

May 2025

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing



What is significant about infant baptism?

On Easter Sunday, I had the privilege of baptizing Meredith Grace Fisackerly. Our book of church order requires a lesson related to baptism to be given before each one is performed. I wanted to share with you all what I recited during the service. This is a modified outline from my Senior Pastor in Overland Park, Kansas. Tony taught me a love for administering the sacrament of baptism rooted in a deep love for the covenant family. I pray that you find these words an encouragement.

The Christian faith is a covenantal faith.

A covenant is a commitment that is marked with outward expressions or signs.

When we speak of God being a covenantal God or a covenant-keeping God, we are referring to the way He has made a commitment from of old to save a people for Himself.

He made this commitment known in time and space when our first parents fell into sin in the Garden. As our representatives, all mankind plunged into sin with them.

Separated from God by sin and doomed for a just punishment, the only way we could be forgiven for our sin and have fellowship with God as our Father would be for a Second Adam to come and undo what the first Adam did.

Like the first Adam represented us, so also, for all those whom the Father gave to the Second Adam, he represented us on the Cross and cleansed us from all our sins. Jesus was the perfect Second Adam, our Savior.

In the Old Testament, the people of God or the Church were called Israel. They looked forward to the coming of Christ and their redemption through Him. God gave them a sign to express His covenant promise to them. It would serve to remind them of what He would do on their behalf. The sign in the Old Testament was circumcision.

The sign was to be applied to those who believed and their male children. The sign marked the Israelites as distinct from the rest of the world. Furthermore, it symbolized God's hand of favor upon them.

After Jesus came and fulfilled God's covenant with his blood on the cross, the people of God were not limited to one nation any longer.

Jesus opened the way to the Gentiles as was forecasted under Abraham centuries before. It was always the intention of God's covenant for Christ to be the Savior of all tribes and nations.

The sign of the covenant is no longer a bloody rite limited to males. It is now the sign of water baptism applied to men and women who believe, and their children. It pictures the way God cleanses our sin by the work of Christ.

The transference from a limited covenant sign of circumcision happened on the day of Pentecost when Peter was preaching to a group made up mostly of Jewish believers.

Acts 2:35-38 [36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” [37] Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Did you hear Peter's covenantal promise language?
Do you see who it was aimed at?

...For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

So we apply the covenant sign of baptism to those who believe in Christ, and their children, with a firm belief in the promises of God to give our children repentance and faith in due time, whenever He wills.

By applying the sign of baptism to this child, we are saying that we believe in God's promises and we trust in His sovereign hand. We are declaring that the only way of salvation is by faith in the finished work of Christ for the washing away of our sins by His blood.

It's not baptism that saves, but rather it is what baptism represents that saves- *the blood of Jesus Christ shed on our behalf and applied by faith.*

Baptism is not about our commitment to God, but rather it is about God's covenantal commitment to His people.

May we all use this as an opportunity to reflect upon our own baptisms and praise God for His covenant faithfulness to His people.

In Christ,

Pastor Aaron



April 2025

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well and encouraged. With Easter weekend upon us we have so much to be thankful for. What a joy to mark and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. I will be praying for you all, and especially that the resurrection power of our risen Saviour will be evident in your churches and lives.

The last few months have been especially busy for me with two trips to the USA. It was great to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones in Charlotte, Greenville, Asheville, Nashville, Huntsville, and Chattanooga. A special welcome to those who are receiving an email for the first time.

Without further ado I have fantastic news to share with you, as well as to ask for ongoing prayer, and to give you an update on what God is doing in Oxford Pres.

Amazing News! Most of you will know that in 2023, and after 3 years of rollercoaster negotiations, God opened the door for us to take a 35-year lease on the North Gate Hall from Oxford City Council. That lease was an amazing answer to prayer and a really good arrangement. It gave us security of tenure and the opportunity to make significant alterations to the building. The downside was it tied us and our successors to very significant rent payments every year.



Our dream and prayer was always that, at some point, we would have the opportunity to upgrade the tenancy to actual ownership. I am thrilled to tell you that, just a few weeks ago, we completed the process of buying the North Gate Hall! With incredibly generous help from external supporters we were able to buy the freehold for the North Gate Hall from the Council outright with no debt.

This is a mind-boggling development and once again we have seen our great God work in unusual and unexpected ways. Church buildings that have been converted to restaurants in England don't

come back to be churches again. But this one has! Tiny evangelical church plants with tiny resources don't get buildings, in this city in particular. But God has done it! Not only did the City Council vote unanimously to sell the building to us, but the process of agreeing and exchanging the legal contracts went smoothly.

Please join us in giving thanks to God for this remarkable provision.

Pray on!

