

THE MAIN THING

SEPTEMBER 2023

MSPC



FROM OUR
PASTOR

Let's Worship Together

Here at Main Street Presbyterian Church, we are very excited to be starting back several ministries that will allow for more time of worship, fellowship, and growing together in the Lord. Because of this, I thought it would be helpful to give you a preview of each of these ministries along with what I believe will be the benefit of participating in them. Now we know that life is busy, trust me with three kids under 8 at home I get this. We are not saying to anyone that they must participate in all of these opportunities or else they are relegated to a lesser Christian status. Rather we are convicted here at the church that we should provide as many opportunities for our members to grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord, engage in Christian fellowship, and invite others to hear the good news of the gospel. With that said, let's look at what is coming up.

Shepherd Groups

One of the greatest tasks given to the elders of the church in scripture is spiritual oversight. As our church grows, especially with an increasing amount of visitors, the session desires to spiritually watch over everyone the Lord calls to our church. To do this effectively, we are working on dividing the church up into shepherd groups. These groups will be led by an elder and will regularly meet for a time of fellowship and of prayer. These groups will also give the elders the opportunity to give specific spiritual care to a portion of our congregation at a time multiplying our ability to be aware with what is going on in everyone's lives. As of right now, the plan is for these groups to meet on the first Sunday of the month instead of having Sunday evening worship. Look for more information to come soon.

Sunday Evening Worship

On September 10th at 5 P.M., we will be bringing back Sunday evening worship here at Main Street Presbyterian Church. I personally believe morning and evening worship on the Lord's day is one of the best ways to enjoy the day to its fullest while sadly recognizing that many churches have shifted away from this practice. Our service will take place in the fellowship hall and will include a time of singing, prayer, and Bible study. It will be discussion based allowing opportunity for everyone to talk about the passage together instead of a sermon format. Right now, the plan is to begin by using "Memoirs of the Way Home" by Gerald Bilkes which is a Bible study on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. We are currently seeking volunteers to help watch our nursery age children during this time.

Wednesday Evening Worship

Wednesday evening worship will kick back off on September 13th and will include a meal time, a time of fellowship, and teaching at various age levels. For the adults, there will be a brief devotion along with time for prayer. Charles Spurgeon believed that the prayers of the saints directly influenced the effectiveness of his ministry. He often showed people the boiler room where many were frequently gathered for prayer. For our children, there will be a time of teaching on some weeks along with children's choir on other weeks. During this time we are also looking for nursery volunteers to help watch our nursery age children. We would love to have you participate in these ministries if this season of life allows. The more time that we commit ourselves to the study of God's word and the fellowship of the Saints, the better equipped we will be to stand firm for the gospel in a lost and dying world. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to serve in some way. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

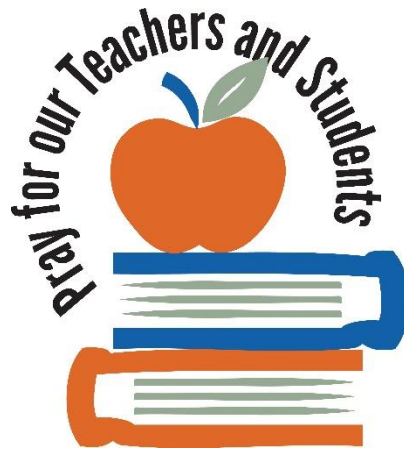
In Christ,
Pastor Aaron Suber

MSCS News



We are officially back in full swing at Main Street Christian School! The new school year started August 28th. We hosted our first "Popsicles on the Playground" for our new coming students to MSCS and had a wonderful turnout! We hoped to ease some anxiety about the new school year with a fun treat and a play date on the playground with new friends.

Meet the Teacher was August 25th and was a great success. All the kids, as well as the teachers, look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as welcoming new ones. We pray this is the best year yet for Main St and that we not only help students achieve academic success but to grow in their love of Christ.





About 12 years ago, Thirdmill videos began airing on Mongolian TV through a partner organization called Eagle TV. Government restrictions put an end to the broadcasts, but Hetay

Jirgalsaikhan, Eagle TV's Mongolian producer, never forgot about Thirdmill. Robyn Ham had been teaching part-time at a small Korean seminary in the Washington D.C. area. She'd had many Mongolian students (D.C. has one of the largest Mongolian communities in the United States), and around the time that the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she began looking for opportunities to teach the Bible overseas when she retired.

