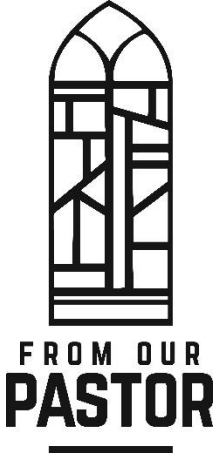


# The Main Thing

September 2024

MSPC



## **Drink this cup in remembrance of Me**

In October, we will start a new practice here at Main Street Presbyterian Church. After much prayer and discussion, we as a session have decided to include wine in our communion service.

Some of you may have been part of a church where this was a common practice and will feel this is a welcome addition to our service. For others, this will be a new practice, and even for some, it may be something you are not excited about. I wanted to take this opportunity a month in advance to explain several different reasons why I believe wine in communion is biblical, historically accurate, and ideal from a practical standpoint. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to one of the elders if you have questions about this practice.

Now before I do that I want to emphasize two items: One, we will still have grape juice (white grape juice to distinguish from the wine) available in the trays. You in no way will be judged for taking juice instead of wine. Two, we are not in any way forcing anyone to drink wine who by conviction or necessity needs to abstain from it. That being said, let's look at a few reasons as to why I believe wine is an acceptable practice for the Lord's Supper.

## **Biblical Foundation**

The first thing to say is that contrary to the teaching of some, the Bible does not condemn moderate use of wine. All three Hebrew words for wine (which each clearly refers to real, fermented wine -- see **Prov.23:31; Hos.4:11; Is.49:26**) are used at times in the Old Testament (OT) to refer to the positive use of wine:

**Psalm 104:15** He [God] causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the labor of man, so that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine which makes man's heart glad, so that he may make his face glisten with oil, and food which sustains man's heart.

**Deuteronomy 14:23** You shall eat in the presence of the Lord your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

**Joel 3:18** And in that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah will flow with water, and a spring will go out from the house of the Lord to water the valley of Shittim.

All three Hebrew words are used interchangeably in the OT and all are translated into Greek in the New Testament (NT) by one word, OINOS. **Ephesians 5:18** confirms that the word OINOS refers to real fermented wine.

Jesus Himself sanctified the use of wine when He in His first miracle turned water into wine (OINOS: same word as **Eph. 5:18**) at the wedding at Cana. If Jesus was not ashamed to serve wine at a wedding, why do we think He would be afraid to serve wine to us at the Lord's Supper, which is itself a foreshadowing of the wedding feast of the Lamb (where we know from **Luke 22:18** that wine will be served)?“ **On this mountain, the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine -- the best of meats and the finest of wines.” (Is.25:6)**

The next thing to say is that it seems clear that Jesus served His disciples wine at the original Lord's Supper. The gospels portray the Lord's Supper as a Passover meal. Wine was the drink used in the Passover feast. When Jesus picked up the Passover cup, it was a cup of wine. (The unleavened bread was also a part of the Passover feast, and was used by Jesus in the institution of the Lord's Supper.) After the first communion Jesus said, **"From now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom comes" (Luke 22:18)**, indicating that wine was the drink he had just used in the institution of it. It seems suitable to use the same elements in the Lord's Supper that Jesus used in the origination of it.

Biblically speaking, wine was clearly used at the Passover meal and in the institution of the Lord's Supper. It makes sense for us, therefore, to adopt this practice due to biblical considerations.

## **Historical Accuracy**

While there is nowhere near enough space to write about all of church history and its practice of using wine in communion, let me try to highlight a few areas where we clearly see the practice being used.

Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, and the other Apostolic Fathers make very little reference to wine, but the earliest references from the Church Fathers make it clear that the early church used wine in their celebration of Communion, often mixing it with water according to the prevailing custom.

During the Middle Ages, the Church was heavily involved in the production of both wine and beer, for their personal enjoyment, Communion, as well as a source of revenue. The medieval monks were well known for the exceptional quality of wine and beer in the 6th century and beyond.

