

July 2026

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

Giving Thanks for Ordered Liberty

As we come to the month of July, our nation is preparing to mark the 250th anniversary of its founding. For many, July 4th will mean cookouts, flags, fireworks, travel, and time with family. Those things are not wrong. In fact, they can be good gifts when received with gratitude. But for Christians, moments like this should also lead us to sober reflection and thanksgiving before God.

We do not worship America. We do not confuse the kingdom of God with any earthly nation. Our hope is not in Washington, political parties, court decisions, military strength, economic prosperity, or cultural influence. The church has one King, and His name is Jesus Christ. His kingdom is everlasting. His throne cannot be shaken. His gospel is the only hope for sinners.

And yet, because we belong to Christ, we should also be able to give thanks for earthly blessings without making idols of them.

One of those blessings is the privilege of living in a country where we may gather freely for worship, preach the gospel openly, own and read our Bibles, teach our children the truth, send missionaries, support churches, speak about Christ in public, and order our congregational life according to our convictions from Scripture. That is no small thing.

Many of our brothers and sisters around the world do not enjoy these same freedoms. Some gather quietly. Some worship under threat. Some cannot openly evangelize. Some risk the loss of family, livelihood, or life itself for naming the name of Christ. When we gather on the Lord's Day without fear of government interference, we should not take that mercy lightly.

The Reformed tradition has long spoken of civil government as an ordinance of God. Romans 13 teaches that governing authorities are appointed by God for the restraint of evil and the promotion of good. First Timothy 2 teaches us to pray "for kings and all who are in high positions," so "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." That is not a prayer for comfort alone. It is a prayer that ordered liberty would serve the advance of godliness and the spread of the gospel.

The Puritans understood this well. They were not looking for a merely private faith. They believed Christ was Lord over all of life. They cared about worship, family, work, law, education, and public righteousness. They knew that liberty was not the freedom to do whatever we please. True liberty is the freedom to serve God according to His Word.

That is a lesson our own age desperately needs. Freedom untethered from truth eventually becomes bondage. A people may be free from many outward restraints and still be enslaved to sin, appetite, confusion, and self-rule. Jesus said, “Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin” and “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:34, 36). Political liberty is a blessing. Spiritual liberty in Christ is greater still.

So how should we think about our country in this anniversary year?

We should give thanks. Gratitude is a Christian duty. We should thank God for the freedoms we enjoy, for those who have sacrificed to preserve them, for the rule of law, for the ability to worship freely, and for the many providential kindnesses we have received in this land.

We should repent. National anniversaries are not only moments for celebration. They are also moments for humility. No nation is righteous before God. We should grieve our sins, our pride, our bloodshed, our injustice, our confusion, our rebellion against God’s design, and our many attempts to enjoy God’s gifts while forgetting the Giver.

We should pray. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our churches. Pray for revival and reformation. Pray that the Lord would restrain evil, strengthen what is good, protect the weak, preserve the freedom of the church, and open doors for the gospel.

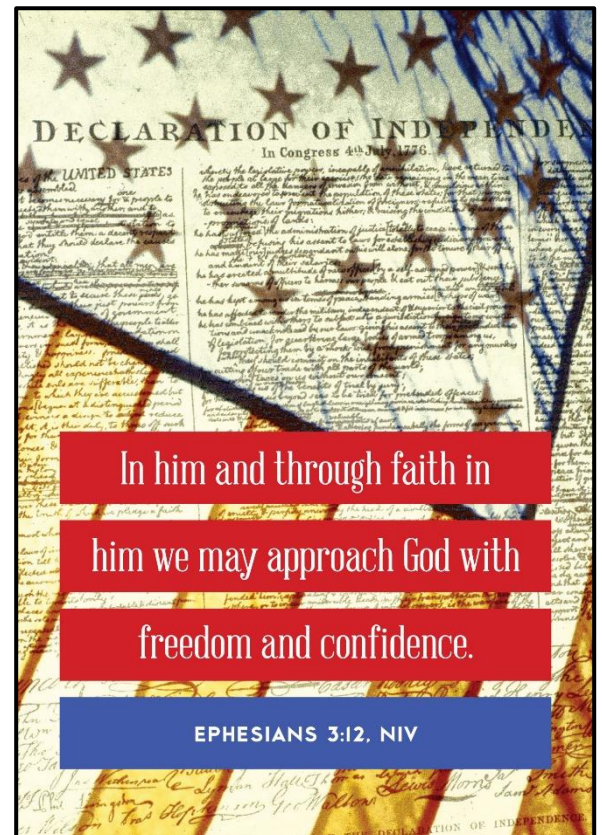
We should be faithful. The best thing Christians can do for their nation is not panic, rage, or despair. It is to worship God rightly, raise our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, love our neighbors, speak truth, work honestly, show mercy, pray fervently, and hold fast to Christ.

