

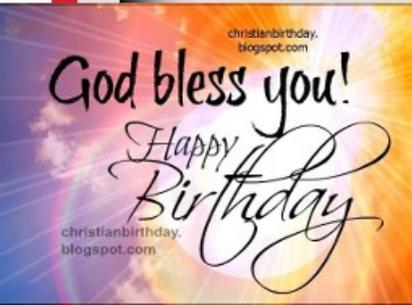


Westminster Window

1520 Rickwood Rd.
Florence, AL 35630

MAY

2024



- Wil Bruninga** 1
- Joe Littrell** 11
- Billie Sylvester** 17
- Keith Mimbs** 23
- Mary George Williams** 27



*God took the fragrance
 Of a flower
 The majesty of a tree
 The gentleness of morning dew
 The calm of a quiet sea
 The beauty of the twilight hour
 The soul of a starry night
 The laughter of a rippling brook
 The grace of a bird in flight
 Then God fashioned from these
 things
 A creation like no other,
 And when his masterpiece was
 through
 He called it simply - Mother.
 Herbert Farnham*



Welcome
to Our Church

SUSAN
PARKER

Susan has been serving churches in North Alabama since she was ordained as a Cumberland Presbyterian interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville for several years.

In 2018 and 2019, Susan served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville for several years. Prior to the ministry, Susan held two statewide elected positions: Alabama Public Service State Auditor of Alabama (1998-2002). She spent much of her career in higher education working seventeen years at Calhoun Community College, Decatur, Alabama and eight years at Athens State University, Athens, Alabama. Susan retired from education as Chief Development Officer at Athens State.

Susan and her husband, Paul, have been married for forty-three years and make their home in Rogersville, Alabama on the Elk River. They also enjoy travel and golf.



Paul Parker's career included twenty-five years in education and sixteen years in the Alabama Legislature. Paul worked at schools in Morgan County teaching history, driver's education and retiring as Community Education Coordinator at Hartselle High School.

Paul was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1982 and served four consecutive terms until 1998. His district included Morgan County, Hartselle and southeast Decatur. Paul served as Chairman of the House Education Committee for eight years.

After his careers in education and government service, Paul has devoted most of his time in supporting Susan as they minister together throughout North Alabama.



Beginning Sunday,
June 2, 2024

North Alabama since she was ordained as a minister in 2014. She served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville for several years.

interim President of Memphis Theological Seminary. Prior to the ministry, Susan held two statewide elected positions: Alabama Public Service State Auditor of Alabama (1998-2002).



**Bob & Frances
Moody**

**Neon Leadout
1955**



**ALCOA HIGH SCHOOL FEB/MARCH
TEAM MEMBERS OF THE MONTH**

TEACHER



**COLLEEN
WILLIAMS**

Congratulations
to Dot Solomon's
granddaughter
Colleen!



Thanks to Pam Winn (See Matthew 4:6) 03-18-2005
**THINGS EASED UP ON GUARDIAN ANGELS AFTER
AIR BAGS WERE INVENTED**

