

September 2021

Main Street Presbyterian Church

# The Main Thing

## *Because of Covid, We Can't*

The world changes every day. Just when we thought we had the pandemic and all its hardships behind us, the delta variant hits us and here we are again. Three thousand new cases on Thursday, four thousand on Friday and constant barrages in the news telling us how afraid we should be, how bad things are.

But things have changed since March 2020, and we've learned a few things. Back then, doctors didn't know how to treat it, and we were told it spread in multiple ways like wildfire. Many thought it was a death sentence for the weak and elderly. Importantly, there was no vaccine in sight or even a hope for one.

Yes, we've learned a few things since then. Shutting down churches, closing schools, wearing masks and all the dark conversations and thoughts about this ugly disease taught us, schooled us well, and this time around we must act differently. We are wiser and we know there are some things Christians just can't do.

**WE CAN'T STOP WORSHIPPING IN PERSON.** God made the Sabbath for our rest and commanded us not to forsake gathering together. We learned last year that virtual worship is a poor substitute for the real thing. Every Sunday morning, we need to gather together and sing, to pray together and to see each other live out our faith. We need to hear God speak through sermons and reassure us that covid is just another of Satan's attempt to hurt us, another attempt that will fail. Sunday is where covid and all its ugliness is pushed aside and the real things like eternal life and the glory of Christ take forefront.

We may have to change things; we may have to sit further apart or in designated areas. We may even have mask only areas in the sanctuary. Who knows what we might need to do so that we are as safe as possible, but we must worship together and, LORD WILLING, we will do so even if we must defy government orders.

**WE CAN'T BE JUDGEMENTAL.** Let's face it, the decisions are difficult and there are many different schools of thought. We are people and every single one of us has an opinion. Mask or not, vaccine or not, each one of us has different factors, situations, and choices to make. As Christians, we are all doing our sinful best to follow God and honor Him, so we must respect the choices others make. Even when we don't agree, even when we think they may be wrong.

**WE CAN'T STOP LIVING.** Whether its covid or something else, the safest thing would be to hide. Just lock the bedroom door, order food delivered and watch the news, cruise social media, and never see anyone or do anything. How sad a life would that be? What a poor show of faith in God's goodness! We must enjoy life and the people we love, the things we like to do that God has blessed us with. Sure, there is risk and yes, we might get sick. We could even die!

So, one simple question for us all. Does God want you hiding in the back room quivering in fear? We might have to work a little harder, be a little smarter, change a few things, but it is our Christian duty to live a life of joy! To love and to be loved, to show the goodness of Christ to a world that needs Him.

**WE CAN'T BE IRRESPONSIBLE.** Every one of us has probably read a hundred articles on covid. We've argued and discussed the various options a thousand times, so we all know the recommendations and the guidelines. We're all experts! So, follow the recommendations and be respectful of others. Don't come to church sick and don't bring sick children to church. Stay six feet apart when you can. We know what to do, so let's do it!

As a church, we must be responsible too. Church luncheons, large gatherings, maybe even Sunday School could be limited if necessary. As officers of the church, we will monitor the situation closely and do our best to make the changes necessary so that the church keeps working as safely as possible.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE CAN'T STOP PRAYING.** Be still, He says, and know that I am God. Study His word and write it deep in your heart. When you worry, when you doubt, when you read 4000 more in the hospital today, take it to Him. When you wonder if you need the vaccine or if it works, take it to Him. If you're angry about school closures or mask mandates, take it to Him. Do you think He doesn't know? Do you wonder if He even cares?

Always, always.....just take it to HIM!

*The Session of Main Street*

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Main Street Presbyterian Church,

The Pulpit Search Committee wanted to give you a brief update on our progress in the search for our next pastor. We have been meeting regularly, and are firming up profiles of our church, the City of Columbus, and the "ideal" man for Main Street. At the recommendation of the Session, we are working with Bebo Elkin and Wayne Herring at Consulting Services Foundation (CSF) to help with the search. We have had some interest expressed by several men and have received some potential candidates from the PCA Office in Atlanta. Please be praying that God would give us wisdom and discernment as we earnestly proceed in this work. Also, pray that God would be at work in the man He is preparing to come along side us and work with us to the glory of God at Main Street. We can do all things through Him who strengthens us!

Your Pulpit Search Committee,

Meryl Fisackerly  
Amy Kilpatrick  
Sandra Pilkinton  
Pat Russell

Gee Allgood  
Carson Miller  
Kyle Singletary

Allan Brewer  
Dan Williams

# MSCS NEWS

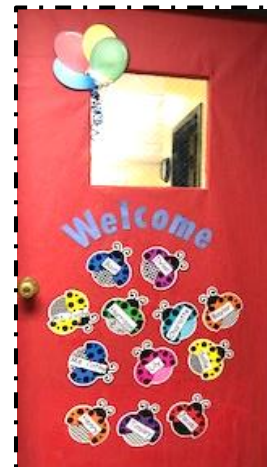
It is time for the school doors to open, and we are excited to welcome back the sweet laughter, big hugs, and the sound of little feet in our classrooms again! I cannot believe this will be my fifth year at MSCS! I am so thankful to serve as director for such an amazing ministry.