As we mark this milestone, let us be grateful Americans, but let us be Christians first. Let us love our earthly home rightly because our true citizenship is in heaven. Let us steward our freedoms well, not using them for selfishness, but for worship, witness, service, and obedience.

America has been the setting of many great blessings in our lives. For that, we should give thanks. But America is not our Savior. Christ is. Nations rise and fall, but His kingdom is forever.

May the Lord make us thankful without being naïve, patriotic without being idolatrous, sober without being cynical, and hopeful without placing our hope in anything less than Christ Himself.

In Christ,
Pastor Aaron



FAITH PROMISE MISSIONS FUND UPDATE

It is with thankful and joyous hearts that the Missions Committee reports that pledges received met our goals. Also, at the end of 2025, after all pledged, budgeted monies were paid, the account had an unexpected excess of funds. Those funds were paid to the partners on our Faith Promise support list. The partners are listed on the back of each Sunday bulletin and in our Faith Promise Partner brochures which contain information about their ministries. Additionally, pledges received this year reached our \$60,000 praise goal. With faith, according to our promised pledges, the quarterly support payments to our partners were raised to reflect that amount.



2026 Pledge Cards total \$61,480

Each of our missions partners has asked us to extend their warm greetings to the Main Street church family and to express their deep gratitude for the extra monetary and ongoing prayer support.

The Nortons are Headed to Norway

Clarke (from Memphis, Tennessee) and Khrystya (from Lviv, Ukraine) served on a Mission to the World church planting team in Lviv, Ukraine, from 2009 to 2021. One of the greatest privileges of their life together was watching God grow a small group of contacts in 2009 into a vibrant church community of 80 people committed to Christ, His Word, and His mission.

After completing his M.Div., M.A. in counseling, and pastoral ordination, Clarke and Khrystya have accepted a new call with Mission to the World to church planting in Oslo, Norway. Their hope is to help establish a flagship church in Oslo that can become a sending base for future church plants throughout post-Christian Scandinavia.



At the heart of the Nortons' ministry is hospitality—welcoming people into their home and everyday lives so others might encounter the grace, truth, and presence of Jesus Christ.

Khrystya will serve women and young mothers while also using her strong administrative gifts. Clarke will serve through pastoral ministry, counseling, discipleship, and spiritual care as Grace International Church grows and reaches the city.

Lord willing, the Nortons will depart for Oslo on August 10th. Please Pray:

1. For the people of Oslo — that the questions "Who am I? Do I matter? Where do I belong?" would find their answer in Christ.
2. For Grace International Church — that its rapid growth would be met with mature, deeply rooted disciples and leaders, not simply bigger crowds.
3. For their family — as they say goodbye to one home and step into another, and for the final support to arrive before August 10th



A Letter from Paige Pilkinton as she Returns to Slovakia July 14-28

Dear Main Street,

I am excited to share that I am now fully funded for my upcoming mission trip to Slovakia from July 14–28! I am incredibly grateful for your generosity and support. Financial contributions have made it possible for me to participate in this ministry opportunity, and I am thankful for every person who has partnered with me through giving, encouragement, and prayer.

During these two weeks, our team will be partnering with two local churches to lead a Christian summer camp for high school students. Our primary goal is to build relationships with students, share the Gospel, and encourage them in their walk with Christ. Through daily activities, small group discussions, worship, and personal conversations, we pray that students will come to know Jesus more deeply and experience His love in a meaningful way.