Dr. Ben Chen, Thirdmill's Regional Director for East Asia and South-East Asia, had grown up in China and was familiar with some of the ways both China and Russia have exerted, and sometimes abused, their power over Mongolia. Over the years,

he'd made many Mongolian friends who had experienced the consequences of that abuse first-hand. Robyn met Ben through Mission To the World (the global missions agency of the Presbyterian Church in America). A short time later, she began serving as Thirdmill's Area Director for Asia. In the meantime, Hetay, who'd moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to work for AMONG Foundation, had reconnected with Ben and had begun partnering with Thirdmill to help coordinate the translation of Thirdmill Institute's first certificate into Mongolian.



When these three realized their shared heart for Mongolia, preparations for a training event began. In June, Ben, Robyn, and Hetay traveled with Brent Ropp, VP of the Thirdmill Global Network (TGN) Field Staff, for a two-day Thirdmill training event in Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. Hetay served as translator, and they were joined by TGN partners Union Bible Theological College, the oldest seminary in Mongolia and host of the event, and Steppe-By-Steppe, a ministry of

AMONG Foundation. Approximately 50 church and ministry leaders gathered together to learn how to start and facilitate local Thirdmill learning communities. Nestled between Russia and China, Mongolia is the world's most sparsely populated nation. Despite urbanization progressing at an alarming rate due to economic hardship, Mongolians take pride in their long history as nomadic peoples. It's a beautiful country with a rich heritage, yet Christians account for only around 2% of the Mongolian population.

In addition, the majority of the Christian population became Christians after the Mongolian Revolution in 1990. For this reason, they still lack a strong biblical and theological foundation, especially in the rural areas. But they are open to learning.

“We’re really here on the ground floor of helping disciple a whole nation,” Brent said, “and I think it’s a real key moment in history because it’s an open time right now. I’ve worked in a global context long enough that you don’t know from day to day whether you’ll be allowed to go into a certain place and provide this kind of training and teaching. And today, we have an open door. ... We’ve got to do as much as we can as quickly as we can because, knowing the volatile relationship politically ... with China and Russia, that door could slam shut tomorrow.”

The fields in Mongolia are ripe for the harvest. Here is what participants had to say.



“We know it is very important, but theological training is very scarce in the countryside,” one rural church leader told us. “I want to bring this training to as many people as possible.”

One attendee shared that she had always taught mainly from the New Testament because she was afraid that she would teach the Old Testament inaccurately and might lead people into error. Making the connection between the Old and New Testaments has been a struggle for many of the leaders in Mongolia, but after the training, she felt more confident and was looking forward to continuing to study at home.

A ministry leader with Steppe-By-Steppe said that the training opened his eyes to the real importance of understanding Scripture and theology for his own life and ministry. It also gave him an appreciation for having a firmer grasp on Scripture for sharing his faith with others.

A minister to herdsmen said she was leaving with a clearer understanding of her identity as a child of God, as well as an excitement to share Thirdmill resources with the herdsmen.

Principal Luya of Union Bible Theological College shared that he wants to provide the entire curriculum as a resource for his teachers and students and that, having attended seminary in Singapore, he was excited by the caliber of the curriculum.

Please join us in praying for the leaders that attended the training along with the church bodies and ministries that they represent.

- Pray that they will continue to nurture a hunger for learning the Bible and theology.
- Pray that the work of translation will proceed smoothly and on schedule.
- Pray that they form Learning Communities that will be outposts of the hope and joy of Jesus in the midst of widespread hopelessness.
- Pray that God will strengthen the church in Mongolia.





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Biblical Education. For the World. For Free

Thirdmill

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RUF at Mississippi State University

The Fall Begins Again!

Large Group Wednesday nights at 8 will be a highlight of each week! We can't wait!



After a whirlwind summer of the arrival of baby Jake to the family, we now turn our attention to the arrival of more than 5,000 new students arriving to Mississippi State this Fall!

The beginning of the semester is both an exciting time and stressful time for campus ministries. So many students to meet and welcome, and so much to do in order to meet them!

Please be in prayer with us as we begin to make plans with our student leadership teams. The staff has already been working hard and planning, but we love when our students take ownership and run with a plan! Pray for them to love Christ and love one another, as well as have a heart for students who need to be reached! We will meet with our Servant Leadership Team this Tuesday night, our Small Group Leadership Team next Sunday Night, and our Music Team in between them! Pray for these students!

