



VOICE of FAITH

A Newsletter of Faith Presbyterian Church

August 2026

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Dear Faith Family,

August always feels like a season of new beginnings. Children head back to school, routines begin to settle, and our congregation prepares for another season of growing together. Over the summer we worshiped together in a single service and I am grateful for how our church embraced that opportunity.

Beginning in August we will continue worshipping together. We will gather for Sunday School at 9:00AM followed by Worship at 10:00AM. There will be a time of experimentation as we merge aspects of our 8:30 service with those of our 10:30 service, but we believe this rhythm will continue to strengthen our fellowship and our life together as one church.

One word will shape much of our month together: ***discipleship***. Discipleship does not happen by osmosis. It requires intention, building relationships, and a willingness to grow. It can be messy at times, but it is one of the greatest joys of the Christian life because it is how God continues to shape us into the likeness of Christ.

That is why I am especially excited about a new ministry our Director of Christian Education, Clara Reed-Lee, has introduced a handful of times through "Time with Little Presbyterians." Using *Godly Play*, it is evident that our children are deeply engaged with the stories of Scripture. Their curiosity, participation, and wonder have been a joy to witness.

To celebrate this emphasis, the final three Sundays in August will feature a sermon series entitled "Godly Play." Together we will explore what it means to become like children in our faith. We will be reminded what it is like to be open to wonder and attentive to God's voice.

I hope you will join us as we continue building a church where people of every age are learning to follow Jesus together.

Engage•Nurture•Bless,

Michael
Pastor



GODLY PLAY

Voice of Faith—August 2026

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING -June 2026

	INCOME/EXPENSES			PLEDGES & NON-PLEGGED	
	June	YEAR TO DATE		June	YEAR TO DATE
TOTAL INCOME	\$33,280.15	\$288,408.00	ACTUAL	\$29,972.38	\$225,918.58
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$46,407.92	-\$244,692.22	BUDGET	\$33,565.00	\$226,215.96
OVER/LOSS	-\$13,127.77	\$23,715.78		\$30,685.00	\$44,170.00



Adult Sunday School will begin at 9AM on August 9th.

There are two adult classes:

Faith Followers in Room 109.

Seekers in the Franklin Center.

Children's and Youth Sunday School will resume at 9AM on August 9th.

Classes are:

Preschool - 3rd Grade in Room 219.

Tweens (4th—8th) Grade in Room 216.

High School in Room 214.

Thursday Morning Bible Studies:

Women's Bible Study at 9:00-10:00AM in the Franklin Center.

Men's Bible Study at 11:00AM-Noon in the Parlor

Many thanks to everyone who brought school supplies in July! Your donations will help students at Whitesburg Elementary School and through ANVOO, Alabama Non-Violent Offenders Organization. ANVOO distributed some supplies to students at their office and some will be given out through Jail & Prison ministry events. Thank you for making a difference!



August Anniversaries

John & Joanna Caldwell	08/02
Bob & Rebecca Reynolds	08/05
Joel & Christi Robinson	08/07
Bob & Libba Nicholson	08/12
Jim & Betty Duncan	08/17
Phillip & Leslie Franklin	08/20
OC & Charlotte Armstrong	08/31
Owen & Allyson Hofer	08/31

Average Attendance in July
Average Total 74

August Birthdays



Pug Garber	08/02
Joe Powell	08/02
Ruth Mack	08/10
Bertha Granados	08/12
Jacquelyn Gearhart	08/15
Jim Ray	08/17
Russ McElhaney	08/20
Linda Rass	08/28
John Spears	08/29
Chuck Myers	08/30

A Minute for Mission!



His Way is a Christ based residential recovery program operating since 2007 for men with addiction issues. It has proven results, and because of donations and job placement assistance, is an affordable program. They have community support through volunteers and thrift stores. It is an amazing program located off Moores Mill Rd. His Way is one of Faith's mission

The mission of **His Way** is:

- To reclaim individuals from a life of addiction
- To rebuild them in spiritual sobriety in Christ
- To restore them to productive, Christ-like service in society

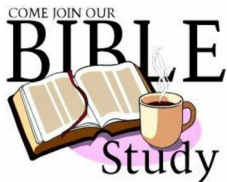
The core values of **His Way** are:

- Grace
- Consistency
- Respect
- Accountability
- Gospel



His Way Annual Fundraiser Dinner "No Man Left Behind"

His Way will be hosting their Annual Fundraiser Dinner at 6PM at the VBCC on Thursday, August 20th. Please let the office know if you would like to attend.