During the Protestant Reformation the reformers such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Knox were all strong supporters of enjoying wine responsibly. As a point of interest, the salary of John Calvin included seven barrels of wine a year. Even the Puritans, who fled England for religious persecution and are generally regarded as an abstinence-only group, saw the responsible drinking of wine and beer as "God's good gift."

And then of course we cannot ignore our own Westminster Confession of Faith and Book of Church order which comprise the governing documents of our denomination. The Book of Church Order (58-5) and the Westminster Confession of Faith (Chapter 29), both require the use of wine in the Lord's Supper:

"The outward elements in this sacrament, duly set apart to the uses ordained by Christ, have such relation to Him crucified, as that, truly, yet sacramentally only, they are sometimes called by the name of the things they represent, to wit, the body and blood of Christ; albeit, in substance and nature, they still remain truly and only bread and wine, as they were before." (Westminster Confession of Faith, XXIX, #6)

We see that from these examples, wine has been historically used in communion, really up until prohibition when the abstinence movement became pervasive in America. I would highly encourage you to look up the history of Thomas and Charles Welch who invented Welch's grape juice and see their role in the abstinence movement in the 1800's and the use of juice instead of wine in many churches.

## **Practical Rationale**

While this topic can be polarizing for some people, let me offer you one personal, practical reason as to why I am a fan of using wine for communion. The cup that Jesus drank was a bitter cup. It represented His willingness to die, to be separated from God, and to feel the full wrath of God poured out upon Himself at the cross. At that moment what we deserve was given to Christ, and He took it fully and completely.

I do not like grape juice, or most juices for that matter. This is simply a personal preference for me. But what it means is that when I take communion where juice is used, I can imagine it being a bitter cup simply because I do not like it. Most of you probably don't share my sentiment about juice. However, when wine is used in communion, I do not have to imagine the cup that Christ drank was bitter. Wine by its very nature, has a bitterness to it. At the point of taking wine, I am reminded clearly that what Christ took on was not pleasant, it was not fun, and it was not something to take lightly.

Now I cannot show you this point biblically or historically, this simply comes from my own life and experiences. Even so, I believe that we are wise to seek to stay as close to the original institution as possible. For all of these reasons, we have decided to introduce wine as a common practice with our Lord's Supper meal.

Again, I want to say that if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I'd be happy to talk with you about it.

In Christ,  
Pastor Aaron



## *Happy Hearts*

### Happy Hearts

We are enjoying Happy Hearts every month and would love for you to join us. This month we had a great program, a fabulous group, and a good meal. Jacob and Audrey Wright shared their story and we all got to know them so much better. Their children, Zeke and Evie, came too and were delightful !

Audrey is a teacher who is staying at home for a variety of reasons and especially so that she can homeschool her children. Jacob is employed at Columbus Air Force Base in charge of purchasing and managing the fuel supply for our planes to fly ! Both shared their version of their love story which we of course loved. Audrey is already teaching Sunday school and helped with VBS ! Their children sang one of the VBS songs along with Jax and Ethan Suber. It was the perfect ending for a special time of sharing. Everyone had a good time, even our designated volunteer team of dishwashers !



**On September 18 we will meet again at 10:30** in our fellowship hall for another interesting presentation. A young man who grew up in Lowndes County and now serves in the military as a chaplain will be our speaker. Andy Vaughn has had an amazing career and will be sharing some special experiences. Jacob Wright also served our country at home and abroad. Here at MSPC, we are blessed to have many military families and individuals worshiping with us. And our congregation is deeply grateful to those who serve to protect our freedoms.

**Plan to join us on September 18 at 10:30.**

# MSCS News



We are so excited about the start of another school year!

The teachers put so much time and effort into preparing their rooms and planning fun activities for the children. MSCS is blessed with an incredible group of women, who truly pour their hearts into these children and families.

