

June 2026

Main Street Presbyterian Church

# The Main Thing



## Why So Many Bible Translations?

*Understanding the Differences Between English Bibles*

Last month, we looked at why we can trust our English Bibles and how translation works. This month, I want to answer the next natural question: *Why are there so many different Bible translations?*

If you have ever compared two Bibles and noticed different wording, you are not alone. At first glance, it can feel confusing. But once you understand what each translation is trying to do, it actually becomes very helpful.

### The Translation Spectrum

The main reason we have multiple translations is because of something called the *translation spectrum*.

On one end are translations that aim to stay very close to the original wording. On the other end are translations that focus more on clearly expressing the meaning in English.

- **Word-for-Word (Formal Equivalence)** – prioritizes the original wording
- **Thought-for-Thought (Dynamic Equivalence)** – prioritizes clarity and readability

Most translations fall somewhere in between.

Neither approach is trying to change the Bible. They are simply making different decisions about how best to communicate what the text says.

### More Word-for-Word Translations

These translations aim to reflect the original wording and structure as closely as possible.

- **English Standard Version (ESV)** – This is the primary translation we use in our church. It seeks to balance accuracy and readability while leaning word-for-word.
- **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** – One of the most literal translations available. Especially helpful for careful study and for seeing how the original language is structured.
- **New King James Version (NKJV)** – A modern update of the King James tradition with a more formal tone.

These translations are especially helpful for studying, teaching, and working through passages carefully.

## Balanced Translations

These aim for a middle ground between precision and readability.

- **New International Version (NIV)** – Widely used and very readable while still remaining faithful to the text.
- **Christian Standard Bible (CSB)** – Intentionally designed to balance clarity and accuracy.

These are often excellent for personal reading, family devotions, and gaining a clear understanding of a passage.

## More Thought-for-Thought Translations

These translations focus more on expressing the meaning of the text clearly in modern English.

- **New Living Translation (NLT)** – Very readable and accessible, especially for newer readers, though less precise for detailed study.

These can be helpful for understanding the flow of a passage, but they are best used alongside a more literal translation.

## A Word of Caution

It is important to distinguish translations from paraphrases.

Paraphrases (such as *The Message*) are not translations in the same sense. They restate Scripture in highly interpretive language, reflecting an individual's understanding rather than carefully translating the original text.

For that reason, they should not be relied upon for study, teaching, or doctrinal clarity.

## So Which Translation Should I Use?

That is a good question, and the answer is fairly simple.

Use a faithful translation—and use it consistently.

For most of you, that will be the ESV, since that is what we use together as a church. But there is nothing wrong with consulting other faithful translations to help you better understand a passage.

A helpful approach is this:

- Use a more word-for-word translation for study
- Use a more readable translation for general reading if needed
- Compare translations when a passage feels unclear

The goal is not to find the “perfect” translation. The goal is to understand God’s Word more clearly.

## Final Encouragement

Brothers and sisters, the abundance of translations is not a problem—it is a gift.

God has not hidden His Word from us. He has preserved it, and He has made it accessible in our own language.

So do not get stuck worrying about which translation is best.

Pick up your Bible. Read it. Study it. Sit under it.

And trust that the same God who gave His Word is faithful to use it to shape His people.

Sincerely,  
*Pastor Aaron*



*We Celebrate our 2026 Graduates!*



*Olivia Kilpatrick*

*Esther Stennis*

*Rebekah Storment*

*Rebecca Sun*

# 2026 FAITH PROMISE UPDATE

## PLEDGE RECEIPTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TOTALING \$61,480



11 May 2026



Friends,

We often refer to the transitional nature of MMI churches. We figure that each year about 1/3 of our military members will rotate out to new assignments, yet, new families will arrive to replace them. We are approaching the main season for that to occur. We are already aware of new families who are on the way and they have contacted the church near their new base. In addition to the military rotations, we are in a season of pastor rotations. We have current openings in Okinawa and Vicenza. In mid-late August, we will say "good-bye" to our pastor in Stuttgart. We have placed advertisements and notices on the PCA website and social media to announce these openings. Pray for us to have the right men to accept these calls.

We have 600+ people who attend our churches. We are currently covering the transitions that have occurred with interim pastors and have received some interest in full-time coverage. However, we want to conduct due-diligence and are still seeking pastors for each of these three locations. If you know of someone who's interested, please let me know.

