

May 2026

Main Street Presbyterian Church

The Main Thing



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

Can We Trust Our English Bibles?

Understanding Where Our Bible Comes From

Over the past few weeks—especially on Wednesday nights, as we have discussed groups like Jehovah’s Witnesses—an important question has come up: *Can we trust the Bible we are reading?*

Closely connected to that is another question: *Why are there so many different English translations?*

These are not silly questions. They affect your daily reading, your confidence in Scripture, and your ability to discern truth from error. My goal here is to help you see that we can trust our Bibles and to briefly explain how translation works.

Can We Trust Our English Bibles?

Yes—we can trust them.

The Old Testament was written primarily in Hebrew (with some Aramaic), and the New Testament in Greek. While we no longer have the original manuscripts, we do have thousands of ancient copies—around 25,000 partial or complete manuscripts. No other ancient text comes close to this level of preservation.

These manuscripts have been carefully compared over centuries, and what we find is remarkable consistency. Most differences are minor—spelling or word order—and do not affect any core doctrine of the Christian faith.

Faithful English translations are produced by teams of scholars working from these reliable texts. They are not inventing meaning; they are carefully translating what God has preserved.

When you open your Bible, you are holding the trustworthy Word of God in your own language.

How Translation Works

Translation is not simply swapping one word for another.

Languages do not line up perfectly. Words carry different shades of meaning, grammar functions differently, and figures of speech do not always translate directly. Because of this, translation requires both precision and judgment.

Faithful translation is not taking one English version and revising it again. Rather, it is a return to the original Hebrew and Greek texts. Scholars go back to the source material in order to preserve accuracy as closely as possible.

Every faithful translation is working to hold together two commitments:

- staying close to the original wording
- clearly communicating the meaning in English

Because of this, some differences between translations do exist. This is not a weakness—it is the result of careful effort to faithfully communicate God’s Word.

And we should say this clearly: this is not merely human effort. It is an act of God’s mercy that His Word has been preserved and remains trustworthy even today.

Why This Matters

This matters more than we might think.

First, it gives us **confidence**. You can trust the Bible you are reading.

Second, it gives us **discernment**. Groups like Jehovah’s Witnesses use their own translation—not to faithfully represent the text, but to support their theology.

Faithful translations submit to Scripture. False systems reshape it.

What Should I Do With This?

Brothers and sisters, do not let these questions unsettle you.

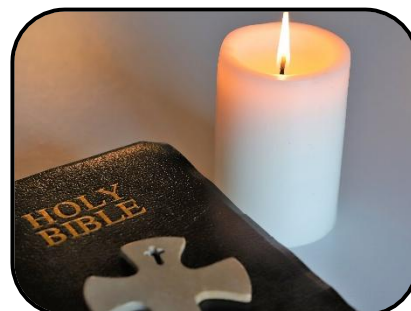
Let them strengthen your confidence in God’s Word.

You hold in your hands the Scriptures that make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ (2 Timothy 3:15). You are not left searching in the dark. The Word of God is clear, trustworthy, and sufficient.

So read it. Return to it daily. Build your life upon it.

Next month, we will take a closer look at the different English translations and how they relate to one another.

Sincerely,
Pastor Aaron



SPECIAL NEEDS REQUESTS FROM TWO OF OUR MISSIONS PARTNERS



HELP US REPAIR THE CAMPUS BUS AT ABCU IN LIBERIA

A little over a week ago, I reached out to ask if you would prayerfully consider helping cover the cost of critical repairs for the only bus serving our Liberia campus. This bus is essential—it transports students, faculty, and staff almost every day, making education and ministry possible.

However, we have not yet reached the funding needed to complete these repairs.

Without it, this vital lifeline remains at risk. I'm writing again to ask you to consider making a gift today. Your support will help ensure that this bus is restored and back in service—continuing to carry students toward their education, their calling, and their future.

The total cost of these repairs/improvements is just over \$9,000. We want to try to get this work done and the bus back up and running before the semester ends. And we need you! Please send contributions to: ABC, P.O. Box 103, Clinton, MS 39060 or to Main Street Presbyterian with Liberia bus in the memo line.