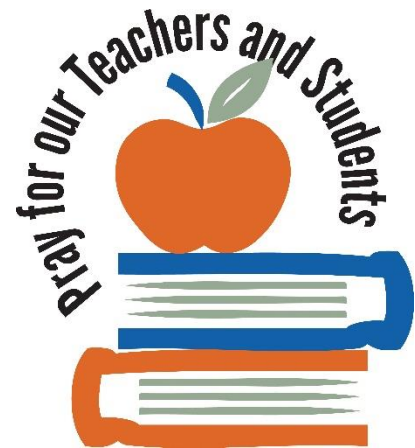
We had Meet the Teacher on August 23rd, and the first day of school was August 26<sup>th</sup>!

What a joy it is to hear little feet and laughs buzzing around the school again. This will be my eighth year at MSCS. I am so thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve in this ministry. It is a privilege to work with the teachers, children, and families.


Thank you supporting MSCS!

In His Love,

Anna Gaines Johnson, Director







## That Others May Know Him

July-August, 2024

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We just finished our 10-week summer evangelism training at church. Attendance varied from 15 to 20 people each week. That is the usual number for summer. We had some very good visits and shared the gospel with 96 people with 7 professions of faith. Our fall training will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup>. This is usually our best attended training semester.

My Bible class at prison is going quite well with 21 men in attendance. We are about half way through studying the book *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves. This has turned out to be a very good study. When we finish in about 5 to 6 weeks, I plan to feed the men a "free world" meal which I try to do once a year. For some reason I do not understand the meal must be a graduation reward. Because the men don't graduate from my class, I have to wait until I can call the meal a graduation for it to be approved. I can do that when we finish studying the book. A "free world" meal is a big deal for the men as the food in prison is not so good.

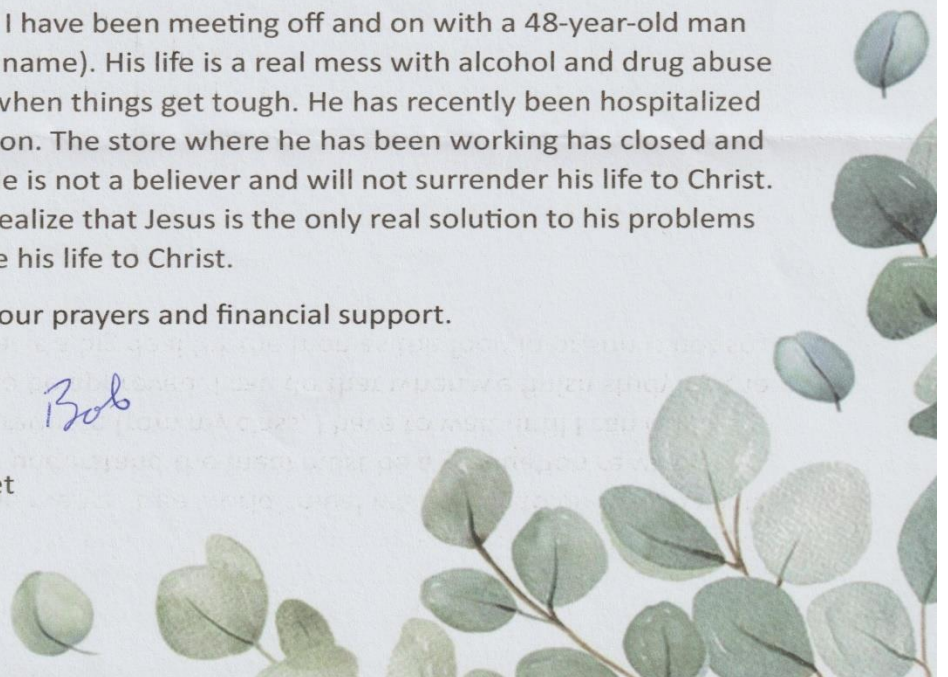
For the last 2 years or so I have been meeting off and on with a 48-year-old man named Tom (not his real name). His life is a real mess with alcohol and drug abuse being his go to solution when things get tough. He has recently been hospitalized twice for manic-depression. The store where he has been working has closed and now, he is out of work. He is not a believer and will not surrender his life to Christ. Please pray that he will realize that Jesus is the only real solution to his problems and that he will truly give his life to Christ.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

Yours in Christ,

Bob McPherson

cccbhm@windstream.net





24 August 2024

Friends,

I have several wonderful updates to share with you. But as I do so, I must tell you that we need prayer! The Evil One wants to destroy the wonderful things that occur in the body of Christ. So please commit yourself to pray: Pray for your church, your pastors, your elders, your missionaries, and your family. Pray the same for us.