Partial Solar Eclipse

Apr 8, 2024



Ayla

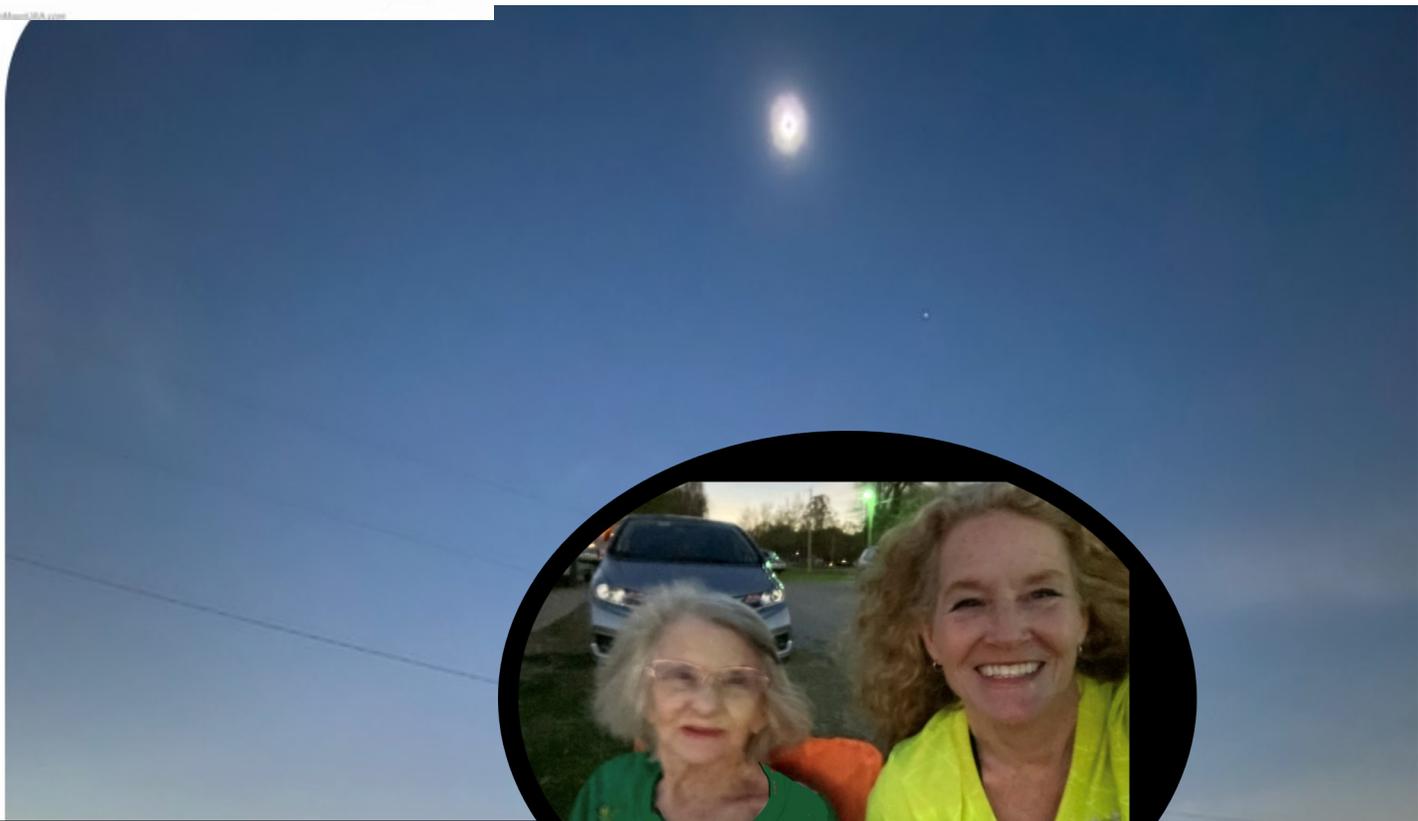


Audra Hamilton Heinitz

So thankful I was able to see and experience the eclipse with my girl today. We got to talk about how awesome our God is that He created and is sustaining such a beautiful world and scenery. The scene was so awe inspiring but how much more is our God! We serve a great and mighty God who holds all things in His hands.



Florence Duncan experienced the eclipse with her daughter Jenny in Poplar Bluff Missouri





Small is beautiful

"Church vitality is more about spirit than size, and small churches across the country often serve as hubs of connection for small towns and rural areas." —

Teri McDowell Ott, editor and publisher of *Presbyterian Outlook*.

My kids, now 14 and 16, grew up at a small church in Illinois where my husband served as a part-time pastor. "Small" meant 15 or 20 in worship, sometimes less. A couple of the women started a multi-age Sunday school class after we arrived — a class of three, for our two kids and one other. This church delighted in giving the kids jobs, feeding them at potlucks, entertaining them with bonfires, weenie roasts and bingo. One of my favorite memories from our time with this small church was the Sunday morning our daughter, Ella, was recruited to help collect the offering. Our church didn't have the standard brass offering plates. Ushers would stretch a green velvet basket attached to a wooden pole down each pew to collect the money. When the pole was placed in my four-year-old daughter's hands, her face turned sober and serious with the importance of her new job. Pew by pew, she stretched her velvet basket out to each worshiper, and if they didn't give, or didn't give enough, she stayed put, waiting with her serious face until they ponied up — sometimes even giving them a little extra poke with the basket at the end of her pole.