MSCS has some fun changes happening! Taylor Cabiness, our three-year-old teacher, is stepping up as assistant director! We are so excited to have her in this role and know she will bless MSCS even more than she already does!

Second, we have officially started a Mother's Day Out program. This class is for one-year-olds, and it will meet twice a week. I am very excited to say I will be teaching this class. I am looking forward to getting back in a Classroom after taking a break from the teaching side of MSCS last year.

Lastly, we welcomed a new teacher to our staff, Tara Kelly! She will be one of our two-year-old teachers. We are thankful to have her join us. MSCS also welcomes back Gaines Gaskin, Judy Woolbright, and Cathy Duncan. We are excited to get this school year started!

In His Love,  
Anna Gaines Johnson





*Women  
in the  
Church*



Hello Ladies,

Hard to believe it is September! This month we pray for our church school and all children returning to class. We pray for teachers and parents (and grandparents) as we navigate the ever-changing school world.

The morning WIC will meet on September 7 in our room on third floor. A nursery will be provided, and we begin at 10. WIC at Night will be announced soon and we will begin a new study.

The bread cooking or biscuit bar was held on Saturday, August 28, with 18 hungry ladies. I want to thank Shirley Swoope, Bess Swedenburg, Nell Fleming, Pat Russell, and Paige Senn for their help. Bethany Baxter took pictures for us and that saved my life. I take awful pictures! Mark your calendar for October 9 for our next "cooking". We will feature pies! Our newest covenant member was at our biscuit bar! Welcome Bo Herb.

Thanks to Nell Fleming and Ann Chilcutt for doing communion this month.

In His Service,  
Janie



# A Very Brady Church Year

By Ron Simpson

Like many of you, I grew up watching the Brady Bunch. Now, some of you only knew the series as a syndicated afterschool homework diversion. Many of us saw the episodes the first time around. Most everyone who has watched the series will remember when Peter's voice began changing just before the Brady Six performed in a talent contest. It's okay to nod your head. You remember it like the day Marcia got hit with the football, "Oh! My nose!" The song, like all the bubblegum pop performed by the Bradys, had little redeeming value. But, a truthful message rang out in that song during its premiere on January 14, 1972. Believe it or not, you can find it posted in various ways on YouTube. There was one line worth hearing and remembering amid the groovy costumes and far-out moves embedded in a plethora of "sha-na-nas."

## **"When it's time to change, you've got to rearrange."**

Okay, so it's not that deep an idea, but it is undeniable. If by now you have not accepted change as the greatest constant in life, then I must assume you have been in a coma for the last few years. I want to prepare you for some minor changes. I think you will find that most of these changes are positive and will be appreciated more and more as time moves forward. I have tried to include some suggestions here to make the changes a little more bearable.

## **More Technobabble**

Yeah, yeah, I know. Those social media sites we all hate but belong to keep changing their layout, and you can't find that cat picture you posted last week. Life is tough. You will survive. One of the changes heading our way is an upgrade to the church office's software. We had little choice about this upgrade. The old software package was on its way out (The software provider had re-named our software, Legacy, which is a kind way of saying, "You're still using that?"). At the same time, there were some new needs throughout our church. The new software package, called Realm, should help us manage some of these different needs from a centralized and protected database, rather than utilizing multiple unconnected apps and programs that often have resulted in redundancy in data and workload.

## **So What?**

Okay, you are thinking, "What has this got to do with me?" I am getting there. Some of you, especially in the last two years, have been using our online giving platform. Well, to integrate with Realm, we will be changing our giving platform. That means, if you have been giving through the current link, we will be contacting you and giving you some specific information to help you make the transition to the new one. Don't panic. You don't need to go online and make any changes yet. We will do this slowly, and if you are already using the current platform, we will contact you in person when we are ready to make those changes.

Keep in mind; this software is new for everyone. It is going to take us some time on our end to get things in place. If you are currently giving through the online platform, please continue to do so. It will remain in place until we have everyone changed over to the new one. Trust me; there is no rush here. We want you to know what is going on. If you are not using the online platform, this one won't change a thing for you. If you have been thinking about using the giving portal, I suggest you wait until we get the new one in place, so you won't have to transition over.

## **Rug-Rat Registration**

Realm will help us address safety issues for our preschoolers. Parents are accustomed to checking in their children at the nursery on Sunday mornings which is a standard practice in most churches. We have protocols in place already to provide a safe environment for our preschoolers in the nursery. Realm will streamline the check-in process for our nursery workers. Contact information, allergies, underlying medical conditions, all the data our workers may need to keep your child safe and secure will be available to them. Our nursery committee researched multiple ways for maintaining such information on our preschoolers. It was their research into viable options that led church leadership to Realm.