As I prepare for this opportunity, I would appreciate your continued prayers.

Prayer Requests:

- *Safe travel and protection for the American mission team during our trip from July 14–28.*
- *Preparation of the hearts of the campers to hear and respond to the Gospel message.*
- *Opportunities to build genuine relationships with students and share Christ's love with them.*
- *Energy, strength, and wisdom for both the American and Slovak camp leaders as we minister to students throughout the camp.*
- *Unity among all team members as we serve together.*
- *That God would be glorified through every conversation, activity, and interaction throughout the camp.*
- *Lasting spiritual impact in the lives of the students long after camp has ended.*

Thank you again for your faithful support, generosity, and prayers!

In Christ's Love, Paige



Satan Is Smarter Than Us in This One Area...but ARC is Here to Help

*We make the mistake of handling our children and teenagers with kiddy gloves. Sometimes, we intellectually coddle them in an effort to protect them. Then, at some point in their life, they are exposed to competing ideologies, religions, and lifestyles **for the first time** and they do not know what to do. They are not ready; they do not have answers. Their intellectual "immune systems" are overwhelmed by the contagions, and sometimes they leave the Christian faith.*

Satan does not play by the rules. He throws the kitchen sink at them as early as possible. He does not wait until they are 18 or 21 to attack them with alternatives to Christianity. He attempts to influence them as early as possible with atheism and agnosticism, hedonism (the pursuit of pleasure through sex, drugs, alcohol, etc.), religious pluralism, and much more.

*If Satan is not handling our children with kiddy gloves but instead tries to reach them as early as possible with his heaviest stuff, **we have to teach and disciple and train our children as early as possible with our best efforts.** We have to intellectually prepare our children by raising them in a consistent, coherent biblical worldview. We have to expose them to ideological contaminants early (such as atheism and New Age teachings), and walk them through how to answer questions that arise so that their intellectual immune systems are strengthened. We must do this early, so that they are not caught off-guard when they experience these things in the "real world."*

The good news is that our children and teenagers are hungry for the truth! Everywhere I go and teach (such as when I went to Maryland recently and spoke to a youth group, pictured above), our students are passionate about being trained. They want to ask questions; they want good answers that our faith provides. Christianity has an unbelievably robust intellectual foundation, built upon the Bible. Let us share this rich heritage of thought and practice with the next generation. They are ready, and they are willing. Let's take off the kiddy gloves. ARC is here to help!

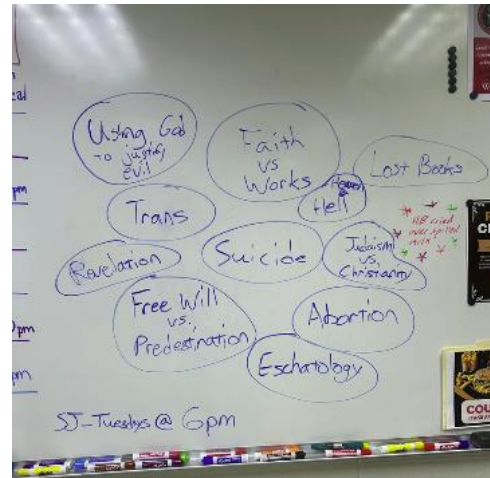


(ARC is here to help Continues on the next page)

According to a recent study, the percentage of regular church attenders who are Pro-Life has gone down dramatically in two years. In 2023, 63% of regular church attenders were Pro-Life. In 2025, that number was 43%.

Coming at this topic from the opposite angle: In 2023, 22% of regular church attenders identified as Pro-Choice. In 2025, that number ballooned to 35%

These numbers are alarming, and it shows the importance of apologetics training. Every Christian needs to know the basics of the Pro-Life position, and how to defend it and explain it. Human life at every stage, from the unborn to the elderly, is valuable because we are made in the image of God.