The Women's Bible Study is taking a break until August 20th. Beginning on August 20th they will be studying the Gospel of John using the book, *N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guide*. **Please let the church office know by August 9th if you want a book. All who are interested are invited.**

The Men's Bible Study is continuing the study of the New Testament. All who are interested are invited.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who brought canned peas and green beans during July. **The Items of the Month for August are canned carrots and mixed vegetables.** They will go into the Elderly Mission Project (EMP) boxes which volunteers pack and deliver each month to seniors who need additional food toward the end of the month. There is a basket in the narthex for your donations. You are making a difference!

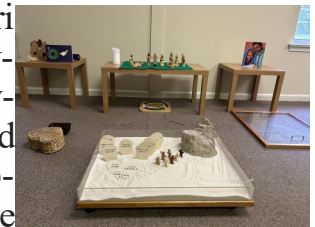
Dear Faith Family,

August is here, and with it the start of a new school year, the beginning of another cycle of learning and growth. Our regular Sunday School classes for all ages will resume on August 9th. I have been busy upstairs cleaning and organizing the Sunday School rooms, getting ready!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Rally Day on August 23rd, when we will officially celebrate the beginning of the new Christian Education program year in worship with the commissioning and blessing our Sunday School teachers, and the presentation of new Bibles to our newly promoted “big kids” and younger youth. After church we will enjoy lunch together in the Fellowship Hall and recognize our bingo participants. (Yes there will be candy!)

In the midst of returning to our familiar patterns, Pastor Michael and I will be introducing something new this month. This past April, I had the privilege of attending a training at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, GA on the *Godly Play* model of Christian education. This training was offered through the seminary’s “Wonder of Worship” program, a Lilly Endowment funded initiative to help church leaders meaningfully engage children in corporate worship and prayer.

Godly Play is an approach to religious education based on the Montessori method. This technique was developed beginning in the 1980's by Presbyterian minister-turned-Episcopal Priest, Jerome Berryman, and uses storytelling with tactile materials, guided wondering, and creative open-ended response time to help children develop a deep understanding of the vocabulary, stories, and rituals of the Christian faith, as well as their own place within the story of God's people. I am excited to begin incorporating *Godly Play* into our children’s ministry here at Faith and am preparing a new *Godly Play* classroom in our Education Building. In the upcoming weeks, I will use *Godly Play* presentations during some of our “Times for Little Presbyterians”, so you will get a glimpse of what it’s all about.



As we enter this new educational year, please pray – for our teachers, our children, our staff, our Preschool community, and our congregation, that we may continue to Grow in Faith.

In Faith,

Clara Reed-Lee, Director of Christian Education

How can you help support Christian Education at Faith?

Volunteer– We always need adult volunteers. Don’t want to teach or a prepare a lesson? That’s okay! We also need screened "second adults" to maintain safety protocols.

Pray– For our children, volunteers, staff, and congregation, that we may continue to grow in faith.

Give– Please mark donations with fund # (Children’s Special). Donations help purchase snacks and materials. Thank you!

Children’s Sunday School Teachers Mini Retreat and Training – Saturday September 12th

This morning “mini retreat” will include required training on our church’s Child Protection Policy. Snacks and lunch will be provided.

Dear Faith,

I hope you're all having a fabulous summer! Although summer may be coming to an end soon, the 2026/27 music season is just beginning.

The music ministries had a busy year. We welcomed four new singers to the Sanctuary Choir, and eighteen voices sang our Lessons and Carols service, well above our usual twelve to fourteen. Thank you to those of you who joined us just for Christmas! In May we closed the season with our Sanctuary Choir and Friends concert, "True Light: Voices of Witness and Hope." Sixteen singers took part: our choir, two friends from the wider community, and our two 2026 BIPOC Music Scholarship recipients, with Dr. Eric Wilson joining us as collaborative pianist. It was a beautiful concert, and one of our best-attended in that series.

The choir season begins Saturday, August 8 with our retreat in the choir room and Fellowship Hall, 11:00AM to 2:30PM, with lunch together in the middle. Our first rehearsal follows on Wednesday, August 12, at 6:45PM in the choir room. The Advanced Handbells resume that same evening under Sally's direction.

Late in August we also begin a new prelude and offertory rotation and we would love to have you join us! Preludes are instrumental: any instrument, or combination of instruments, is welcome. Offertories may be instrumental or vocal, so any instrument or voice, solo or in combination, has a place. The Advanced Handbells and the Sanctuary Choir will take their turns in the offertory rotation as well.

There's plenty more to look forward to. On All Saints' Sunday, November 1, the choir will sing excerpts from the Fauré Requiem with guest soprano soloist Kenisha Phillips. Lessons and Carols returns on Christmas Eve; if you would like to sing for Christmas but cannot commit to the whole season, please join us for rehearsals beginning in mid-November. And Sanctuary Choir and Friends 2027 is set for Sunday, May 23, at 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with the theme to be announced.