I usually do not use this forum to speak about my family situation, but one of our sons is about to rotate to a location where we have an MMI church. It's his second military rotation to an MMI church location. It means a lot to my wife and me that we have a solid church at his new duty station. At our nine church locations we have the potential to reach approximately 250,000 American servicemembers, dependents, contractors and civil servants who are stationed within 30 minutes of our churches, plus several million locals and internationals who speak English.

Much of our support for these churches comes from Stateside donors. Let me ask/encourage you to continue to support these churches as we transition. Even if it takes a few extra months to get a pastor in place, it is critical for the life of the church for the support to continue. It will make it easier for the new pastor to ensure the funding support is in place.

Thank you to everyone as your prayers and gifts make this ministry successful. Every year we have adult and children converted to Christ. We have multiple communicant and catechism classes. Each week, the highlight of our ministry is God's Word is read and proclaimed.

Blessings,  
*Chester Replogle*, Director  
[www.MMiChurches.com](http://www.MMiChurches.com)

# EQUIPPING

LEADERS INTERNATIONAL

Equipping leaders to impact their world

Former des leaders qui influenceront sur leur monde

Thank you for following my story, praying for me and contributing toward these needs. Bill Boggess

*Bonjour! from St Augustine, Florida. I am doing well these days. I will drive up to Washington D.C. (with Bentley, of course) to Benjamin and Sabrina's for Memorial Day weekend. All three boys and families will be there. It will be good to see everyone, especially the three grandsons! I hope we have good weather to do some bike riding...*

*A good part of my life these days is teaching 11 pastors in 8 different countries so they can host and teach conferences to needy pastors in other areas. I taught six mornings this week. François and I have become pretty attached to our national partners. We are encouraged to see them hosting and teaching conferences without us.*

*I had a bad scare last month: Bentley, my 7-year-old Ragdoll cat almost died from kidney failure because his urinary tract was blocked with struvite crystals. It is fairly common in male cats. He was in the veterinary hospital for 5 days and took another two weeks to be back to normal. I was really worried, but I am relieved now that he is back to normal. Yeah, I know he's just a cat, but he is **my** cat. (Well...of course I know I am not his owner, I am his staff.)...*



*As you know, I do not take any salary or benefits from ELI, but I do raise funds for the conferences. The African pastors do not have money to spend to attend a conference. Many of you contribute through TEAM or through ELI for the African pastors. Thank you VERY MUCH! And the African partners thank you as well. I can tell you that your contributions meet a real need and serve a strategic purpose. The pastors tell us constantly how much they appreciate the teaching, the fellowship, the opportunity to network with other pastors, the rest, and the food. (Some of them have a serious lack of food, and the conferences always provide lots of good food.) The wives are invited to the conferences, and those who can participate express their gratitude.*

*I thank you all who pray and contribute to ELI for this ministry with French-speaking African pastors. Because the church in sub-Saharan Africa is growing at an exceptional rate, the need for pastors is exceptional. These pastors desperately need solid theological training. I consider it a privilege to provide it. This is a strategic ministry. I believe that God sent me to France for 34 years fully intending to use me now in this important ministry.*

## **Praise:**

- *To God for encouraging cheerful givers to enable me to train so many pastors.*
- *For God's blessing our 8 weekly Zoom teaching sessions. In general, the internet connection has been good, but not always. Lack of electricity can also shut down a Zoom call. Some countries are worse than others in this matter.*
- *God's abundant blessings on my 3 weekly local Bible studies. I love teaching hungry believers.*
- *To God for healing my cat.*
- *Contentment in life.*

**Prayer:**

- For God to raise the finances for the many needs expressed above.
- For me to teach well.
- to have good connections over Zoom, to be able to hear and understand my students as they communicate over Zoom. It is hard to hear and understand them sometimes because of a poor connection, their different accents when speaking French, my poor hearing.
- For God to bless those who pray and contribute to this ministry.
- For wisdom as we improve the marriage course and the Survey of the Bible course.

A satisfied man,

**Bill Boggess**

Missionary with Equipping Leaders International, Inc., Teaching pastors in French-Speaking Africa

**EQUIPPING**  
LEADERS INTERNATIONAL  
*Equipping leaders to impact their world*  
<https://equileaders.org/>



## PAIGE PILKINTON MISSION TRIP TO SLOVAKIA IN JULY

*Paige is still working to raise the remaining \$1,500 needed to cover her travel and ministry expenses. If you feel led to support this mission financially, donations can be made through Main Street Presbyterian Church.*

***Paige and her team would greatly appreciate your prayers for them as they prepare to minister at the camp and for the students who will attend.***

***She will be partnering again with Josiah Venture to help lead Christian English summer camps for high school students in Slovakia. These camp workers build relationships with students through games, English classes, testimonies, and nightly gospel talks, all with the goal of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and connecting students with a local church.***

If you would like to donate you can mail checks to Main Street Presbyterian Church or drop them into the offering plate.