1. At **New Life Vicenza** (Italy), a High School girls Bible study is starting this Monday and is being led by one of our church families. As of this writing, 19 girls are signed up. NLV has 5 high school girls who attend regularly. This is clearly an outreach ministry opportunity. At least one attendee is Italian. A few months ago, we sent over 20 Bibles to NLV which were donated by Westminster PCA of Huntsville, Alabama. 15 of those Bibles have been given to the girls to support this outreach ministry. Some additional accessories have been purchased by NLV to give to the girls. **PRAY FOR THE LEADERS AND THE GIRLS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING.**
2. Also at **NLV**, there has been a big uptick in visitors and regular attendees. There are approximately 18 families at 5 singles who are part of the church. The summer move season has been good at NLV. Historically, families take several weeks to settle into church. Now that school has begun, new families will hopefully make NLV their church home. NLV has been averaging 8 in nursery (0-4 years), about 10 in elementary age Sunday School, and in addition to the high school girls, has 6 middle school boys.
3. A few weeks ago, we reported a vandalism at **Trinity Reformed Church of Landstuhl**. The German Polizei are still investigating, as of this writing. TRC has just installed new higher security windows (these were ordered before the recent break-in).
4. About a month ago, I reported that **TRC Landstuhl** was in a cash flow crisis. There has been an increase in giving, but they are still behind sustainable giving for the year. **PLEASE PRAY FOR GENEROUS GIVERS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.**
5. Pray for **Jae Park**, our pastor-designate for our next church plant in **Pyeongtaek, South Korea**. This Tuesday he has ordination exams at the Southeast Alabama Presbytery meeting. Also, pray for increased support to get Jae on to the field. He has 100% of one-time giving to get him and his family to South Korea. He is at about 65% in annual support. Basically, he needs about \$80,000 per year in annual support. Plus, there will be additional funding needed for church operations support of about \$45,000. **AGAIN, WE ASK FOR GENEROUS GIVING.** We hope to get Jae and his family to South Korea this Fall.

Finally, being in an overseas environment away from loved ones in the US is difficult. All our pastors have left behind either parents/grandparents or children in the US to minister overseas. This last year has been hard on several of our pastors and/or their wives as they have lost loved ones, have loved ones with serious medical conditions, have sent children back to the US for college, or have suffered other providential blows. As stated at the top of this letter, I ask that you pray.

Blessings,

Chester Replogle

[www.MMiChurches.com](http://www.MMiChurches.com)



Our Wednesday Night activities resume from the summer break beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>. We begin at 5:30 with supper. Meals will be announced the previous Sundays, followed by children's singing and, on alternate nights, Bible lessons. Adults will join together for a Bible study on the Book of Judges. Activities will end for both groups at 7:00.