We are so grateful to you for being such a generous supporter of African Bible Colleges, both with your prayers and your contributions. Please know that you are a valuable partner in all that we do! I pray you will join us in this call to action by giving today! Thank you SO MUCH to all of you who have already made a contribution to this critical project! Please encourage others to do the same!

Trey Porter, Director of Development and Communications

MMI Special Need at Landstuhl for Security Upgrade Funding

Friends,

I was preparing an MMI update and in the last hour received very disturbing news affecting one of our churches. I have totally changed my update to report that Trinity Reformed Church of Landstuhl Germany was the victim of what is being investigated as a "Hate Crime". The German Polizei and US Security Forces are working on this case. Basically, the night before the Maundy Thursday service, a man used an axe and caused extensive damage to the main entrance. Fortunately, the incident was late at night, and no one was at the church. A German neighbor scared away the perpetrator. The church has often been vandalized, thus giving more credence to the "Hate Crime" label. You may recall that a little more than a year ago a man who was bent to disturb the worship service tried to enter the church building. The deacons and security team defused the situation.



The church does have insurance to cover the immediate repairs. The church leadership is looking at installing metal shutters on the front and rear door for more protection of the church facility. A quick estimate is \$50,000 for these needed security measures. On our website, you can designate a gift for the TRC Legacy Fund which is specifically for building repairs at TRC. TRC is our only church that owns its building.

The picture to the right was taken on Easter Sunday, just 4 days after the vandalism. The church was undeterred as 163 attended worship.



Please consider giving to the TRC Legacy Fund to defray the costs of these needed upgrades. Donations may be given online <https://mmichurches.com/donate> or by check to Main Street Presbyterian with MMI TRC Legacy on the memo line.

Chester Replogle, Director

www.MMiChurches.com

Thirdmill Spring 2026 Impact of Giving Report

Dear Friends at Main Street Presbyterian Church,

We are so thankful and blessed by your church's partnership!

Brother Samuel Kintu is one of our dear partners through The Grace Institute. Samuel is a pastor in Uganda, who leads Thirdmill training for groups of church leaders in the Kampala District. Samuel shares how Thirdmill materials bring new understanding to pastors in Uganda. This new understanding deeply impacts their preaching and ministry. New understanding: <https://vimeo.com/1174040239?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=cj>

Because of testimonies like these from pastors all over the world, we are encouraged to share our [Spring 2026 Impact of Giving Report](#). We are so excited to show you in greater detail how the Lord is blessing and growing our ministry through your generosity and friendship! Won't you take a moment to read and praise the Lord with us?

Your generosity directly contributed to this growth, particularly in restricted-access areas where the need for accessible, biblically grounded training remains urgent.

Growth You Helped Fuel:

- 4% growth in total students through all internal channels of publication, distribution, and training.
- 17% growth in Thirdmill Institute total students, now serving more than 20,005 Institute students worldwide.
- 12% growth of Thirdmill offline students, ensuring pastors without internet access can still receive high-quality theological education.
- A growing network of 608 organizational partners in 146 countries, working together to train leaders where the Church is growing fastest.

Looking Ahead, your investment this year lays the foundation for continued growth by:

- Deeper reach into unreached and underserved regions
- Stronger, self-sustaining local training networks
- A multiplying movement of well-equipped pastors who can train others

We see your partnership as a vital part of God's work across the world, and we are deeply grateful for your trust, partnership, and generosity.



Read Our Spring 2026 Impact of Giving Report

here: <https://hubs.ly/Q049VS-D0>

thirdmill.org [Thirdmill | Giving](#)

Please reach out to me with any questions, or if I may be in prayer for you or your church!

Blessings, *Becky Pratt*, Thirdmill Ambassador 316 Live Oaks Blvd, Casselberry, FL 32707



Church Life Continues ...



Dear Friends,

...It is a joy to send you another prayer update. We are in a very fruitful season. Yet we remain very fragile as well. As much as the Lord has wonderfully blessed us, we are in daily need of his further blessing. As the North Gate Hall takes shape around us, so the construction of the church of Christ in Oxford continues. We continue to be very encouraged with lots of people joining us each Sunday to worship the Triune God, hear his Word preached and to fellowship together.