As fantastic as this news is, we still need your prayers and support. The Lord has wonderfully blessed our capital fund raising, yet we have pressing needs for our day-to-day operational costs and further fundraising to do for the renovation of the North Gate Hall.

Please pray for internal giving to grow in the coming year. As we grow numerically as a church (see below), please pray for support to grow from within as well.

Please also pray for new partners and supporting churches. One of my recent trips to the USA was almost entirely focused on that need. I had several very encouraging meetings and we now look to the Lord to provide.

Church life and evangelism continues ...

Whilst so much has happened behind the scenes with the North Gate Hall, we have continued to worship and



witness as a church. This centres on our two Sunday services. We have seen lots of new people visit us, worship with us, and join us, since Christmas. So much so that space in our building has on occasion been a rare commodity. We have welcomed new members and are looking forward to two baptisms in the next few weeks. This all highlights the pressing need for us to get on with the building renovations so we can increase the seating in the North Gate Hall and so accommodate our growing numbers.

Do pray for the Lord to continue to add to us and to especially work in the many non-Christians who attend our services.

Student work doubles ...(!)

Over the last few months we have seen our student work double in size. Demand was so strong for 'Rooted' - our bi-weekly evening of pizza and Bible study - we have now increased it to a weekly meeting. It has been such a delight to see 30+ students gather on Tuesday evenings to dig deep into God's Word. We have seen even more attend our services, often inviting their friends and bringing non-Christians with them.



Please pray for us as we endeavour to shepherd and care for these students. Many are young in the faith and eager to learn, which is both a privilege and a responsibility!

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for Oxford Pres. There is much more to report but that will have to wait until another update soon. Since the inception of Oxford Pres in September 2018 it has been clear the Lord has answered your prayers in surprising ways. Your interest in and support for all that is happening in Oxford Pres continues to encourage and humble me.

On a personal note, we are busy as a family preparing for Alicia's wedding in late June. We praise God for her fiancé, Jonah, who is a godly young man. Whilst I can't promise I won't cry as I walk her down the aisle, I will nonetheless be filled with thankfulness and joy.

Yours in Christ, Andy

Rev. Andy Young – Minister, Elder & Trustee <https://www.oxfordpres.co.uk/>



Peru Mission

April 2025

It's Spring in Mississippi, and that usually means lots of flowers, budding trees, and pollen; but last week there were several devastating tornados, that cost lives and destroyed many homes and other property. Humans naturally are builders, always making something and planning projects. God is our creator, and we are made in his image, made to make things. Yet these storms remind us how quickly years of labor can be destroyed and wiped away. Jesus tells us to store up our treasures in Heaven, where neither the moth or rust can destroy, and neither can tornadoes! This is a brief update about the work in Peru, where we are yes, building more classrooms, and extra rooms on our churches, but also teaching the words of Jesus, the ones that will endure forever.

Back in January Susan, Lauren and I all traveled back to Peru for our annual summer camp (remember January is summer in Peru!) and we had a great time. It was our largest camp ever, with over 200 people participating. We used Pilgrims Progress as our theme, explaining the gospel each day to our campers. We are grateful to a team from All Saints Presbyterian from Austin, Tx and their help that week. Pray for the gospel to bear much fruit in the lives of these children.



Last week Geneva School opened for another academic year. We now have over 290 children enrolled, and Pastor Luis Mendoza is also our full-time school chaplain. It's hard to believe but in one more year our school will be complete, and we will have our first graduates! We look forward to the way God will use these young people to impact Trujillo for his glory.

The church plant in Chimbote is growing quickly. This month they celebrated the one-year anniversary of the official church plant and added even more new members. We are thankful for the Lord's blessing on this new work.

Thank you for caring and helping us to do this work. We appreciate your prayers and giving to this ministry. We trust the Lord is kind to you and helps you in your labors for Him.

Dale and Susan



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<https://www.perumission.org/>





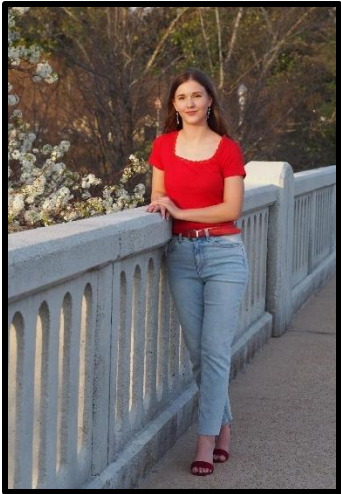
Lucas Girffith



Alex Morabito



Joey Knight



Elizabeth Crandall



Isaac Baxter



Landon Kilpatrick



Lyla Pankey



Savannah Baxter

*We wish all of you well as you step
into your next chapter!*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIAPER CHANGING STATION

Saturday, May 3rd is the day for this year's Market Street Festival. As we have done for the past 2 years, MSPC will provide a Diaper Changing Station for festival participants. We will need volunteers from the church to make this service successful. Please consider offering your time for an hour or two to welcome those who wish to use this service and to assist them in any way they can help. This is a great way to provide a practical expression of Christ's love.