You will also notice a few changes in worship this fall. Starting this month, we will be doing some careful experimentation with our service order, folding elements of our Faith in the Morning service into our new combined Sunday morning worship. The shape of the service will vary a little from week to week, but what we bring in should feel immediately familiar. Please bear with us as we work through this together. Then through the month of September, Michael will lead a sermon series called "Faith that Sings!" built around the hymns we love and the stories behind them: Sing Praise! on the 6th, Sing Grace on the 13th, Sing Mission on the 20th, and Sing Together on the 27th. Each week will be jam-packed with favorite hymns and service music based on them!

Finally, if you've ever thought about singing, ringing, or playing with us, this is your moment. For the choir or the prelude and offertory rotation, reach out to me at ssivley@presby.org or to Leah at lmckinney@presby.org. For handbells, Sally directs our ringers and can be reached at smpriester@gmail.com. Any of the three of us is glad to answer questions, and we would love to have you come make music with us!



Much love,
Stephen Sivley, Director of Music Ministries

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 2026 S M T W T F S 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 31 Sep 2026 S M T W T F S 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						1 Updated 7/28/26
2 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Mission Cnte.-Room 109 COMMUNION SUNDAY	3 4:30 PM HCCA Registration-FH 5:30 PMAA-Room 209 Preschool SUMMER BREAK	4 10:00 AM Staff Mtg-Office 1:00 PM Steady for Life Zumba-Gym 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Maple Hill Monthly Mtg.-Room 201 6:00 PM Basketball 60 & Over-GYM Preschool SUMMER BREAK	5 9:00 AM Teachers Return 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 1:00 PM Steady for Life-GYM 5:30 PMAA-Room 209 6:00 PM Basketball 40&over-GYM 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9:00 AM Teachers Return 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study-Franklin Center 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 9:30 AM Pgh Art Group-Room 209 10:00 AM Bible Study Mtg-FH 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study-Parlor 5:30 PM 8:30 PM GFWC mtg-FH	7 9:00 AM Teachers Return 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 5:30 PMAA-Room 209	8 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Stephen-FH and Choir Room 6:30 PM Contra Dancing-GYM
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Worship Cnte.-Room 109	10 9:00 AM Teachers Return 4:30 PM HCCA Rehearsals Weekly-Choir, Music, SA Choir Loft 5:30 PMAA-Room 209 9:30 AM - Ch. JPEO-FH	11 9:00 AM Teachers Return 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 1:00 PM Steady for Life Zumba-Gym 6:00 PM Basketball 60 & Over-GYM School Open House-TBA	12 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 1:00 PM Steady for Life-GYM 5:30 PMAA-Room 209 6:00 PM Basketball 40&over-GYM 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 1st Day of School	13 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg Gym 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study-Franklin Center 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 9:30 AM Pgh Art Group-Room 209 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study-Parlor 7:00 PM TVFF Flyfish Group-Room 201	14 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 5:30 PMAA-Room 209	15 12:00 PM North Alabama Korean Association-FH
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Maple Hill Mtg.-Right Parking Lot 1:30 PM Session Cnte.-Room 109	17 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 4:30 PM HCCA Rehearsals Weekly-Choir, Music, SA Choir Loft 5:30 PMAA-Room 209	18 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 10:00 AM Staff Mtg-Office 1:00 PM Steady for Life Zumba-Gym 6:00 PM Basketball 60 & Over-GYM	19 9:00 AM PMEO-FH 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 1:00 PM Steady for Life-GYM 5:30 PMAA-Room 209 6:00 PM Basketball 40&over-GYM 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg Gym 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study-Franklin Center 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 9:30 AM Pgh Art Group-Room 209 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study-Parlor 6:00 PM HGH-FH 7:00 PM TVFF Flyfish Group-Room 201	21 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 5:30 PMAA-Room 209	22 6:30 PM Contra Dancing-GYM
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service Rally Day Sunday Luncheon	24 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 4:30 PM HCCA Rehearsals Weekly-Choir, Music, SA Choir Loft 5:30 PMAA-Room 209	25 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 1:00 PM Steady for Life Zumba-Gym 6:00 PM Basketball 60 & Over-GYM	26 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 1:00 PM Steady for Life-GYM 5:30 PMAA-Room 209 6:00 PM Basketball 40&over-GYM 6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg Gym 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study-Franklin Center 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 9:30 AM Pgh Art Group-Room 209 10:30 AM HAP CRoom 109 11:00 AM Men's Bible Study-Parlor 7:00 PM TVFF Flyfish Group-Room 201	28 9:00 AM Preschool-Ed Bldg. Gym 9:30 AM Pals Room 204 5:30 PMAA-Room 209	29
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