

First Presbyterian Church
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First Presbyterian Church

Louisville, Mississippi

A Prayer for the Church (Galatians 5:16-26)

*A Monthly
Publication of*

**First
Presbyterian
Church,
Louisville**

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For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
(1 Corinthians 2:2)

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**September
2018**

By Chad Van Dixhoorn, Professor of Church History at Westminster Theological Seminar in Philadelphia. This article was originally published at <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2018/07/a-prayer-for-the-church-galati.php>.

Our Father in heaven, we rejoice to remember that hidden in the holiness of your Son, you count us holy in your sight. Not only as we pray, but as we live each day, you see us as saints, set apart by our Savior, for our Savior.

And yet we live in the hope that what we see by faith, we will one day see by sight. Surely you will understand us, Father, if we ask today for a foretaste of what we will enjoy tomorrow. Surely you will overlook our impatience if we ask that you would continue to work out in our lives the righteousness and resurrection power that is already ours in Christ.

Father, we know that what we will be, is also what we should be. And yet in our conversations we find ourselves biting and devouring one another - we worry that in the carelessness of our words we'll consume each other. We dream of walking by the Spirit. We wake, and once again gratify the desires of the flesh.

And so we ask that you would be our guide. Lead us away from swamps of sexual immorality, sensuality and impurity. Painful as it might be, expose our inclinations to idolatry and our secret openness to empty superstitions. Fortify us against open and scandalous sins, against drunkenness, even orgies, and things like them. Protect us in our friendships and keep our families from the evils of enmity, strife and fits of anger. We covet your assistance as we struggle with envious spirits, hidden jealousy, and unhealthy rivalries. Restrain the evil one, we ask; restrain ourselves: check our rising doubts, our rebel sighs, our bitter thoughts.

What we pray for ourselves and for our loved ones, we pray for your church. Shield your bride, and shelter her from the onslaught of her enemies. Keep her from the ugliness of dissensions and the deformities that come from divisions. Make her as holy as people poised to inherit the kingdom of God can be.

(Continued from page 1)

Father, we ask all of this. Dare we ask for even more? Will you let us see a season in our lives when the fruit of the Spirit will be evident to all? Will you make your church a place where love informs action, where joy runs deep, where peaceful hearts produce patient people? Will you give us the pleasure of seeing kindness amongst Christian children? Will you let us see a day where a quest for true goodness typifies our young men and women, where faithfulness is the hallmark of our marriages, where gentleness and self-control are the prominent features of our parents, of our pastors?

If we belong to Christ Jesus, please crucify our flesh, with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, please keep us in step with your Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Let us become contented, promoting one another, elevating one another.

We come to you with these requests, because there is no one else who can work the wonders that we long to witness. We come to you, because you have redeemed us so that we might bear the fruit of your Spirit. To deny these requests would be to deny your own holy purpose, even your own self! So hear us and answer us for your own name's sake, as we confess you our one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Church LIFE Night

Church LIFE Night resumes Wed., Sept. 12th. The meal will begin at 6:00p.m. followed by classes for children, youth and adults. This is a great way to fellowship with our church family. We hope you can make plans to attend.

*We will be observing the
Sacrament of the
Lord's Supper
Sunday, September 30th,
during the morning service.*

Women in the Church News

WIC Noon Circle will resume it's fall meetings Mon., Sept. 10th at 12:00p.m., in the Family Life building. Hostesses are Lisa Suttle, Carol Higginbotham, and Linda Wiggins. Study leader is Kristi McCown.

The Diaconate
will meet Sunday,
Sept. 9th at
8:00a.m.

YOUTH HOSTS

9/9 Lex & Margaret Taylor
9/16 Kevin & Wanda Hudson
9/23 Lex & Margaret Taylor
9/30 No Youth

5th Sunday Dinner
Join us Sunday, Sept. 30th, in the
Family Life Building, immediately
following the morning worship service, for our
5th Sunday Dinner. Please bring a covered
dish. The church will provide the meat, bread
and beverages.

YOUTH NEWS

Habitat for Humanity

Our youth will be picking up tools to help build a home for a low-income family in need through HFM Saturday, September 15th. If you signed up (registration is closed) meet at the church at 7:15AM and we'll drive out together.

Youth and Adult Mission Trip to Dalton, GA

October 11-14

Help rebuild homes and put on new roofs alongside others from our church as we love our neighbors in GA.

If you or your Jr/Sr high students would like to come please contact Matt. The cost per person will be at most \$150, with the hope of it actually being \$0. All meals and lodging will be provided by Grace Presbyterian Church. We'll be running a letter-writing fundraising campaign with the plan of raising enough money to cover all of the registration costs as well as provide a thank-offering to Rebuilding Hope Ministries.

If you would like to give in support of this trip and RHM please let me know and make a check out to FPC with "Rebuilding Hope" in the memo line.

The Session will
meet Monday,
Sept. 10th,
at 7:00p.m.

Duty Deacon

9/9 David Willers
9/16 Steven Holman
9/23 Robert Higginbotham
9/30 Dan Mittan

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4Men's Prayer B'fast 7:00a.m.	5	6	7	8
9Diaconate Meeting 8:00a.m. 2nd Sunday Supper	10 Circle Meeting 12:00p.m. Session Meeting 7:00p.m.	11Men's Prayer B'fast 7:00a.m.	12Church LIFE Night 6:00p.m.	13	14	15
16	17	18Men's Prayer B'fast 7:00a.m.	19Church LIFE Night 6:00p.m.	20	21	22
23	24	25Men's Prayer B'fast 7:00a.m.	26Church LIFE Night 6:00p.m.	27	28	29
30 The Lord's Supper Ob- served 5th Sunday Dinner						