## Who's that?

The online church directory has not been utilized to the level initially envisioned. Not everyone has taken part in keeping family directory information up to date as we had hoped. The information in the church directory is a duplication of data already on file in the church office. With Realm, we will build a secure online church directory with a wide range of integrated features. We will eliminate a lot of duplicated work. New members will be able to log in and learn names and faces. Longtime members will have a tool to help us get to know the "newbies." The current directory has a communication feature we have used on several occasions to notify you of inclement weather closure, last-minute classroom assignment changes, and parking issues via push notification and group emails. Realm has those tools built-in as well, and they should be easier for church leadership to access and utilize as the need arises.

## Part of the family

Main Street Christian School is a 50-year-old ministry of MSPC. They now have a domain and share a prominent place on the church website. If you go to <https://www.mainstreetpres.org>, you find yourself on our church welcome page. You have access to the menu that carries you to the various church ministries, including the section devoted to MSCS. Likewise, if you go to the preschool's new domain at <https://www.msccolumbus.com>, you find yourself on the MSCS welcome page with the same menu that carries a visitor to the church ministries and online resources. Our goal is for the church to be more prayerfully aware of the school's work and for the families ministered to by the school to be more conscious of the presence and ministry of the church. In addition, the families who enroll their children in MSCS will now have the option to pay their tuition online at the same website. **Note: if you get a warning from your computer that msccolumbus.com is an unsafe site, it is because a redirect is in use. Your browser recognizes that the link takes you to a web address with a different domain (mainstreetpres.org). But, as the heading above says, it is just part of the family.**

## Let me in!

Although church security has nothing to do with Realm, it has brought its share of changes. Church security became a reality for all of us several years ago and is now a powerful and viable ministry of MSPC. We have a team of dedicated men who have received special training and commit themselves to a regular rotation patrolling the buildings and grounds during our worship services. Diligent and compassionate security volunteers have found opportunities for ministering to the homeless that come to our doors. Unfortunately, security is usually synonymous with inconvenience. The various entrances to the buildings are locked once services have begun. That makes it quite inconvenient if you happen to have one of those Sundays you run late or had to go back to the car for something only to find yourself locked out. If you find yourself a victim of this recent change, go to the visitor's entrance on 7<sup>th</sup> street and ring the buzzer. **Don't worry. You will not disrupt the service by doing so.** If you don't get an immediate response, don't go anywhere. Stay there. Our security guys will let you in, but it may take some time. They may be in a different location. It is an extensive facility. It may take them a few minutes to get to you. If you go from door to door looking for a way in, you may keep missing the people trying to help you get in. If this happens to you at the funeral home entrance, I recommend waiting there if the weather permits. Although there is no doorbell, someone will probably see you on the security camera and let you in.

## "...Much More Than a Hunch."

It is not a hunch. Change is always coming. We were glad those groovy 70's styles went away. There are many other things, good and bad, that have come, gone, and changed since then. We all like some things the way they are (or were), and we have experienced growing to like something new after spending time with it. We get used to doing things a certain way and reluctantly rearrange and adapt. I am sure there are other changes we cannot even imagine in the coming year. Who could have predicted the changes we all went through in 2020 and into 2021? Who knows what re-arrangements lie before us we have not even considered? Regardless of the changes to how we do things, the Gospel has not changed. God's Word does not change. The world's need for God has not changed. We may get exasperated at the need to change the mechanics of how we do things, but what matters most remains the same. We can face the changes with confidence in what does not change and perhaps with the good humor of a corny Brady episode.

# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Trey Fondren	2	3	4 Gray Thompson Justin & Ivy Harris
5 <i>Communion</i> Olivia Kilpatrick	6 Micah Elgersma	7 <i>WIC in the Morning 10 a.m.</i>	8	9 James Senn	10 Makayla Lovegren	11 Jerry & Nancy Franks
12	13	14 Penny Fondren Alice Talley	15	16	17	18
19 Callie Baldrige	20 Hope Kilpatrick Jami Laws Tinsley Miller	21	22 Amber Henson	23	24 Tom Tait David & Marianne Field	25
26	27	28 Robby Glenn Ray Kilpatrick	29 Richard Crandall	30		

### Please remember in prayer:

MSPC Elders and Deacons  
Pastoral Search Committee

Louise Armstrong  
Phillip Goodwin  
Edna Mae McCoy  
John Mark Russell  
Faith Whitlock  
Macy Williams (friend of Beth Ferguson)

Officials in Washington  
President Joe Biden

State, City, and County Officials  
Governor Tate Reeves  
Mayor Keith Gaskin  
Police Chief Fred Shelton  
Sheriff Eddie Hawkins

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

Praise: Bowen William Herb  
August 19, 2012

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*



### September Volunteers

- 9-5-21 Katie Singletary, Katie Tait,  
Janie Williams
- 9-12-21 Jay & Hannah Nail,  
Margo Allgood, Jelaine Fondren
- 9-19-21 Amber Henson, Pat Russell,  
Linda Simpson
- 9-26-21 Ann Marie Miller, Jennifer White,  
Tracy Elgersma



**Counter for  
September  
Henry Pilkinton**

### Budget Report

August

**\$ 33,987**

## **Main Street Presbyterian Church**

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



**2021**

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

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