This is why ARC exists. We want to equip believers to answer questions that our culture is asking. We want to build confidence, so that we may be bold evangelists. We want to tell people about how God so loved the world, that he sent Jesus Christ to earth to die for our sins. What a beautiful story! People need to hear it.

ARC IS BIBLICAL ANSWERS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Explore trusted Christian apologetics resources to equip the Church and engage the culture

The Apologetics Resource Center provides articles, journals, videos, audio, and events designed to help believers stand firm in a biblical worldview. From addressing world religions and cults to navigating today's toughest social issues, our apologetics resources give you the tools to defend the faith and share the gospel with clarity.

Check out ARC's website, social media content, videos, and podcast!

<https://arcanswers.org/> and <https://arcanswers.org/resources/>



Thank you for investing in and partnering with ARC so that we may help more believers be confident in their faith and train more people to share the gospel.

Nate Williams, Director, and Clete Hux, Director Emeritus



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Salt and Light Sunday School class will sponsor a family movie night on Friday, July 24 at 5:30. The movie shown will be "David". Please **RSVP** by July 21 to Laurie Chilcutt at 662-251-8254.

THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS VBS SERIES

Our Scottish Sleuths went on the hunt for the puzzling parables during Vacation Bible School this year. Each parable taught them about the Kingdom of God and King Jesus!

Everyone had a great time, and we could not have asked for better weather or better volunteers who helped make the week possible.

We want to extend a special thank you to all of those who pitched in to give our children a great experience and to invite everyone to consider joining us next year to see what the Scottish Sleuths will get up to next."





USHER LINE UP FOR JULY 2026:

July 5: Jack Chilcutt, Sammy Clemons, Dan Williams, Tom Tait, Luke King

July 12: Brinton Fisackerly, Joseph Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

July 19: Bryant Bean, James Howard, Russ Russell, Nick Hairston, Allan Brewer

July 26: Trip Hairston, Doug Bateman, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, John Bean



Nursery Volunteers

July 2026	7/5/2026	7/12/2026	7/19/2026	7/26/2026
Coordinator	Lisa Suber	Hannah Nail	Pat Russell	Janie Williams
Nursery Worker	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	OFF
Nursery Worker	Destiny Spraggins	Destiny Spraggins	OFF	Destiny Spraggins
Nursery Volunteer	Savannah Baxter	Camille Pittman	Meryl Fisackerly	Robin/Katie Tait
Toddler Sunday School	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
Sunday School Monitor	Dan Williams	Jay Nail	Brinton Fisackerly	Dan Williams



JULY 2026

birthdays & anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4  Independence Day Emmett Baldrige
5 Communion <i>Jay & Hannah Nail</i>	6 Charlotte Marble	7 Ian Marble	8	9 Robin Tait Ladies Night Out Amata 6:00	10 Joshua Crandall	11
12 Church Picnic Magowah 5:00	13 John Thomas Kilpatrick	14 <i>Ben & Ann Chilcutt</i>	15	16	17	18 Fran Laws
19	20	21 RSVP Deadline for Movie Night Annabelle Tait	22	23 Nathan Kilpatrick	24 Family Movie Night 5:30 <i>Jon & Lauren Zarandona</i>	25
26 Frances Glenn Dean Harris	27 <i>Ray & Amy Kilpatrick</i>	28	29	30 <i>Matt & Jennifer White</i>	31 Jessica Denny	



*Please be
Praying for...*

- ❖ MSPC Elders, Deacons, and Pastors
- ❖ Karen Livingston, John Mark Russell, Nicki Leggett, Oop Swoope, Jane Berry, Abigail Beard, Rachel Lucas, Debbie Jenkins, John Rogowski, and Christ Presbyterian Church Misson
- ❖ Washington Officials, President Donald Trump, State, City, and County Officials
- ❖ Governor Tate Reeves, Mayor Stephen Jones, Police Chief Joseph Daughtry, Sheriff Eddie Hawkins
- ❖ Helping Hands, Life Choices Pregnancy Center, Palmer Home, all Columbus Churches and Pastors

Budget Report
May 2026
(all tithing
including online)
\$59,538

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
5:00 p.m. Evening Study: Psalms