Now we live in Virginia, hundreds of miles away from that rural Illinois church. We've claimed a larger church here as our home, where my husband and I enjoy the chance to sit and be guided in worship by other capable leaders. Our now-teenagers grumble a lot about church and our family's commitment to being a part of a worshipping community. But, from time to time, whether in casual conversation around the dinner table or in an essay about family that they are required to write for school, memories of our small church surface. Ella recalls how the congregation "felt like family." Isaac remembers a "tight-knit" community, where everyone knew each other. It was "nice," my son reports. Which – in case you don't speak teenage boy – is a rave review. Denominational statistics reveal that most Presbyterians attend larger churches, but a majority of our churches have 100 members or less. These small churches and their ministries are worth our attention,

even though they are often overlooked. Small churches often struggle with insecurity, comparing themselves to the membership rolls and program offerings of larger churches. But church vitality is more about spirit than size, and small churches across the country often serve as hubs of connection for small towns and rural areas.



Since there's no hiding in the small church, accountability is real. You are known and missed when you are not in attendance. Small churches also often feel like family because every program is inter-generational. There are not enough people to split up the adults, youth, and children — everyone needs to line up for the water balloon toss or the egg-and-spoon relay, or else we can't play!

But we shouldn't wax overly romantic about the small church. The challenges these small communities face are abundant. Conflict can burn through small churches like all-consuming wildfires; leadership requires everyone's hard work. If you want a music program, you'd better be ready to sing — whether you can carry a tune or not.

Small churches need servant leaders, with buy-in from worshipers willing to put as much work and care into their church as their own home. And resources are often lacking; Ella's collection basket can't pay for a leaking roof no matter how cute she looks or how hard she pokes.

Throughout my 25 years of ministry, I'm grateful for experiences in large, medium and small congregations. Each church context has taught me lessons of leadership, appreciation for hard-working volunteers, and gratitude for the precious gift of being connected to a Christian community — no matter the size. Bigger may be better in some circumstances, but Jesus had 13 people, counting himself. And, apparently, that was enough.

So We Can Know and Show We Care

At Home: Jean Blair

TN. Assisted Living: Dot Solomon

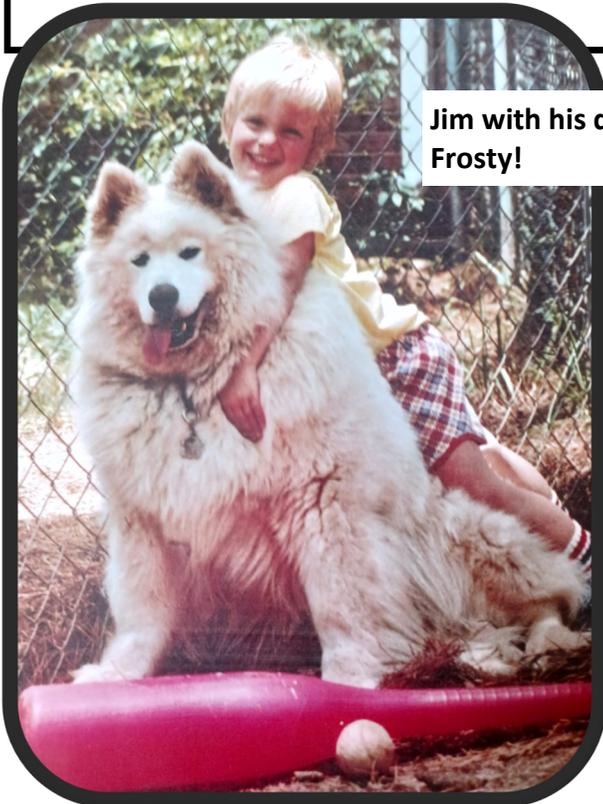
Immediate needs: Florence Duncan, John Horton, Babs Moody, Dot Solomon, Jeremy Sylvester, Char Terry, Richard Williams and unnamed prayer requests.

