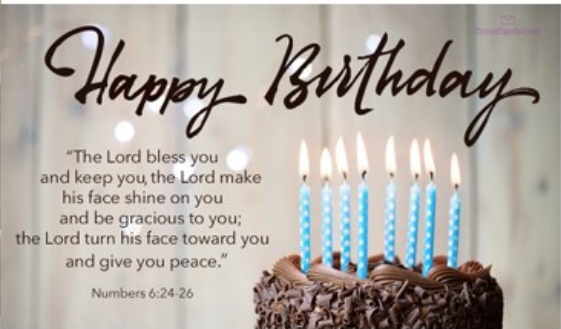




FLORENCE DUNCAN



Happy Birthday Mom!



Our custodian, Leon Gatry has retired from his job with the State, as well as with WPC. He helped us find his replacement before leaving, Mr. Quentez Beasley. He said we can call him "Q"! Congratulations!

Join us for an
Ice Cream Social!

Sunday, Sept 22
4:00

Sign up slips will be in the bulletin or call the church office. **We will also be collecting snacks/school supplies for the AL Presb. Children's Home**

Oldies Music in the courtyard with Mike Darling!



SO WE CAN KNOW AND SHOW OUR CARE PRAYER LIST

At Home: Jean Blair Carole James

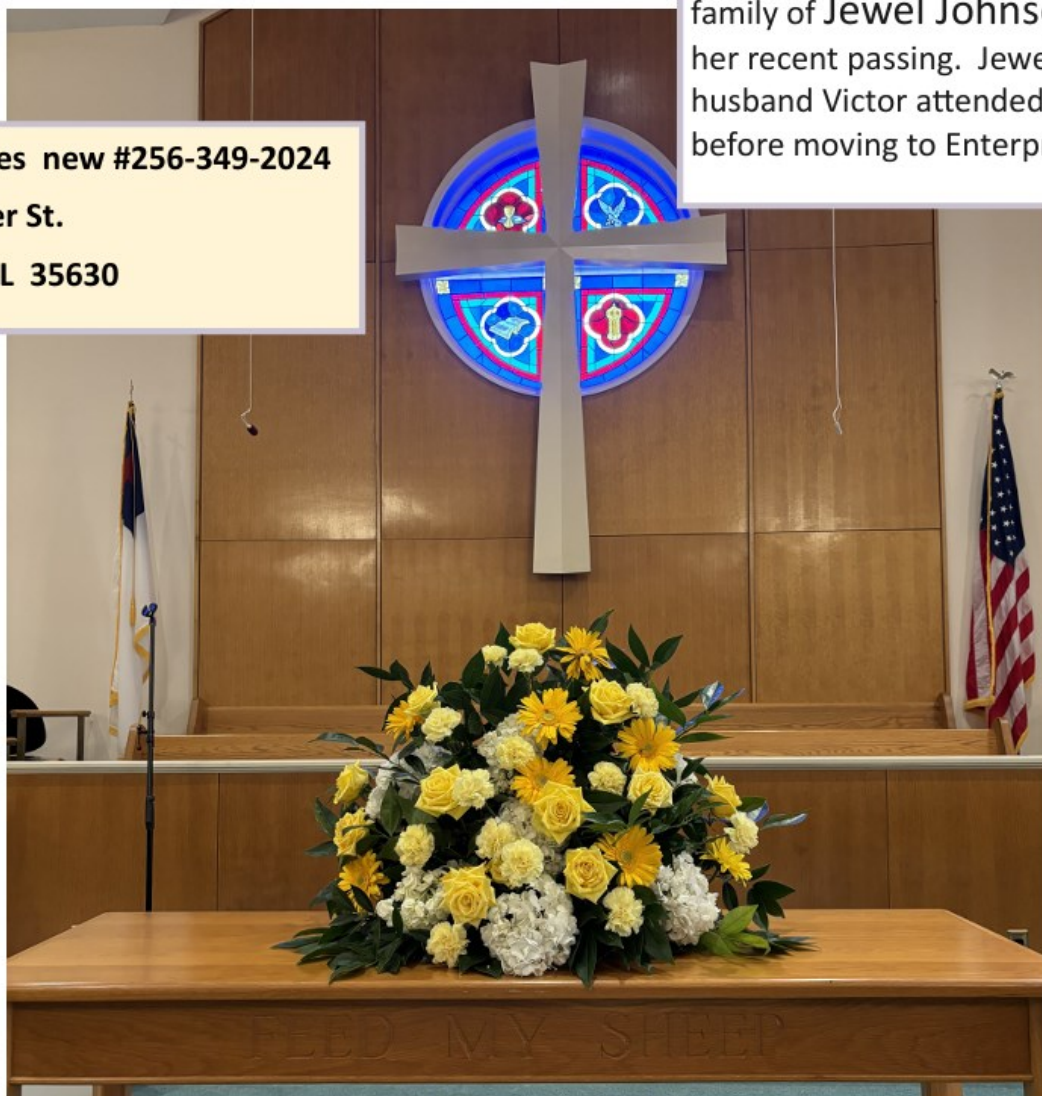
TN. Assisted Living: Dot Solomon

UAB: Camille Smith, infant

Immediate needs: [redacted], John & Joyce Horton,
[redacted] Jeremy Sylvester, Char Terry, Richard Williams and unnamed
prayer requests.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Jewel Johnson in her recent passing. Jewel & her husband Victor attended WPC before moving to Enterprise, AL

Carole James new #256-349-2024
1725 Palmer St.
Florence, AL 35630



Our beautiful sanctuary flowers are given today by Bob Moody. They are in loving memory of his wife, Frances and in honor of what would have been their 69th wedding anniversary on the 28th of this month.



