

J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

September 2018



*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust." ~Psalm 91:1-2*



a word from our pastor...

Reverend Bob Phelps

Are You Ready for Some....?

Many of us hear the beginning of that question, "Are you ready for some...?" and automatically finish it with "football!" I'm right there with you. Even if we can't all agree about who we'll be rooting for this season, that's part of the fun. My "Roll, Tide!" and "Go, Blue!" might get drowned out some Saturdays by "Hotty Totty!" "Hail State!" and even "Geaux Tigers!" But we're all looking forward to great things for the next several weekends. Throw in the Saints and whatever other NFL teams have backers among us and the excitement spreads into Sundays and well into 2019. Many of us are ready for some football!

But that's not the only things we need to be getting ready for. This season is one of the busiest for church folks, too. We'll soon be choosing a nominating committee to recommend some from among us to serve on the Session from 2019-2021. The year 2021 will mark the 100th anniversary of our current sanctuary building, and that's just one of the things the Session will be planning for between now and then. Watch for announcements about dates for that meeting and for the one to follow when we elect new elders later this fall. We will also conduct our annual stewardship campaign in a few weeks. We'll all have

an opportunity to make new commitments to give and to serve in the Church in the year ahead and beyond. Of course, about the time we catch our breath from all that, it will be time for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, and I'm tired already, just thinking about it.

In addition to all those special events in this season, of course, we will gather to worship each week and to do all the midweek and other things we do as a church family.

I hope you're ready for some of all this. I was always a stronger student of language and literature than I was science, but I think I remember that Newton's first law of physics says that objects in motion remain in motion until they are acted on by some force that stops them. That appears to be the case in the life of the Church, too: as long as we are moving forward in God's name, it takes a mighty force to stop or deter us.

Pray for your Session and other leaders in the Church as we continue to try to keep us moving forward. And join us to see where all this movement ends up.

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

The Challenge of Remembering

One of the issues that comes with a choir that rehearses only once a week is remembering. We work hard on Wednesday evenings to prepare the anthem and other service music for the upcoming Sunday and for Sundays coming down the road. We work on pieces several times before we ever sing them. Most of the time, by the time the Sunday for a particular anthem rolls around, we feel pretty good about being prepared to sing it.

Once in a while, though, we'll come in on Sunday morning to do our quick run through of the piece for that day and it is as if we've never seen the piece before. With everything that goes on in the lives of individual choir members' lives between the time we leave rehearsal on Wednesday night and when we come in on Sunday morning, we sometimes forget all that hard work we've done to learn new music. Usually, another run through (and sometimes a quick prayer) will overcome that, and we're ready to head into the sanctuary at 10:30. We've not yet had to put a song off, but forgetting what we've done is just part of life for our choir and most others.

The same thing, I think, applies to our life of faith. Most of us come to worship week after week and leave reminded that God loves us, and that makes a big difference in our lives. But it doesn't take long when we leave this place for us to forget the assurance we have while we're together. It's easy to forget all that God has done and continues to do for us when we face so many threats and obstacles. Thankfully, we can always gather for worship again and be reminded that God's love for us never ends or changes.

Forgetting is natural. Remembering is the foundation of who God is. And we learn to be thankful. Music is one of God's gifts to help us remember--to remember who we are and to remember who God is. We hope the songs we sing together in worship help us to remember God's never-ending love for us.

Blessing of the Backpacks



The students pictured above really don't look too excited about going back to school for 2018-19, but they do know that they have the support of their church family, and that God is with them every minute of every day during school and anywhere else they go. To help them remember this, Pastor Bob led the congregation in a "Backpack Blessing" and presented the students with special tags for their school backpacks with the words — "God's Got Your Back".



Children's Sunday School and Worship are Connected...

Our elementary children's Sunday School groups have returned to a teaching plan that keeps them in sync with the lectionary texts we use in worship each Sunday. On most Sundays this fall, they will study the same texts we'll hear read and preached in worship on Sundays. Many of them will come from the Gospel of Mark this fall. Parents, don't be surprised if the kids comment about hearing the same story twice on Sundays. We're hoping some of it will sink in a little better if they hear it more than once.

Thanks to Andrea DeCoux and Lee Williams
for faithfully leading our children in Sunday School.



This group of JJW youth takes advantage of a photo op in the outdoor scene created by Debbi and Tommy Brock in our Fellowship Hall.

Youth News

Our Youth Group has launched off into some new activities now that school is back in Session. On Wednesdays, they will have a rotating series of activities between now and Christmas: a little Bible study, a little mission and service, some new events called Destination Unknown (more on that at Wednesday meetings) and some just plain fun. The group kicked off the new year with an afternoon of games and pizza on August 19 (when the rain meant no swim party). On Sundays, the group will have a series of thematic Bible studies on topics like "Understanding the Bible", "What is the Good News?", "Being Presbyterian", and "How Can I Know God Accepts Me?" between now and this winter when they'll do an Advent study and some Christmas Bible study.

They'll also have some special activities in addition to regular Wednesday and Sunday meetings.

We invite all youth to participate in the J. J. White Youth Group and to invite friends to join us.



Congratulations and Best Wishes

Please remember Nicole Faucett and Seth Small, who will be married in Brookhaven on Saturday, September 8, in your prayers. We wish them all happiness as they begin new life together.

F.Y.I.

New Sound and Safety Equipment on the Way

Thanks to gifts from a generous and thoughtful member of our congregation, we are pleased to announce that new sound and safety equipment will soon be installed.