**In Memory of James Mark Salter
(1979-2020)**

A Birthday limerick for Jim

**A big baby boy on April twenty-one
Turned out to be a tall handsome son.
Jim's heart was sweet
And big as his feet.
We'll hug him again when this life's
done.**

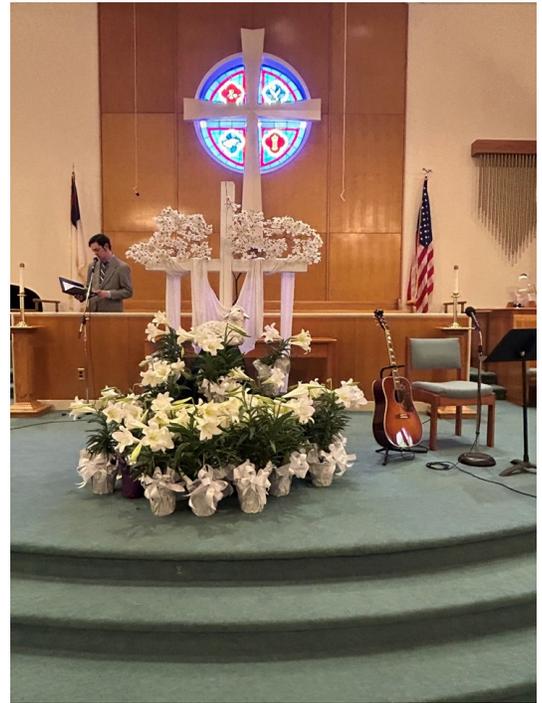
**Happy Birthday, Jim Jim. We love you.
Joseph Salter**



**Jim with his dog
Frosty!**



**Jim with sister
Judith**



**Keith & Devonia Mimbs' grandchildren:
Sterling, Wyatt & Stella on Easter morn!**





Angela Hamilton with daughter Audra & her family, Robbie, Ayla & Weston



**Bob Moody &
the
Jamaican Elvis!!!**



Happy
89th
BIRTHDAY

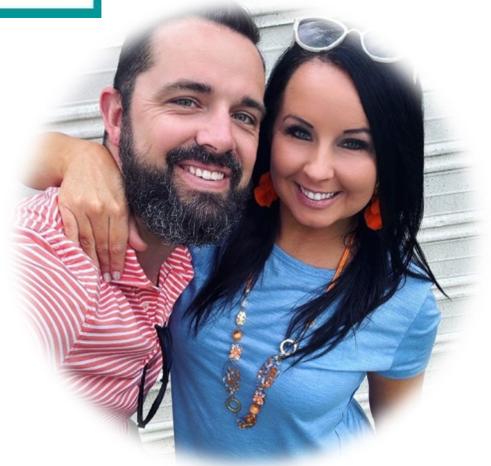


char
Terry

Preschool News



Crystal Beckloff, Director



Congratulations to Crystal Beckloff on her recent wedding on April 27, 2024 (Wedding photos to come later)!

Preschool's last day is May 2 and pre-k's last day is May 24. We pray that everyone has a safe & restful summer break!



Recent Outreach Activities On Easter Sunday, Westminster dedicated our "Don't Give Up....Give To" donations. Thanks to your generosity, over 40 bags and boxes were delivered to Safe Place and The Help Center. There were also monetary donations that were sent to each place. Safe Place and The Help Center were very appreciative. Westminster delivered 74 Meals on Wheels to the aging and disabled in need during the week of April 15-19. Thank you, volunteers! On April 20, Westminster Volunteers prepared and served approximately 100 meals for the Soup Kitchen. Thank you, volunteers. If you are interested in participating in any of these community outreach programs, contact Sally Parker.



FOUR
Generations

Bob Moody (Frances)

Babs Moody

David & Justine

Jeans

Mack & Miller

YOUR *faithfulness* ENDURES
TO ALL *generations*
PSALM 119:90

**Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when you are in trouble. Use it as a steering wheel that keeps you on the right path throughout your life.
Amen.**



