

April 2022

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing

WE NEED TO READ!

One of my childhood memories while growing up in Columbus was going to the public library. No, not the nice brick building on 7th Street North. Back in those days the library was located in an old former home on the south side of town. Perhaps my love for reading began around that time. When I was in college and seminary, I held jobs working in campus bookstores. Then, in each of the four churches where I served as Pastor, there was a member who either was or had been a librarian. All of these factors were influential in my learning the value of reading. I was around books all the time!

As Christians we want to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” [II Peter 3:18]. Of course, we grow through the means of grace God has provided us: the Word of God, prayer, and the sacraments [as we worship together]. We can learn through gifted teachers how to take biblical truth and flesh them out in our daily living. One of the ways we can learn from those teachers is by reading what they have to say. And in our current time in history, the Lord has caused an explosion in good, biblical teaching through the print media [as well as visual and audio media]. It is especially exciting to see excellent Reformed material being produced, so much so that there is virtually no aspect of biblical, theological, and practical teaching that is not available today.

But how long will such material be available? Even more important is this question: How well will we take advantage of what I believe is a limited opportunity for Christians to avail themselves of what God has provided? There may come a time, perhaps not long from now, when there will be a famine of the word of God [Amos 8:11]. Whether or not that happens in our time, we need to be well-versed in the verses of the Bible. By it we learn to know God, to know the world in which we live for God, and how to glorify Him in our lives. As soldiers who are in an ongoing campaign of spiritual warfare, we need to arm ourselves with the spiritual armor that is necessary to withstand the assaults of the forces of darkness that are arrayed against us [Ephesians 6:10-20].

I’ve heard many excuses that people use to explain why they cannot do such reading and studying of spiritual things. I’ve used some of them myself. The most common is “I’m too busy.” A man is under a lot of pressure with his job, for example, and he has a wife and nine kids at home. If anyone would have a good excuse to neglect his spiritual life, it might be that man! But we know that even though it may be difficult to slice a sliver of time to study and pray, we really cannot afford not to.

If you would like to discuss your specific life situation with another trusted believer, an elder in the church or myself, please do so. We all need to tailor our time with the Lord to our specific circumstances. Such things as deciding on the best time to do this, what reading and study materials to use with our Bibles, and what Bible reading plan to adopt would all be appropriate details to work out.

Finally, allow me to suggest a few resources to consult when looking for help in your personal “curriculum” for growing in Christ. Crossway Books [they publish the ESV Bible] provides very good materials that cover many aspects of Christian doctrine and living. Go to Crossway.org to learn more. One of my new favorite resources is Westminster Books, an arm of Westminster Theological Seminary. You can get on their email list and receive news of new and older publications from a variety of publishers, along with special discounts and reviews by solid Reformed leaders. Just Google them and go from there. Ligonier Ministries is tried and true. They offer many print and audio resources for Reformed Christians. For daily Bible study, they produce **Tabletalk** Magazine, with each monthly issue containing helpful articles, along with a one-page daily Bible study, usually going through a book of the Bible [this year the study is taking readers through Exodus]. We have sample copies available at the church if you would like to examine one. The subscription is just \$24 a year and, in my humble opinion, is well worth it. A different kind of resource is **World** Magazine, a terrific bimonthly news magazine published by Reformed Christians [\$69.95 per year]. It contains news, opinions, reviews of movies and music, and accounts of how Christians are serving the Lord in their various callings. The magazine also prints weekly papers for grade-specific children during the school year, providing a way for them to see the world from a God-centered perspective. Oh, and don’t forget the Main Street church library!

Happy reading!
Jim





Happy Hearts

On March 22, Happy Hearts ventured down Main Street to the Columbus Arts Council to see Mr. O.N. Pruitt's Possum Town display of photographs taken during the 1920's through the 1950's. Fifteen of us, including three newcomers, enjoyed the pictures from years gone by. Some of us had known Mr. Pruitt and his helper, Mr. Calvin Shanks, personally. Almost unanimously we chose a panoramic picture of Mr. and Mrs. Shelley with approximately 50 dogs, posing appropriately, as our favorite picture. Mr. Shelley was a pioneer in training bird dogs to hunt and was well known throughout the country as the best in the business. Ben Chilcutt told a story of Shelley, as he was usually called, having taken dogs to Africa to hunt lions. The director of the facility, Mr. Salem Gibson, recounted the same story with a little more flair. Ben and Ann live near the Shelley homeplace on a road named in their honor. We all had a good time, and I'm sure you would enjoy the display if you haven't seen it.

For lunch, we crossed the street and dined at Cafe on Main. The pictures you see of the group were not taken by a photographer and were an afterthought. Please excuse my failure to get everyone in the pictures and to not be able to see all the faces.

If you are 50 or over - actually, we are not concerned with your age - we invite you to join us. Anyone is welcome any time. In April we hope to visit some of the pilgrimage homes as our outing. May I encourage those of you who have never toured some of the homes to please join us? It would be especially delightful to have some of our younger members spend time with us. These

old houses tell the history of Columbus and should be on your list of things to do while you are living here. Watch for an announcement in the bulletin for the exact plans.