Also pray for all the new freshman, transfer students, and upperclassmen students who may find RUF for the very first time! Our first Large Group is this Wednesday night where we will launch into the Gospel of Mark together! Pray with us that students will hear about Jesus and be changed by Him!

As always, we love to keep you up to date on the events coming up. And since we have a lot of events in August, we also want to invite some of you to consider sponsoring an event! It helps us so much to be able to buy food, rent locations, and throw great events to have people sponsor one! And I promise to send you a picture of the event you sponsored! Take a look! Whether or not you choose to sponsor, here are some events to pray through!

Servant Team Retreat: \$500

One of our leadership teams that oversees different parts of our ministry! We will be meeting at Umble Coffee House from 6pm-9pm to pray and plan together!

Freshman Dinner: \$250

A smaller pre-semester gathering of freshmen who have already moved in! It will be at our house and is usually where we meet a lot of freshmen for the first time!

Stromboli's Pizza for Freshman before Large Group: \$500

Our beloved Starkville pizza place may have closed its restaurant, but it still caters! We will gather freshmen 30 minutes before Large Group in the Dorman parking lot for pizza and our leadership students will be there to welcome them in! Of course, we try and keep the pizza for freshman, but almost everyone will want a slice of Stromboli's!

BBQ and Blues: \$2000

The first Friday of school, we have live music and plenty of BBQ for students in downtown Starkville! It's a come and go event with cornhole, spike ball, and a mix of new students and upperclassmen! It's a great outreach event, as well as the official "RUF is Back" event!

If you want to sponsor an event, let me know.

We are appreciative of your support and look forward to a new semester of God as work in Starkville!!

Joe Johnson

joe.johnson@ruf.org

<https://ruf.org/>

Encouragement for RUF at MSU

Friends,

As preparations for the fall semester are moving at light speed, we are always grateful to take a breath and hear how God is at work in the lives of our former students. We pray that Sarah Morgan Johnson's words bring you encouragement as you head into the weekend.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support! Joe Johnson

It is so humbling to reflect and have the chance to share how impactful RUF has been in my life, both in my college experience and in my walk with Christ post-grad. Growing up, I attended a PCA church, so I was somewhat familiar with RUF when I first stepped foot on Mississippi State's campus in the fall of 2018. However, I had no idea how the Lord would use this special ministry to provide me with community and a deeper understanding of His character and goodness during my college years and beyond.

Like most college students, I spent the first semester of college trying out many different clubs and organizations in an effort to find my "place" on campus. However, RUF provided an instant sense of belonging for me and so many other students across MSU's diverse campus. From large group to all the fun events to freshman Bible study to small groups to SUCO to countless coffee conversations with my intern, RUF fostered belonging across such a wide variety of settings.

My interns, campus minister and campus staff, and older students within RUF faithfully modeled patient, humble leadership. They selflessly gave of their time and energy as they spent time with me, listened to my stories, laughed and cried with me, and pointed me to the heart of Christ. RUF also provided me with a place to grow, and challenged me to use my gifts, my home, and my social circle to serve.

Now that I have graduated college, RUF still has such a special place in my heart. I have several friends who are now RUF interns, and it is such a gift to hear how the Lord is blessing their ministries across several different college campuses. It is also a gift to hear them describe how well they are cared for by their campus staff and campus ministers.

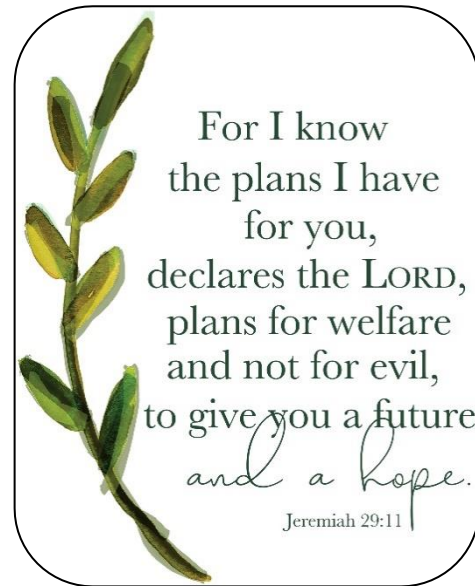
My time in RUF also taught me so much about how vital the local church is in the life of the believer. As I searched for a new church after moving from my college town, my time in RUF heavily influenced how I saw the role of the church in my own life. RUF's emphasis on gospel-centered teaching taught me to place a high value on Scripture-led teaching from the pulpit. The community I found in RUF has prompted me to seek that out among believers in the local church. I have even grown a deep fondness for the hymns I once thought were "weird and hard to sing." RUF truly has been so precious to me and my walk with Jesus, and I am so thankful for the chance to reflect on this incredible ministry.

