



FPC Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church
Crystal Springs, MS



November 2020

WIC NEWS

The Grace Women's Ministry gathered for the annual Fall convocation on Oct.24th at New Covenant Church in Natchez. Robin Stevens, Women's Ministries Mid South Regional Advisor, was the guest speaker. Her message was "Better Together: Suffering in the Context of Community".

Our new Grace Women's Council will be: President-Linda Young, McComb; Vice-president-Jennifer Willett, Crystal Springs; Secretary-Mikell Chatham, Hattiesburg; Treasurer-Tammy Turney, Biloxi; Christian Growth-Roberta Duhs, Natchez; and President Elect-Ramona Wicht, Hattiesburg. A collection was received for the 2020-2021 Grace Gift: Engaging Disability with the Gospel.

We will be helping Ernest Jones again this year by filling up a box of goodies for Christmas. There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall with a list of things for him on the box. He is disabled and really appreciated our gifts last year. Also, WIC along with the Fellowship Class will donate money to Palmer Home for Children for Christmas. The Chaplain at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility is asking for participation in supplying gift bags for the prisoners. We will work with the Missions Committee to purchase items. We will also have a list of items and a donation box set up if you would like to donate.

The next WIC meeting will be November 22, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Sanctuary Flowers: 1 Waudean Jackson, 8 Stephanie Newsome, 15 Linda Whittington, 22 WIC. 29 Jean Eady

Nursery Schedule: 1 Julie Kent/Becky Smith, 8 Betsy & Richard Batton, 15 Jennifer/Lindsay Willett, 22 Beth Dickson/Sue Lee, 29 Jessica/Brandon Davis

Happy Birthday to Karen Thomas (4th), Caitlin Ratliff (15th)and Gwen Gallman (30th).

Missions Minute

This month we sent \$1500 to MNA Chaplain's Support; \$300 to Engaging Disability With the Gospel and \$1000 to BAIC (Beginning Again in Christ). Please continue to pray for missionaries during these times.

Pastoral Encouragement

By the time you read this the election will be over and we as a nation will be moving forward under the individuals chosen by God for this time. I find it rather fitting that this takes place in the month of November. The same month we hold our yearly celebration to proclaim our thanks to God for all He has provided. I'm of course talking about Thanksgiving.

We know the history of this holiday. The Pilgrims fled England seeking a place to worship freely in the New World. When they arrived, the land was harsh, and many died in the subsequent years. However, when it seemed there was no hope, the local Native American tribe (Wampanoag) stepped up, taught the Pilgrims necessary skills, and as a result saved their lives. In response, the pilgrims invited the Wampanoags to a three-day feast.

But did you know this feast was inspired by Scripture? The Pilgrims were highly committed to Scripture and held societal holidays in low regard. This meant that while other places held Fall celebrations these would not be observed in the typical Pilgrims home. Yet, as they studied and read the Bible, they knew of a festival of the Lord that all too clearly mirrored their current experience. This holiday was Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles.

Sukkot was commanded by God to be celebrated in Leviticus 23:33-44. Along with building Sukkahs or "booths" to live in for 7 days, the people were to celebrate with feasts giving thanks to God for His deliverance from Egypt and provision in the wilderness. Likewise, the Pilgrims knew they had been delivered from severe persecution in England and while in the desolate land of the New World, God had provided for all their needs. Further proof of this connection is found in an anonymous Pilgrim hymn published in "Songs of the Pilgrims" in 1887. Here is a part of that hymn:

*As the chosen tribes of Israel, in the far years of old,
When the summer fruits were garnered, and before the winter's cold,
Kept their festal week with gladness, with songs and choral lays,
So we kept our first Thanksgiving in the hazy autumn days.*

So, what does this mean now? You and I have far more to be grateful for than we do to complain or worry about. This time of the year should be special for us as we have a set time established to honor God and all He has delivered us from and provided for us. I know my family and I are incredibly grateful to have been called to serve and be a part of this church family. The church itself has seen the blessings of God on it through the many years of faithful service of her prior pastors, elders, deacons, and members. Finally, and most importantly, we ought to be filled with praise and thanks that Jesus has redeemed us from all our sins!

Let me close with this one additional tidbit of information. I believe this will further enhance your joy, hope, and thankfulness during this time. Sukkot reminds us of God's abiding presence. It's strongly believed Jesus was born during the festival of Sukkot. It's also during this festival when He declared Himself to be the "living water"! (John 7:37-39). After Jesus' ascension, the dwelling of God with His people was made even closer by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But that's not all. We also have a future promise of His gathering us together to where we will dwell before His face for all eternity! Now that is truly a reason to celebrate!

Pastor Chris

Thanksgiving Schedule

Wednesday, November 25- No Wednesday evening activities
Thursday, November 26- Church Office will be closed

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on December 6th. The purpose of the meeting is to elect deacons and present the budget for 2020.