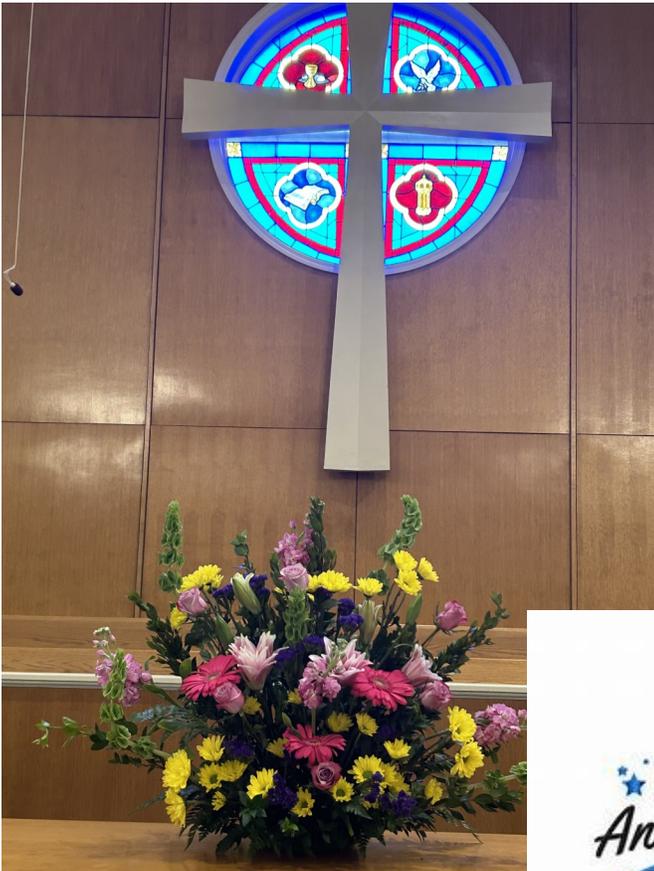
Wear Red for Pentecost!

May

19th



**Sally Parker's grandchildren
visited WPC on Easter Sunday!
Anna Kate, Lila & Grant Jones**



Happy Anniversary
42
YEARS

**PAULA & JOHN
OFFUTT**



Happy 13th birthday to MQ & Sally Parker's granddaughter, Mia! She spent her day doing the two things that make her the happiest: riding her horse Forrest and playing volleyball



REVEREND SUSAN PARKER

Although we came together under sad circumstances, with the death of your long-time pastor, I am thankful to be here. As we go forward, we will remember Rev. John McKell and honor his memory in many ways. But forward we must

go. I pray that our time together will bring into view a clear vision for Westminster's future as we prepare for a permanent pastor. God has put us all here at this time to seek His will together. I am honored to be on this journey with you and look forward to getting to know each of you. Susan

Celebrating Ministry Grants !

North Alabama Presbytery congratulates the following churches who received Ministry Grants in April:

Fellowship Presbyterian, Huntsville



1. **Grant awarded** for damage and mold repairs due to flooding caused by broken pipes this past winter.
2. **Grant awarded** for ministry with 40 college students attending Alabama A & M University who gather at Fellowship for Bible Study, dinner and fellowship on a monthly basis.



First Presbyterian, Ft. Payne

3. **Grant awarded** for Sanctuary upgrades and repair to enhance worship and welcome the community.
4. **Grant awarded** for salary support of the church's two part-time ministers in the wake of rising property insurance rates and other expenses.



First Presbyterian, Guntersville

5. **Grant awarded** for roof repairs and other building maintenance that has been delayed due to budget constraints.



First Presbyterian, Florence

6. **Grant awarded** to supplement the shared All Saints College Ministry that serves the students at UNA on a weekly basis with fellowship, meals, Bible study, and mission endeavors.



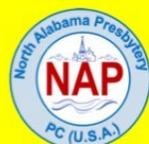
Westminster Presbyterian, Florence

7. **Grant awarded** to upgrade the sound system and video capabilities needed for online worship that reaches at-home members and the wider community as well.



First Presbyterian, Cullman

8. **Grant awarded** to power wash, repair, and repaint the north side of the building and make repairs around the stained glass windows in order to give the building an update and attract visitors to worship and ministry.



The NAP Ministry Grant program has funds available to help churches and congregations with ministry to college students, mission projects, and building upgrades. Congregational grants are capped at \$25,000 and ministry grants are capped at \$5,000.

Applications and details are on the NAP website—www.napcusa.org

We are excited to get started very soon on our new Sound System! Thank you North Alabama Presbyterian!



Great hospitality at the Blackberry Clubhouse!

L-R) Susan Johnson, Linda Seme, Lud Seme, Nick Winn, Sue Winn, Sara Reed, Elaine Brooks, Lenore Favenesi & Alonda Crosslin



Fellowship Lunch
May 17th @ noon



Shaffer's

Shaffer's Happy Hollow Marina and Restaurant



Mark Your Calendar

May 11: N. AL Train trip

May 17: Luncheon at

Shaffer's Happy Hollow

May 19: Wear Red for Pentecost

June 2: Susan Parker's first Sunday as

Interim

July 10: Christmas in July Church cook-out

July 23: Neighborhood Lemonade Party with the Midnighters –WPC Handy Event



Email articles/comments to:
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