Anne Michal Carter, RUF Campus Staff at Mississippi College and former RUF Intern at MSU with Sarah Morgan Johnson



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 COMMUNION Jeremiah Fearing	4 Gray Thompson Justin & Ivy Harris	5 WIC Bible Study Olivia Grace Kilpatrick	6	7	8	9 James Senn
10	11	12	13 Zachary Senn	14 Alice Talley	15	16
17 Congregational Luncheon	18	19 Callie Baldrige	20 Hope Kilpatrick Tinsley Miller Jami Laws	21	22	23
24 Tom Tait David & Marianne Field	25	26	27	28 Robby Glenn Ray Kilpatrick	29 Richard Crandall	30



USHER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3: **Bill Laws**, Jesse Duncan, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, Peter Fearing, Marcus Stone

September 10: **Grover Allgood**, Jay Nail, Key Pittman, Johnny Sherrill, Jacob Wright, Chris Howard

September 17: **Allen Brewer**, Sammy Clemons, Danny Williams, Tom Tait, Larry Burleson

September 24: **Brinton Fisackerly**, Richard Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

Nursery Volunteers



	9/3/2023	9/10/2023	9/17/2023	9/24/2023
September	Communion 5	Team 6	Team 1	Team 2
Coordinator	Pat Russell	Carson Miller	Janie Williams	Meryl Fisackerly
Nursery Volunteer	Bethany & Savannah Baxter	Yulia Fearing	Rachel Sherrill	Karmel Crandal
Nursery Worker	NONE	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly
Toddler Sunday School	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
Sunday School Monitor	Brinton Fisackerly	Dan Williams	Jay Nail	Dan Williams

September Counter
Bill Laws

Budget Report
August 2023

\$23,877

Please be Praying for...

- Rev. Aaron Suber and Family
- MSPC Elders and Deacons
- Expectant Moms: Emilee Senn
- Louise Armstrong, John Mark Russell, Karen Livingston, Shannon Stafford, and Stanley Rogowski
- 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



CONGREGATIONAL "KICK-OFF" LUNCHEON

It's been a wonderful summer no matter how hot the temperatures have been and I'm looking forward to our first luncheon of the year. This is a time that we look at our recipes for a possible update or share a new one with our friends and family at MSPC.

Let's get started with our date: It's Sunday, September 17 following the worship service. John Gore will provide us with his delicious smoked Bar-B-Que Chicken. The congregation will provide the side dishes.

If your last name begins with:

A-D Fruit or Fruit Salad

E-L Cold Vegetable Dish or Salad

M-S Hot Vegetable

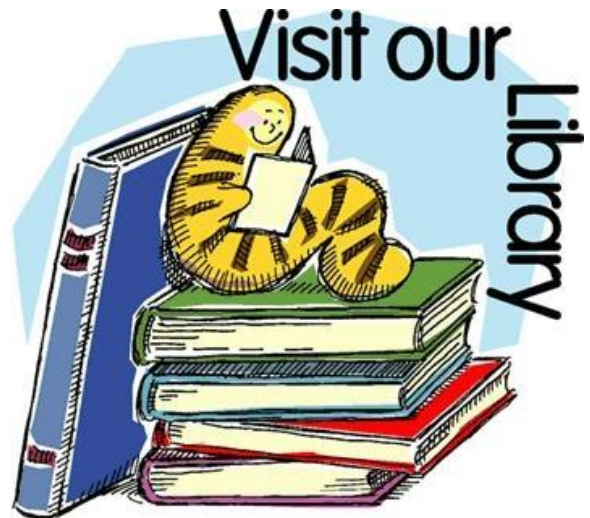
T-Z Dessert

In years past we have averaged over 100 people each month!!! I look forward to seeing that and more this year. Please share our luncheon experiences with those who may be new to our church.