**Please put Paige Slovakia in the memo line.** Main Street Presbyterian Church, P O Box 26, Columbus, MS 39703-0026

**Please have donations in by Sunday, June 14, to allow time to mail them.**

**HELPING HANDS  
ANNUAL FAN DRIVE**



Helping Hands is accepting **NEW** fans and monetary donations for fans throughout the summer months. Fans can be dropped off at Helping Hands (223 22nd St N) M-Th 8:30am-12:30pm and monetary donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 1241, Columbus, MS 39703

For more information, please contact Jennifer Garrard at 662-328-8301 or [hhands389@gmail.com](mailto:hhands389@gmail.com)

**BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT**

# THE SCOTTISH SLEUTHS

## VBS SERIES

Vacation Bible School will be June 9, 10 and 11th at the church from 9:00 am till 11:30 am for children ages 4-10 years old.

A nursery will be available for children of volunteers ages one year to three years.

Registrations forms will be inserted in church bulletin until June 7 or email [mainstreetpres@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetpres@gmail.com)



## Solve The Mystery..... June 9, 10 and 11th

# JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Lucas White	2 Beth Shull	3 <i>Vee &amp; Beth Ferguson</i>	4	5	6
7 Communion Katie Tait	8	9 VBS	10 VBS	11 Eliza Harris VBS	12	13
14 Rhonda White <i>Ed &amp; Rhonda White</i>	15	16 <i>Ron &amp; Linda Simpson</i>	17 Kitty Brewer	18 Ladies Night Out 6:00  Amata Italian Restaurant	19 Jonathan Crandall	20 Allan Brewer  Nicholas Hairston
21 	22 PCA Assembly	23 PCA Assembly	24 Phillip Goodwin  Allen Tait  PCA Assembly	25 <i>Jim &amp; Beth Shull</i>  PCA Assembly	26 PCA Assembly	27
28	29 <i>Trip &amp; Bethany Hairston</i>	30				

**June  
Counter  
Key Pittman**

**Budget Report  
April 2026**  
(all tithing  
including online)  
**\$65,550**

*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, and Christ Presbyterian Church Mission
- ❖ 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

# June Nursery Volunteers



June 2026	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Coordinator	Hannah Nail	Pat Russell	Janie Williams	Frances Glenn
Nursery Volunteer	Camille Pittman	Meryl Fisackerly	Robin/Katie Tait	Sarah Bean
Nursery Worker	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	OFF
Nursery Worker	Destiny Spraggins	Destiny Spraggins	OFF	Destiny Spraggins
Toddler Sunday School	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
Sunday School Monitor	Dan Williams	Jay Nail	Brinton Fisackerly	Dan Williams

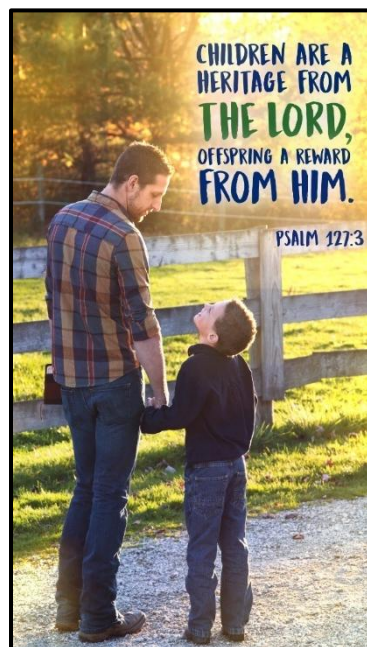
## Usher Schedule for June

June 7: **Bryant Bean**, James Howard, Russ Russell, Nick Hairston, Allan Brewer

June 14: **Trip Hairston**, Doug Bateman, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, John Bean

June 21: **Henry Pilkinton**, JB Dyer, Marcus Stone, Tyler Cofield, Larry Burleson

June 28: **Jay Nail**, Key Pittman, Jesse Duncan, Jacob Wright, Josh Wodrich



*Happy Father's Day  
June 21, 2026*

## **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