On Palm Sunday we will have a special guest organist for the morning worship service. Mrs. Martha Philip Shackelford Brown will be with us to play after Sunday school and during worship. "Phil" grew up at Main Street Presbyterian and has been a professional organist all her adult life. She is currently Director of Music and Organist for First Methodist Church in Memphis. We hope you will join us for our Palm Sunday service.



The school year is starting to wind down at MSCS. We only have one full month left! April will be full of playing outside, Easter egg hunts, and fun spring units! This month we will focus on the Easter story. The children will learn all about the amazing sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Also, during April, the 4's enjoy learning about and watching the life cycle of a Painted Lady Butterfly. They will keep the butterflies in their classroom until they are ready to be released. The whole school will watch the butterflies fly away in the church courtyard. It is such a neat and fun learning experience! A very good note on which to end the school year!



In His love,
"Ms." Anna Gaines





Our annual Missions luncheon was wonderful and about 100 of our friends and families gathered in support of the work done in many foreign fields.

John Gore's pulled pork was, as always, delicious. My thanks to all the volunteers who helped prepare food, set up the fellowship hall, and cleaned following the meal.

It's now time to welcome spring with our next and last luncheon of the 2021-2022 season. It will be **April 10, Palm Sunday, following the worship service.** Our menu will be **FRIED CHICKEN** and the congregation will provide the sides. The division is below.

If your last name begins with:

- A-F** Dessert
- G-M** Hot Vegetable
- N-S** Cold Vegetable or Salad
- T-Z** Fruit or Fruit Salad

If you have not attended one of our meals, won't you join us now? We look forward to this time together as we share our four F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda



Women in the Church

Hello Ladies!

Do you ever ask yourself how you can serve the church with something that doesn't require huge amounts of your time, and something that you wouldn't be required to do weekly or even monthly? I've got just the service for you – COMMUNION!

Communion is a sacrament served (for the most part) the first Sunday of each month, but it doesn't happen on it's on. It requires someone preparing the trays, setting them up for the service and cleaning up afterwards. It probably requires about 2 ½ hours total. Setup can be done Saturday or even Sunday morning, and of course cleanup needs to be done immediately after the service.

It takes volunteers to make this happen. We have a few husbands that help their wives with this setup, but for the most part it is the Women in the Church that take on this responsibility. Like I said it's a 2 ½ hour commitment of your time. It takes two individuals, so that's a total of 24 volunteers over a year.

We will pair someone that's familiar with the setup with someone that's new to the service. This is twofold, one being that instruction can be provided, but secondly and for me an even better reason, is that two people who might not know each other have a chance to connect.

Instructions are on a laminated sheet in the room off the sanctuary, along with the serving pieces and tablecloths.

We need volunteers for May 1, July 3, August 7, October 2, November 6, and December 4, so give me a call, send me a text or an e-mail to volunteer. I promise for you newbies, we won't leave you out there on your own.

Thank you all for your willingness to help.

Shirley
662-574-0675
smswoope@bellsouth.net

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion <i>Bill & Jami Laws</i>	4	5 WIC 10:00 a.m.	6 Children's Choir Sandra Pilkinton	7	8 Beth Ferguson	9 Richard Fleming
10 Palm Sunday Guest Organist Congregational Luncheon	11	12 <i>Gee & Becca Allgood</i>	13	14	15	16 Men's Breakfast 7:30 Easter Egg Hunt
17 Easter	18	19	20 Children's Choir	21	22	23 Paige Pilkinton
24 <i>Tom & Robin Tait</i>	25	26 Jennifer White	27 <i>Brinton & Meryl Fisackerly</i>	28 Austin Krohn	29	30

APRIL COUNTER
JAY NAIL

Budget Report
March
\$38,549

Nursery Volunteers

April 3 Janie Williams, Rachel Sherrill, Sandra Pilkinton, Katie Tait

April 10 Meryl Fisackerly, Karmel Crandall, Katie Singletary

April 17 Frances Glenn, Callie Baldrige, Camille Pittman

April 24 Hannah Nail, Linda Simpson, Margo Allgood

Please be Praying for...

MSPC Elders and Deacons and The Pastoral Search Committee

Expectant Moms: Sarah Bean, Ivy Harris, Emilee Senn, Morgan Shipp, Katie Singletary

Louise Armstrong, Phillip Goodwin, Edna Mae McCoy, Mark McCoy, Mary Alice McKelvey, William McKelvey, John Mark Russell, Faith Whitlock, Macy Williams

Washington Officials, 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, Palmer Home, all Columbus Churches, and Pastors

FAITH PROMISE

*How beautiful upon the mountains are
the feet of him who brings good
news, who publishes peace, who brings
good news of happiness, who publishes
salvation, who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns.”*

Isaiah 52:7

As of March 20, we have received 9 pledges for 2022 totaling \$24,100. There are approximately 70 family units at Main Street.

Faith Promise is the tool we use to support our missionaries, above the tithe, not as a part of it. Those we support are listed in the bulletin each week.

