to cross with mine, and in so doing, afforded me the privilege to hear the good news of how I could be saved by the Lord Jesus Christ through the covenant of grace as the Holy Spirit changed my heart, and I repented and believed on Him, my heart bursts with thanksgiving, and I say with Habakkuk the prophet, “I stand in awe of your deeds!” That was the beginning...

Over the next 14 years, I can look back and trace God’s hand, His covering, His protection and provision in countless situations and circumstances that occurred, so that by His unmerited favor I can humbly say I did not become another statistic. When I reflect, I am often drawn to the words of Psalm 139, where the resounding theme is that of the sovereignty of God – our all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present Father. He knows us, He “created my inmost being, He knit me together in my mother’s womb. His eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in His book before one of them came to be.” (v. 13, 16) During these years, God placed within me a great hunger to know Him, to study His Word, to fellowship and worship with the body of Christ every opportunity I had, and to serve Him, especially amongst children in every way less fortunate than I. On a very regular basis I thank the Lord for every adult who sacrificially went out of his/her way to give me rides to and from every church event and parachurch I ever attended through the age of 21, when I finally was able to purchase an old rusty car which I prized! These individuals who invested in my life, many of them now in glory, may not have any idea of the difference they made in this one life. I thank and praise the Lord for them by name and pray that in eternity I can thank them

personally. These people may not have left their homeland to “do” missions as an event. Yet in serving others as a natural byproduct of their relationship with Christ they were faithful in obeying the Great Commission in ways they were able.

On Monday of this week, one of our Sunday School teachers shared with me the following commentary by Charles Spurgeon on Genesis 24: 5-8.

Spurgeon works out an analogy between Abraham’s servant and his mission to find a wife for Isaac, and the minister of the gospel and his mission to find souls for Jesus. Then he states – “It is a small business in the esteem of some to preach the gospel. And yet, if God is with us, ours is more than angels’ service. In a humble way we are telling of Jesus to our boys and girls in our classes. And some will despise us as “only Sunday school teachers.” But our work has a spiritual weight about it unknown to conclaves of senators and absent from the counsels of emperors. On what we say, death and hell and worlds unknown are hanging. We are working out the destinies of immortal spirits, turning souls from ruin to glory, from sin to holiness.”

I would never be able to articulate like Spurgeon the sacred duty/responsibility of teaching the truths of God’s Word to His covenant children, so I have taken time to ponder the weight of his words. I would like to acknowledge with great appreciation our Sunday School teachers at Main Street. Every teacher currently serving has young children (some several) of her own to have ready to get out the door early on Sunday mornings to be here prepared to teach. They do so joyfully and are such a blessing and inspiration!

Missions and serving God in whatever capacity we are called to each day is not just something we do like a job. It is a part of the DNA of a Christian. We can start teaching our children at an early age that missions is part of our identity as followers of Christ and encourage them to obey the Great Commission however they are able.



Main Street Christian School

MSCS is having a great second semester! Our 2's are starting to learn about their shapes and colors. The 3's have had fun learning about the 5 senses, and the 4's have learned about different forms of transportation! They are so smart and eager to learn! We had our Parent/Teacher Conferences at the end of January for the 3's and 4's. We love sharing the progress and achievements of the children with their parents. We are so proud of them!

It is hard to believe...but it is enrollment time again! Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year starts February 1st! MSCS is a half-day preschool ministry of Main Street Presbyterian Church. We serve 2's, 3's and 4's and we would love to have your preschool child join us! If you would like more information on our program, you can contact the school office at (662) 328-0240 or visit our website www.mainstreetChristianschool.space.

In His Love,
Anna Gaines Johnson
Director



SNOW MUCH FUN





January 11, 2021



Women in the Church

Dear Ladies of Main Street,

On February 2, 2021 the morning Bible study will meet at 10 on the third floor. Our new study is Faithful God by Sinclair Ferguson.

The WIC at Night will meet February 3rd and 17th at 7 p.m. at home of Janie Williams.

