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From Gratitude to Faithful Praise

Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

First Presbyterian Church, Batesville AR

June 2026
Volume 40, Issue 6

Good News

Dear Friends,

The "slow season" of church work has arrived yet again. Congregational committees are not meeting as often. Presbyterian Day School is off until later in the year. More folks are out of town on any given Sunday. The schedule for children and youth is altered. The choir does not rehearse. These are the sorts of changes we see around here this time of year.

But in truth there is no such thing as a "slow season" in the life of the Church (capital "C"). True, there may be a different tempo or rhythm at play, but I wouldn't call it slow. We continue to worship on the same schedule, which is the most important thing that we do. We plan for future events. We respond to needs from within the congregation, like medical procedures among our members, and continue to get requests for help from those who are not active at FPC. We still require financial support. Mats are still made and meals prepared for the community. A number of our youth and children will be attending camp and conferences. The church staff still has responsibilities to keep up with and to-do lists, even if the focus may have changed somewhat.

In scripture, Jesus speaks often about the various times of the year, about planting and harvesting, about growth and death, about understanding the weather even if we don't recognize the signs of the coming reign of God. In these terms, no matter where we are on the calendar there is work to be done, there are deeds to be carried out, and there are lives to be touched.

There is no clear evidence of when Abram and Sarai left their homeland to follow God's call. The good Samaritan would have stopped to help no matter what season it was. The bridesmaids would have required oil for their lamps on any date. The rich young ruler would have faced a difficult question, spring or fall. Mary doubtless would have said yes to the angel regarding her impending pregnancy no matter the time of year. God's work remains crucial in our midst and we remain "on call" to fulfill the tasks for which we are best suited.

So maybe this isn't such a slow season after all. Maybe this is just a different time of year with slightly different expectations and more challenging timelines. If so, we need to remain aware and alert. It's okay to take a break now and again. But we cannot switch off entirely. There is too much to be done in God's world. So take a deep breath—or several—and remember that our efforts are still needed and that by God's grace we still have a place where we belong and where our gifts are still of great value.

See you Sunday,

Jim

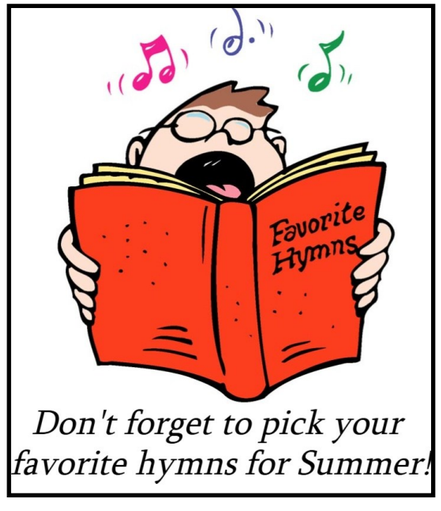
6/2 Jesse Freiert
6/2 Oscar Jones
6/3 Danny Bell
6/4 Don Weatherman
6/5 Bob Stroud
6/7 Hadley Weaver
6/9 Shelly Moser
6/9 Bryan Howard
6/12 Georgie Freiert
6/15 Grace Baker
6/15 Zack Mobley
6/19 Clinton Massey
6/24 Ashley Nelms

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHES

Note: There will be no fellowship luncheons during the summer months of June and July. But no worries, we'll start back in August!

Join us for Punch on the Porch! Members of the Fellowship Committee will be serving a refreshing drink after worship services on the first two Sundays in June. Stay a bit and mingle with us on the porch.

Dementia Caregiver Support Groups will meet on the second Tuesday at 2:00pm and the second Thursday at a new time: 5:30pm. Both groups meet in the parlor. For more information, contact Paulette Freeman at 318-617-6282.



Don't forget to pick your favorite hymns for Summer!

Choir's Taking a Break

Scholarship Applications Now Available

Scholarship applications are open to anyone in the Presbyterian Church. This is an excellent opportunity for those working on their degrees to get a little financial assistance. It is designed for Presbyterian students working towards their degree.

Contact the office, or stop by to pick up applications.

*Due dates for both scholarship is June 15th.

Would you like to help Slam or FPI Youth? The youth would welcome any donations in the form of dinner, snacks, supplies and money. Please check with Ms. Lorrie if you would like to donate. mcclure2825@yahoo.com or 870-613-6961.