There are pledge cards and envelopes to hold them in the pew pockets. If you fill out a card, return it to Russ Russell or place it in the offering plate. To pledge or give online, please use the new Realm online form:

<https://onrealm.org/MainStreetPresb/form/pledge/faithpromise2022>

The amount pledged will be used to set the Missions Budget for 2022. While these pledges are non-binding and confidential, they should be made prayerfully and seriously. The Missions Chairman, John (Russ) Russell, will inform the Mission Committee of the total amount so our missionaries can know what level of support we hope to send them *as the Lord provides* in the coming year.

*Please be mindful that the Missions Committee needs to set the 2022 budget, so all pledges need to be returned on or before **Sunday, May 1.***

Pledges enable Main Street to give as one body to further spread the Gospel.

The Missions Committee hopes to maintain our funding goal of \$45,000 from last year. This

amount would maintain a solid base for continuing to support those on our current support list at the current budgeted levels.

An extra \$5000 would provide a nice cushion for unexpected opportunities such as:

- ❖ Sending a missionary an extra check for an unexpected evangelistic opportunity when it requires travel
- ❖ Sending a missionary an extra check for a family emergency such as illness or travel expenses for a family funeral
- ❖ Sponsoring someone from Main Street on a missions trip

Faith Promise is usually supplied in one of three ways:

- ❖ Reordering our priorities; small amounts add up quickly
- ❖ Creative income generation
- ❖ Unexpected provision

Please be in faithful prayer concerning your part in Faith Promise giving for Main Street's missions programs. We could do all the above...and perhaps even something we do not at present know that the Lord has planned for Main Street!

***MSPC has received 9
Faith Promise pledge cards
totaling \$24,100.
Our Participation Goal is 100%!***

Please remember to mark your pledge donations

MISSIONS FUND.

If you would like to better understand Faith Promise, Henry Pilkinton will be happy to talk with you. Also, there are 7-day devotional booklets available in the back of the Chapel or as a pdf document.



Dear Main Street Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your donation to help meet the needs created by the emerging and ongoing crisis in Ukraine. As someone who has spent over 20 years in Ukraine, it is so heartening to see the body of Christ come together when there is a crisis of this level in another country. The church in Ukraine thanks you.

The needs across Ukraine, and now across Europe are growing as more and more people leave Ukraine for safety, and our response seeks to scale to the need as well. Our crisis centers in Ukraine and Poland increasingly are able to respond to the profound needs of those who have fled. We are seeking to care for Ukrainians in some of the worst imaginable scenarios – leaving their homes, traveling for days, sometimes weeks, with no assurance of where they are going or if they will be back.

Below you'll see how we are already using your gift. Please follow the stories and news about our



work at: www.voice-of-ukraine.com

In Christ,
Jonathan Eide
Ukraine Country Director

Refugee Relief

- **Facilities:** Funds are needed to cover rental expenses of hostels, hotels, empty structures, including utilities, furnishings, equipment, and supplies for refugees.
- **Staff and Contractors:** We need to hire local support staff immediately to relieve the mission teams and church members.
- **Transportation:** Most refugees need help getting to the locations where we can help them. Most need help to move into other countries.
- **Food:** None of the refugees bring more than a few days' worth of food with them.
- **Clothing:** Many refugees left their homes within minutes of hearing the bombing and shelling. They have little more than the clothes on their backs.
- **Supplies:** With the loss of electrical power, we need heating fuel and diesel generators.
- **Communication:** Helping refugees stay in touch with family and friends is vital.
- **Medical Needs:** Some of our refugees need medical care and medicines.
- **Pastor's Salaries:** We want the brave pastors of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine to be able to continue to minister without concern for their finances.
- **Diaconal Funds:** We want our pastors to be able to meet critical needs in their churches and their cities.

Voice of Ukraine (from Mission to the World)

Responding to the crisis – Mobilizing resources – Bringing hope

<https://voice-of-ukraine.com/pray/>

Pray!

Here is what is at stake in this war. If Ukraine is taken over by Russia. Besides all the humanitarian disaster of war:

- Seminary and Church buildings across the country will be confiscated.
- Churches will not meet.
- Pastors and believers will be hunted down and persecuted.
- Seminaries will not meet.



That is HIGH STAKES in this crucial moment of world history. PRAY!

Pray now:

- For Russians to gain access to a free press and for Truth to win
- For people being forcibly rounded up and deported to Russia
- For the preparations being made for long-term response to this disaster.
- For children: Physical, psychological, emotional, Spiritual needs
- For our church members in many cities, spending another night in bomb shelters.
- For the refugee response in L'viv, in Romania, in Poland.
- For refugees moving further into Western Europe and the USA:
 - Resettling of refugees, visa issues, work permits, housing...
 - Housing and new life/school routines for displaced families
 - For families separated by the war
- That in the midst of this terrible war, many would place their hope in Christ and his eternal kingdom.
- For Pastors in Mykolaiv taking food and medicine to people outside the city
- For the Gospel's impact in western Europe & the USA, waking many from sleep
- For financial giving to enable the ministries that will follow: healing and rebuilding lives
- Praise for churches still able to meet in person or online

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