Many thanks to Tracy Elgersma for her service this past year. Tracy has been a valued help to me and WIC. She has had to step down because of her other duties. We wish her well as she helps Darin in his new job.

Shirley Swoope has graciously agreed to co-chair this ministry for the coming year. Let me introduce you to Shirley. When I contacted her to share what she wanted me to write, first off, she said "I am blessed by God and thankful for it." Shirley is known far and wide for her crafting. She is always knitting, sewing, quilting and paper crafting! She also loves to teach crafts - if you have a desire to learn - call Shirley. Shirley is married to Charles and they have 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren and one great- grandchild. Her favorite pastime? Rocking a baby!

We have a new baby arriving this month and a wedding next month! Jay and Hannah will welcome a new family member and Lydia Duncan will marry Miles Smith. How we love being a part of these happy events! The current condition has changed how we do that! After much thought it has been decided we can contribute to a gift card from Amazon. This way both of these ladies can get just what they need delivered to their door! You can drop off a check to Main Street or donate online or by mail. Just make sure to note it is for the gift card.

In His service,
Janie



February Volunteers

- Feb. 7** Dustin & Callie Baldrige,
Pat Russell, Tracy Elgersma
- Feb. 14** Katie Singletary, Jennifer white,
Alice Talley
- Feb. 21** Kathyryn Matocha, Emily Krohn,
Meryl Fisackerly
- Feb. 28** Shirley Swoope, Ivy Harris,
Karmel Crandall

Budget Report

January Offerings

\$ 51,754

(one week remaining)

February Counter

Gee Allgood

Sadie Rene Pittman

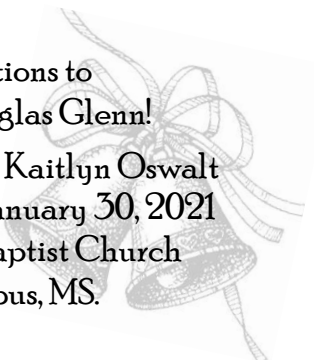
January 11, 2021

Proud Parents

Key & Camille Pittman

Congratulations to
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Glenn!

Douglas Glenn and Kaitlyn Oswalt
were married on January 30, 2021
at Mount Zion Baptist Church
in Columbus, MS.





February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 WIC in the Morning	3 WIC at Night Lydia Elgersma	4 Martha Ann Fisackerly	5	6 Morgan Shipp
7 Faith Promise Sunday	8 Jack Hairston	9	10 Men's Bible Study	11	12 Eleanor Hairston	13 Leslee White
14 Valentine's Day Communion	15 Presidents' Day	16 Warren & Jan Swoope	17 WIC at Night Carson Miller	18 Colleen Meek Warren Swoope	19	20
21	22 Justin Harris	23 Jean Yelverton Richard & Karmel Crandall	24 Men's Bible Study	25 Darin & Tracy Elgersma	26 Isaac Baxter Savannah Baxter	27 Missions Conference Marcia Lovegren Frank Webb
28 Missions Conference						

MSPC Elders and Deacons

Our Shut-Ins:

Louise Armstrong

Carol Carpenter

Phillip Goodwin

John Mark Russell

Faith Whitlock

Expectant Moms:

Kailee Chilcutt, Emily Krohn,

Hannah Nail, Paige Senn

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

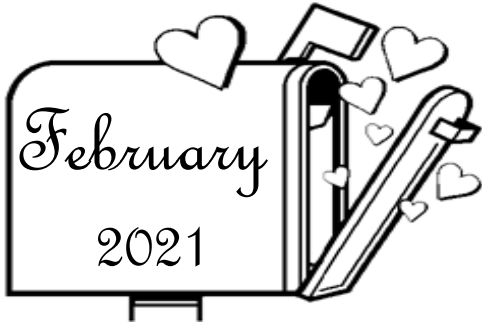
The financial pressures of small business owners, our congregation, and local businesses

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

8:30 a.m. Morning Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. Morning Worship