Sunday Worship Under the Scaffolding

One significant development for the church is that one of our Elders, Tom Hutchings, has accepted a call to become the Minister of Solihull Presbyterian Church (approx. an hour north of Oxford). Tom has served Oxford Pres so well and he will be very much missed. At the same time we know how much of a blessing he will be to Solihull Pres.

- **Please pray for Tom and his family as they make the move in a few months time.**
- **Please also pray for us - that the Lord would raise up more Elders for Oxford Pres.**

As the building around us is built and renewed, we pray we will be as well!

We recently welcomed into membership 21 new people! **The need for our core group to grow is huge so please pray for more Oxford-based families to join us.**

Every Friday lunchtime we set up a book table in the city centre near the North Gate Hall and seek to engage people with the gospel. We give out tracts and gospels, chat with passers by, and invite people to our church. Whilst this is hard work we have been encouraged by the gospel conversations we have had and the number of tracts and gospels we have given away. **Please pray for fruit!**

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for Oxford Pres. Your continued interest in all God is doing here is a massive encouragement.

Yours in Christ, Andy

FAITH PROMISE UPDATE

**2026 PLEDGE RECEIPTS HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED TOTALING \$61,480!**



That Others May Know Him

March-April, 2026

In our church evangelism training we have two objectives; to encourage unbelievers to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior and to encourage believers to be all that the Lord wants them to be. Here are a couple of examples. First, February 4th was a cold night and only 12 people came to the training. We decided to divide into 6 teams of 2 and go to the mall where it was warm. Susi was my partner and this was the first time for her to share her faith. She was to share the first half and I was to share the second half of the "Bridge to Life" presentation. We approached a young couple in the food court who turned out to be a brother, Connor age 21, and his sister Kaleigh age 18. They lived at home and did not attend a church. In response to our witness, they both prayed to receive Christ. That night in response to the 6 teams 7 people prayed to receive Christ. Second, March 18th was a beautiful spring night. My team went to the University of Alabama, Birmingham campus. We encountered a Biology Professor named Leslie. Most professors are evolutionist and not believers. Leslie was different. She attended church regularly, professed to be a Christian, and had a clear understanding of the gospel. After I finished the "Bridge to Life" presentation, Peggy, a member of the team, invited Leslie to get together for coffee to continue to talk about spiritual things and they exchanged contact information. We made it very clear we were not trying to get her to join our church. The next day Leslie texted Peggy to see when they could get together.

Also, in my Prison Bible Class is going very well with about 20 men in the class. We are up to Matthew chapter 22. This is the description of the Lord's last week on earth and has some very important events for us to investigate, which the men enjoyed.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

Bob McPherson
cccblm@windstream.net





MONTHLY CHURCH LUNCHEON

"A Wonderful Year"

Our 2025-2026 year of luncheons has ended and they continue to be an experience we look forward to each time. Several years ago, I read something in one of my devotionals. It said: "It's not about the table, whether it's square or round. It's not about the chairs-plastic or wooden. It's not about the food, although it helps if it has been cooked with love. A good meal is enjoyed when we concentrate on those we're with". This says so much about us and this church!

Many people are involved in preparing for our luncheons. We thank Craig for setting up each time as well as Leslie and Ron for getting out the reminders. The kitchen staff were in full force with Linda, Beth, Kelly, and Silas present. Mike appreciated help from Dean and Whitt Harris. They helped with ice and water but also lent "extra hands" in placing food on the tables.

Our luncheons can only happen when you come and share them with each other. It's the time you take to prepare a dish or two for all to enjoy. But as we always do, we never turn away those who may have forgotten and our visitors. That's what makes these meals so special.

I personally want to say THANK YOU to each and everyone of you for what you do. It's now time to look forward to summer break with rest and vacations with family and friends. The next luncheon will be in **September**.

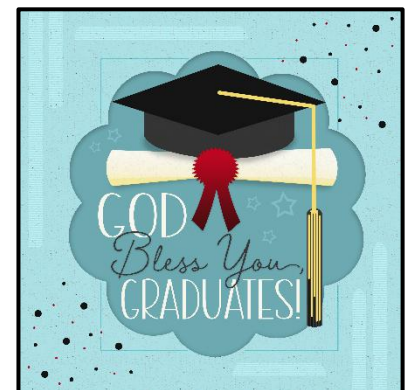
Looking forward to our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!
Lynda



Olivia Grace Kilpatrick

Sunday, May 17, between Sunday School and morning Worship Service, WIC will be honoring our Seniors! This is an opportunity for the church family to greet our seniors. Light refreshments will be served. Please take advantage of this time to congratulate our Seniors and their families!