Please check the sign-up sheet located in the back of the sanctuary and place your name in the time slot(s) where you will serve. If you have questions please contact Jim Shull at 601-927-1433.



National Day of Prayer



**Thursday, May 1, 2025
12:00 Noon
Downtown Courthouse**



**Seating Available | Rain Location: YMCA GYM
2nd Ave closed except for passenger drop off**

Sponsored by: Christian Community In Prayer Committee
christiancommunityinprayer@gmail.com



USHER LINE UP FOR MAY:

May 4: Henry Pilkinton, Chris Howard, JB Dyer, Marcus Stone, Matt Miller

May 11: Jay Nail, Key Pittman, Johnny Sherrill, Jacob Wright, Josh Wodrich

May 18: Allan Brewer, Sammy Clemons, Dan Williams, Tom Tait, Larry Burleson

May 25: Brinton Fisackerly, Richard Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

Nursery Volunteers



May	5/4/2025	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025
Coordinator	Lisa Suber	Hannah Nail	Pat Russell	Janie Williams
Nursery worker	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	OFF
Nursery Worker	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer	Lillie Grayer
Nursery Volunteers	Emilee Senn Audrey Wright	Ashlyn Marble Li Ping Miller	Bethany Baxter Savannah Baxter Camille Pittman	Robin/Katie Tait Sarah Bean
Toddler Sunday School	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
Sunday School Monitor	Dan Williams	Brinton Fisackerly	Jay Nail	Dan Williams



Somehow the end of the school year is here! April brought fun things such as Easter egg hunts and parties but most importantly the children learned about the Easter story. What an amazing lesson of sacrifice and love we get to teach these children.



Our 4's got to watch the life cycle of Painted Lady butterflies in their classroom. They started with 5 caterpillars, and they were able to witness them go through all the stages of turning into butterflies. Then they released them in the church courtyard! The excitement and wonder were such a joy to watch!

Our 4's also have their end of the year program on May 6th at 10:00am in the sanctuary. We would love for you to join us and see how much they have learned! We will end our year on May 7th with a Family Day. All parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to join us on the playground at 10:00am for a fun celebration! We will have Kona Ice serving snow cones, face painting, and more fun for the families to enjoy.

This has been another amazing year for MSCS. What a joy it is to serve in such a beautiful ministry. Thank you for all the support and prayers! We are wishing everyone a happy and fun summer!

In His Love,


Anna Gaines Johnson, Director



The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come.
Song of Solomon 2:12



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Trip Hairston National Day of Prayer	2 Olivia Laws	3 Charles Glenn Ashlyn Marble Market Street Festival
4 Communion	5 Jim Shull	6 Brinton Fisackerly WIC 10:30	7 MSCS Family Day 10:00 Tacos	8 Ladies Night Out 6:00 TBD	9 Daniel Goodwin	10 Sammy Clemons
11 Nora Singletary 	12 Meryl Fisackerly	13	14 Grover & Melissa Allgood Everyone Bring a Salad	15 Kyle Singletary	16 Thomas Glenn Mike & Lynda Meharg	17 Jesse & Cathy Duncan WIC Spring Party 9-1
18 Aubrey Harris	19	20	21 Charles Swoope King Ranch Chicken	22	23 Ellen Allgood	24
25	26 Matt White Memorial Day	27 Ann Marie Miller	28 Hamburgers And Hot Dogs	29 Bertram Jenkins	30	31

May Counter
Henry Pilkinton



Budget Report
March 2025
(all tithing including online)
\$57,869.81

Please be Praying for...

- ❖ MSPC Elders, Deacons, and Pastors
- ❖ Louise Armstrong, Karen Livingston, John Mark Russell, Nicki Leggett, Faith Whitlock, Oop Swoope, Dudley Swoope, and Christ Presbyterian Church Plant
- ❖ Expectant Moms: Ann Marie Miller, Katie Singletary, and Savannah Harris
- ❖ Washington Officials, President Donald Trump
- ❖ State, City, and County Officials
- ❖ Governor Tate Reeves, Mayor Keith Gaskin, Police Chief Joseph Daughtry, Sheriff Eddie Hawkins
- ❖ Helping Hands, Life Choices Pregnancy Center, Palmer Home, all Columbus Churches, and Pastors

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 Evening Worship

Wednesday

5:30 Supper

6:00 p.m. Children and Youth Activities

6:00 p.m. Adult Devotional and Prayer Time