CURRENT ELDERS:

Class of 2026
Wanette Baker
Lenora Baldwin
Deborah Stroud
Janet Thomas

Class of 2027
Steve Lange
Jeffrey Freiert
Clint Thomas
Kathy Altom

Class of 2028
Andrea Weaver
Celeste Whipple
Barry Gehm
Mary Lee Thessen
Gerri Coleman, Clerk

CURRENT DEACONS
Class 0f 2026
Clint Howard
Larry Whipple
Rachel Baker
Payne Moser

Class of 2027
Laura Geary
Mayfan Thomas
Miriam Moore
Sandy James

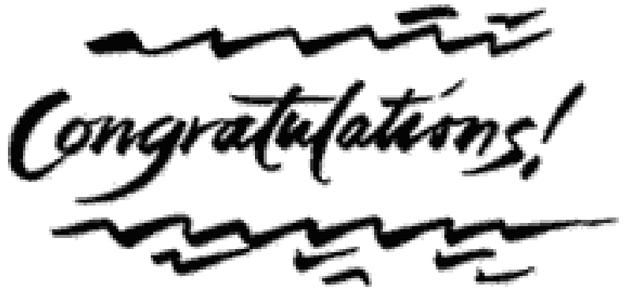
Class of 2028
Clark Baker
Preston Nelms
Sarah Jones
Melissa Qualls

June Donations

Family Violence Prevention Center is in need of large disposable diapers in sizes 4, 5, & 6.
Thank you!

Donations for
Family Violence Prevention

Thank you to our May "Deacon of the Month," Laura Geary!



Congratulations to Paulette Freeman who has completed courses with the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. She is now recognized as a Certified Dementia Volunteer ™.
Also Paulette and Jim have been asked to jointly lead a Certified Ruling Elder cohort through the Town Square Collaborative at the University of the Ozarks. This work is supported by a Lily Endowment grant. The Freemans will be engaged with six ruling elders who are working toward or have been approved to do work for local congregations.

Presbyterian Day School

If you know anyone looking for a special place to begin their child's educational journey, PDS is enrolling for the '26-'27 school year! Applications and informational brochures are available in the church office. Applications are also available online at http://www.fpcbatesville.org/presbyterian-day-school.html.

And thank you so much for your support of PDS this year in all ways big and small, from donations of snacks to sponsorship of Breakfast With Santa. The PDS littles are fortunate to be embraced by such a wonderful community!

-Alyson Low, Director

Would you like to help PDS? The day school would welcome any donations in the form of snacks, health supplies or **scholarship** contributions. Please check with Ms. Alyson or Ms. Laura if you would like to donate snacks or supplies. Any scholarship funds may be brought to the church office.

Worship Schedule

June 7th
Liturgist– Laura Geary

June 14th
Liturgist– Laura Geary

June 21st
Liturgist– Laura Geary

June 28th
Liturgist– Laura Geary

Special Dates for June 2026

- Flag Day, *June 14, 2026*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2026*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2026*
- First Day of Summer, *June 21, 2026*

Bible Quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshiping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

Answer: B (1 Chronicles 28:3)

Pastoral Care

PLEASE REMEMBER these members and friends of First Presbyterian Church in your prayers.

MEMBERS: Shelly Moser, Amy Howard, Bob and Sandy Qualls; Kathy Whittenton; Trish Boylan.
FAMILY AND FRIENDS: The Smith Family: Andrew, Ellie, Nate & Ollie (*daughter and family of Bruce & Sue Johnston*); Louise Simmons, (*sister of Paulette Freeman);* Paula Pollock, (*friend of Janet Thomas*); Gretchen LeMieux (*sister of Jo Gehm);* Tanya Anselm (*cousin of Jo Gehm);* Rose Scales (*friend of Mayfan & Clint Thomas);* Hattie Parker, unborn daughter of Anna Parks Arnold (*friend of Kathy Lanier*); Dana Mathis, (*friend of Sarah Jones);* Amber Lacewell (*friend of LeAnn & Price Homes*); Fin Anderson (*granddaughter of James and Camille*); Kathy Magness, (*friend of Amy & Clint Howard*); Andrew Langenbach (nephew of John Ried); Sam Crawford *(friend of the congregation)*; Bill Olson *(friend Amy Crouch Howard)*; Dwight Barnett & family *(brother of Carlene Lewis)*; Kelli Sarrett *(niece of Celeste Whipple)*; Dr. Mark Williams *(friend of Carlene Lewis)*; Daniel Neal *(friend of Zack Mobley);* Susan (Critz) Guthrie *(friend of the congregation)*; Marjorie Seasholtz *(friend of Kathy Whittenton)*; Don Weatherman *(friend of the congregation)*; Todd Phillips *(nephew of Camille Anderson)*; Eloise Kikkert *(granddaughter of Don & Lynn Weatherman);* Betty Howard *(friend of Kathy Whittenton);* Susan Anselm *(sister of Jo Gehm).*

June 7	Presbyterian Women Ministry	Harmony Church, Clarksville
June 14	New Worshipping Communities	First, Pine Bluff
June 21	Graham Memorial, Forrest City	Elkins Church, Elkins
June 28	Presbyterian Pilgrimage Council	Presbytery Committees

*Please remember to pray for these ministries in the Presbytery.

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				