**Please note:** *There will be a nursery provided.* ALL adults are welcome to join us!

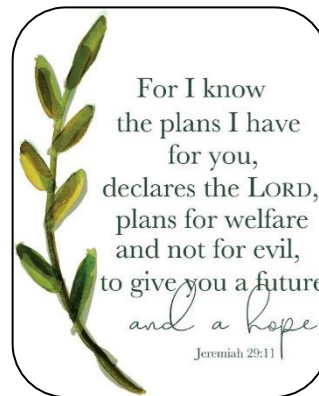
## **Inquirers Class**

We are continually blessed to see many new faces when we gather for worship each Lord's Day. For those who want to know more about MSPC there will be an Inquirers Class during the month of October. This class will provide information on the history and beliefs of this congregation and its denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America, as well as an overview of how this church seeks to carry her mission to our city, our region and the world. Materials will be provided for those who attend. Pastor Aaron Suber will lead the class, which will include time for questions and discussion. There is no expectation that any participant will become a member of MSPC just because he or she attends this class. We simply want you to know enough about us in order to make an informed [and prayerful] decision about whether this is the church God wants you to join. Current members are welcome to attend as well. It's a great way to learn more about your church. Watch for specific times and dates when the class that will take place (usually during the Sunday School period) that will be announced during September. Please contact the church office 662-328-2524 or [mainstreetpres@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetpres@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



# September 2024

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



## Usher Schedule for September

September 1: **Brinton Fisackerly**, Joseph Crandall, Jon Zarandona, Mike Meharg, Phillip Goodwin

September 8: **Trip Hairston**, Bryant Bean, Russ Russell, Joseph Baxter, Jack Chilcutt, JB Dyer

September 15: **Bill Laws**, Jesse Duncan, Carson Miller, Bertram Jenkins, Peter Fearing, Marcus Stone

September 22: **Grover Allgood**, Jay Nail, Key Pittman, Johnny Sherrill, Jacob Wright, Chris Howard

September 29: **Allen Brewer**, Sammy Clemons, Danny Williams, Tom Tait, Larry Burseson



# Nursery Volunteers



	9/1/2024	9/8/2024	9/15/2024	9/22/2024	9/29/2024
<b>September</b>	<b>Communion 2</b>	<b>Team 3</b>	<b>Team 4</b>	<b>Team 5</b>	<b>Team 6</b>
Coordinator	Meryl Fisackerly	Lisa Suber	Hannah Nail	Pat Russell	Carson Miller
Nursery Volunteer	Karmel Crandall	Emilee Senn	Ashlyn Marble	Bethany Baxter	Leslee White
Nursery Volunteer	Ivy Harris	Audrey Wright	Li Ping Miller	Savannah Baxter Camille Pittman	Jennifer White Frances Glenn
Nursery Worker	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	Tara Kelly	<b>OFF</b>
Toddler Sunday School	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley	Alice Talley
Sunday School Monitor	Brinton Fisackerly	Jay Nail	Dan Williams	Brinton Fisackerly	Jay Nail

**September Counter**  
**Jay Nail**

**Budget Report**  
**August 2024**  
**\$16,727**

(Tithes only and does not include online offerings)

*Please be Praying for...*

- Rev. Aaron Suber and Family
- MSPC Elders and Deacons
- Expectant Moms: Meryl Fisackerly and Sierra Kilpatrick
- Louise Armstrong, John Mark Russell, Karen Livingston, Stanley Rogowski, Nicki Leggett, and Diane Stone
- Washington Officials, President Joe Biden
- 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



## CONGREGATIONAL "KICK-OFF" LUNCHEON SEPT. 15

It has finally arrived and I know you can hardly wait. Yes, I'm talking about our church luncheons. We've had time to travel and rest for awhile these past several months. Let's get started by looking at some "tried and true" recipes or sharing a new one with our friends, families, and visitors!

Our first luncheon will be **September 15<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.** The main entrée will be our favorite **fried chicken** and the congregation will provide the sides.

If your last name begins with:

**A-C** Fruit or Fruit Salad

**D-K** Cold Vegetable Dish or Salad

**L-S** Hot Vegetable

**T-Z** Dessert

If you remember from past meals, we have welcomed over 100 people to our tables!!! I look forward to seeing many of you again and greeting the "first timers".

So...mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** when we will gather for our 4 F's...Fellowship, Family, Fun...without the Fuss!

Lynda



## Sunday Night Worship

Every Sunday there are two worship services, a morning service at 10:40 AM and an evening service at 5:00 PM. Beginning September 8<sup>th</sup> we will be looking into the Book of Esther. **Please note:** *There will be a nursery for young children.*





## 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

5:00p.m. Evening Worship