So...mark your calendar for Sunday, September 17 when we will gather for our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun, without the Fuss!

Lynda





LIBRARY NEWS

It's time to share and update news about the library. Let me give you a couple of easy reminders.

Did you know that it's very easy to check out and return materials? YES, all you need to do is sign the card and leave it in the box on the left side of the table.

Did you know that the library hours are flexible? It is open Monday-Thursday during Bobbie's office hours of 8:00-2:00. It's also open Sundays before and after Sunday school and after the worship service. The library is CLOSED Friday and Saturday.

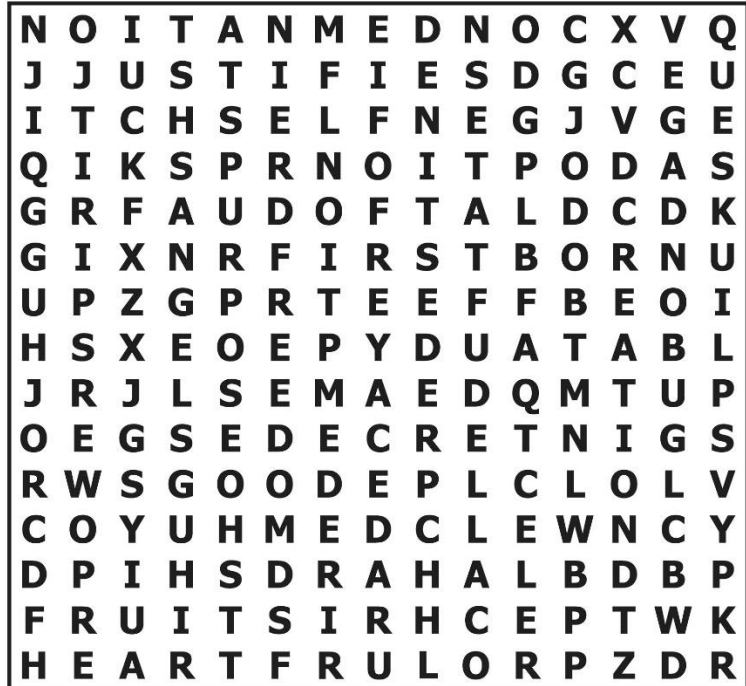
Did you know that there are new books being added in all sections of our library? Definitely YES! I've been ordering and entering materials in adult, juvenile, and children's areas.

This leads me to my last news. I plan to highlight books and series that may be of interest to you as well as your children. I will also be working on input from our pastors for their suggested reading list. If you have authors or titles that you enjoy, let me know . This will help us to address the needs of the library. Looking ahead to more updates.

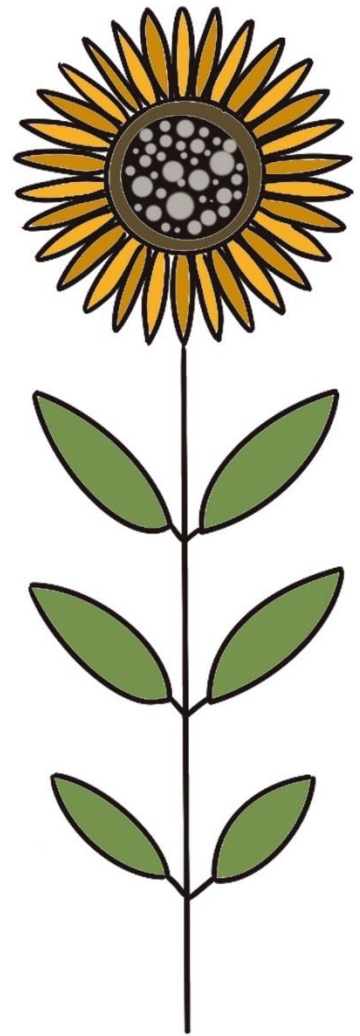
Lynda

Puzzle!

Search for words found in Romans 8.



- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Abba | elect | Jesus | adoption |
| family | justifies | angels | firstborn |
| Lord | bondage | flesh | love |
| called | freedom | peace | Christ |
| fruits | powers | condemnation | glorified |
| predestined | conquerors | good | purpose |
| creation | hardship | redemption | decay |
| died | intercedes | Spirit | heart |



"Seek and you will find."
- Matthew 7:7, NIV



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