We would appreciate your notifying the church office if you have a graduating Senior.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DIAPER CHANGING STATION



Saturday, May 2nd is the day for this year's Market Street Festival. As we have done for the past few 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. You will **NOT** have to change diapers!

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 7, 2026 12:00 Noon
Lowndes County Courthouse
505 2ND AVE N, COLUMBUS, MS 39701

GLORIFY GOD
IN ALL GENERATIONS
1 CHRONICLES 16:24 NASB
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
75th NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ORG

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

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



“And the opposite of hello is goodbye!”

This a line from a song in the 4 year old class’s end of year program that is especially fitting for the May newsletter. The time has come to say goodbye to not only our 4s but our other friends who will be moving on to “big kid school”, the classrooms we made our own, and the teachers who loved each student.

Our “Farewell to 4’s” program will be Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. Please join us!



A huge thank you is in order to every parent, teacher, friend of Main Street Christian School, Classical Conversation family, and Main Street Presbyterian Church member who prayed for our school and its leadership and helped out in any way.

It didn’t go unnoticed and was always appreciated!

Parents of MSCS please remember to check your emails for very important updates for the next school year! Enjoy the pictures from our last month of school, and we will see you again soon!





USHER LINE UP FOR MAY:

May 3: Trip Hairston, Doug Bateman, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, John Bean

May 10: Henry Pilkinton, JB Dyer, Marcus Stone, Tyler Cofield, Larry Burleson

May 17: Jay Nail, Key Pittman, Jesse Duncan, Jacob Wright, Josh Wodrich

May 24: Jack Chilcutt, Sammy Clemons, Dan Williams, Tom Tait, Luke King

May 31: Brinton Fisackerly, Joseph Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

Nursery Volunteers



May 2026	5/3/26	5/10/26	5/17/26	5/24/26	5/31/26
Coordinator	Hannah Nail	Pat Russell	Janie Williams	Frances Glenn	Lisa Suber
Nursery worker	Tara White	Tara White	Tara White	Tara White	OFF
Nursery Worker	Destiny Spraggins	Destiny Spraggins	OFF	Destiny Spraggins	Destiny Spraggins
Nursery Volunteer	Camille Pittman	Jacqui Wodrich	Robin/Katie Tait	Sarah Bean	Savannah Baxter
Toddler Sunday School	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
Sunday School Monitor	Dan Williams	Jay Nail	Brinton Fisackerly	Dan Williams	

VBS will be held Tuesday, June 9-
Thursday, June 11.

More information to follow!





May 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Trip Hairston	2 Olivia Laws Market Street Festival
3 Communion and Officer Elections Charles Glenn Ashlyn Marble	4	5 Jim Shull MS Valley Presbytery Meeting, Belzoni WIC 10:30 MSCS Farewell to 4's 10:00	6 Brinton Fisackerly MSCS Family Day 10:00 Everyone Bring a Salad	7 National Day of Prayer 12:00 Lowndes County Courthouse	8	9 Daniel Goodwin
10 Sammy Clemons 	11	12 Meryl Fisackerly	13 Fried Chicken	14 Ladies Night Out 6:00 Proffitt's Porch	15	16 Thomas Glenn Mike & Lynda Meharg
17 Jesse & Cathy Duncan Senior Recognition Sunday	18 Aubrey Harris	19	20	21 Charles Swoope	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 Matt White	27 Ann Marie Miller	28	29 Bertram Jenkins	30
31						

May Counter

Brinton Fisackerly



Budget Report
March 2026

(all tithing including online)

\$50,366

Please be Praying for...

- ❖ MSPC Elders, Deacons, and Pastors
- ❖ Karen Livingston, John Mark Russell, Nicki Leggett, Oop Swoope, Jane Berry, Abigail Beard and Christ Presbyterian Church Mission
- ❖ Washington Officials, President Donald Trump and 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

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: Psalms

Wednesday

5:30 Supper
6:00 p.m. Children Activities and Adult Bible Study