Several members of our congregation have benefitted from hearing assistance devices in the sanctuary for several years. Those devices have begun to fail in recent weeks, and we are upgrading to a new and improved system. We expect the new headsets to be available in September. The new system should work better in all sections of the sanctuary. We are grateful for the generous gift that makes them possible.



We are also excited about the upcoming installation of two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) we expect to complete during September. We will install these devices in the sanctuary building and in the fellowship hall to use in response to cardiac emergencies. We will conduct training in the use of these devices. They will help us provide emergency response to a cardiac incident until EMS can arrive. Dr. Robbie DeCoux and Bonnie Hudon, RN, will be the primary responders, but everyone who wants to know more about these devices and how they work will be welcome at training events. We also encourage community groups who use the building to learn about these AEDs.

Of course, we hope they hang on the wall unused, but in the event of an emergency, we are grateful to have them available.

Mission Trip 2019 in the Works

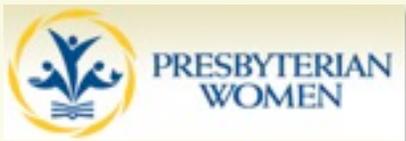
Remember when Hurricane Maria slammed onto Puerto Rico last September? We prayed for those who live on the island, including Mary Ann Ratcliff's family and friends of Ray and Cathy Salter, who used to live there. In addition to our prayers, many of us felt that someone ought to do something to help those people. And someone has. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been on the ground since shortly after the storm blew through. They continue to coordinate work teams.

Kennon Singley, Chair of our Mission Committee, has been in touch with PDA to see how we can help, and he and PDA are working on plans for us to take a group to the island in the summer of 2019 for about a week. Details are still being worked out, but several have already indicated their plans to go. If you want to be a part of this ministry, see Kennon soon. We'll be working on budgets and schedules and fund raising as we figure out our participation numbers. Keep this effort in your prayers, whether you can go along or whether you can help the trip happen in other ways. Stay tuned for more information about this important ministry opportunity.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Women will meet on Monday, September 10, at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The Bible study will be Lesson #1 of God's Promise. Books are available. The meeting will include brief business items, Bible study, a light lunch, and a time for friendship. All women are invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this group.



The PW purpose: *Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves*

- *to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,*
- *to support the mission of the church worldwide,*
- *to work for justice and peace, and*
- *to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

Presbytery of Mississippi Meets at JJ White MPC...

Good fellowship and worship with our Presbytery friends; delicious food, and interesting ideas!



Thanks to all who welcomed our guests, prepared food, and helped to put together the meal.
Thanks to Margaret Ann for serving as our Commissioner.

September Schedules

Flowers

2 Communion
9 Prudence McGehee
16 Margy Wicker
23 Lee and Stephen Williams
30 Pat Randall

Children's Church

2 Lee Williams
9 Melisa DeCoux
16 Ally Allred
23 Carol Rawlings
30 Sara Beth Williams

Sunday Morning Breakfast

2 Beth Wild
9 Carol Rawlings
16 Hutchison Crew
23 Mary Ann Ratcliff
30 Linda Miller

Ushers/Greeters

Tommy Ratcliff, Captain
Robbie DeCoux
John Drummond
Stacey Moak
Johnny Nance

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

5 Kennon, Joseph
12 Renan, Buddy
19 Rick, Jim
26 Bob, Clem

Elder of the Month

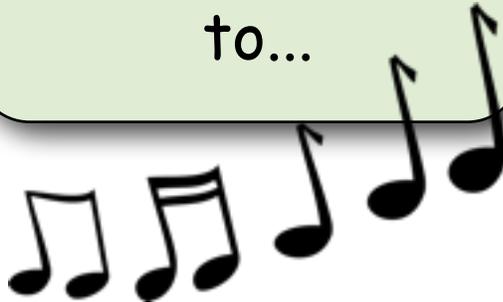
Kennon Singley



September

- 1 Noggin Wild
Lily Estes
- 3 Margy Wicker
Stephen Williams
- 4 Andrew Decoux
- 5 Gracie Senner
Ben Thomas
- 6 Patti Brabham
- 7 Sara Beth Williams
- 10 Bonnie Hudon
Darrell Smith
- 13 Mary Ann Ratcliff
- 17 Rose Ann Johnson
- 19 Wayne Hutchison
- 20 Blake Phelps
Carolyn McKay
- 28 Dottie Burt
Stacey Moak

Happy Birthday
to...



October

- 2 Evan Parker
- 4 India Warshauer
- 5 Katie Lane Gatlin
Linda Johnson
Bill Mitchell
Johnny Nance
Whit Williams
- 7 Heidi Lewis
- 8 Melisa DeCoux
- 9 Carson Simmons
- 11 Kya Cotton
Lola Jane Gatlin
Burke Williams
- 13 Bryan Harbour
Carrie Jackson
- 14 Maxine Brock
- 15 Cyndy Catchings
Anna Roberts
Susan White
- 21 Robbie DeCoux
- 25 Rusty Brill
Whitney Rawlings
Charlie White
Lou Deloach
- 28 Milton McKay
- 29 Kent Williford
- 31 Joanna Barr
David Feldman

Hello September

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship with Sacrament of Communion	3	4	5 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	6 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	7	8
9 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship	10 PW Meets* 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall (*Monday instead of usual Tuesday)	11	12 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	13 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	14	15
16 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School10:30 Morning Worship Session meets immediately after morning worship	17	18	19 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m.	20 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	21	22
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