Sue attended her 1,300 Zumba class at the YMCA! It took her 12.5 yrs to accomplish this! Nick has already surpassed this goal.

The Importance of Father-Daughter Time

Nick & daughter Melissa love to go fishing together!



WPC Bookkeeper, Karen Nelson recently honored her late husband, Randy by watching the sunrise from a hot air balloon in Springhill, TN !



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.
~ Psalm 143:8





Dan & Barb plan to celebrate on the Amtrak Empire Builder going from Chicago to Glacier National Park to Seattle!

Congratulations!

Dan & Barbara Hendricks

In the Bible, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights.
Day 41 came and the rain stopped.

Moses committed murder & hid in the desert for 40 years.
Year 41 came, and God called him to help rescue Israel.

Moses went up on the mountain for 40 days.
On day 41, he received the Ten Commandments.

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.
Year 41, they walked into the Promised Land.

Goliath taunted Israel for 40 days.
Day 41 came, and David slew him.

Jonah preached a message of repentance to Ninevah for 40 days.
On day 41, God stopped His plan to destroy them.

Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days.
Day 41, and the devil fled.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days.
On day 41, He ascended into Heaven.

All this to say...don't quit. The rain will stop, the giant will fall, and you will enter your "promised land." Don't give up at 40.

41 is coming.





WPC Women are wanting to start a Circle, where the women would meet once a month, have a devotion, light snacks and work together on service projects! This would be a great way to fellowship among ourselves while giving back to our church and community! Linda Seme has agreed to lead an Organizational meeting to discuss all the details.

Organizational Meeting: Thursday, Sept 5th @ 10:00 am in the adult Sunday School class off the parlor.

How To Make America Great Again

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Amen!



Guests for dinner were all seated at the dining table in the home of a friendly family. When it was time to give thanks to God for the meal, the host turned to his young daughter and asked if she would like to say the blessing.

"Oh Daddy, I wouldn't know what to say," she pleaded.

The father replied, "Honey, just pray exactly like your Ma-ma does."

The daughter smiled and closed her eyes tightly and said sincerely, "Dear Lord, why did I invite all these people?"

—Anonymous

‘God’s calling us to grow’: Homewood High grad, Florence pastor, takes Spring Hill Presbyterian pulpit

The Rev. Brandon Miles, a Birmingham native who graduated from Homewood High School and the University of Alabama, has moved from senior pastor at Florence First Presbyterian Church to a new pulpit in Mobile.

He took over as senior pastor of Spring Hill Presbyterian Church on Aug. 1.

Miles, 41, worked in campus ministry at University Presbyterian and Covenant Presbyterian in Tuscaloosa, earned a master’s degree in divinity from Austin Presbyterian Seminary and worked as a youth minister and family ministry coordinator at Oakmont Presbyterian Church in Hoover.

He went to First Presbyterian Church in Florence as associate pastor for youth in 2013 and eventually became senior pastor, succeeding the Rev. Richard T. Gillespie IV when he retired.



At Spring Hill, Miles follows the Rev. Searcy Allen “Buz” Wilcoxon IV, who [accepted a job in 2022](#) as chaplain and dean of spiritual life at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C. Wilcoxon had been pastor at Spring Hill [since 2013](#). Spring Hill Presbyterian, with weekly attendance of about 175 to 200, is near Spring Hill College and the University of South Alabama. Spring Hill Presbyterian was founded during World War II, in July of 1944. It’s got the feel of a neighborhood church, Miles said. “It’s beautiful,” he said. “There’s something reverent. It’s all neighborhoods. You don’t have too many major roads. There’s a reverence and excitement about what it means to be church.” Miles and his wife, Sarah, have three children, a girl and twin boys. Miles spent much of his early ministry geared to youth and students.

“A lot of times you hear people say youth are the future of the church,” Miles said. “They’re part of the church now. The way we communicate our theology and the importance of what it means to be a covenant community together matters now, not in 10 years, or 15 years or 20 years from now.”

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has struggled with membership loss for several decades, similar to other mainline Protestant denominations. The PCUSA has declined from 4.25 million members in 1983 to 1.14 million in 2022, and about a third of all members are [71 or older](#).

The Presbytery of South Alabama, which Spring Hill Presbyterian is part of, is in the process of downsizing its presbytery administrative operation, [selling its Daphne office and moving into a smaller space at the Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church](#). Proceeds from the presbytery sale will go to fund ministry for the presbytery.

That’s been a focus of ministry for Miles.

“One of the reasons you’ve seen a decline in the church throughout America, is because a lot of the youth don’t feel a part of the church now,” Miles said. “They want to express their faith now. They want to discover God in their lives in a way that isn’t the way their grandparents did it 60 years ago.”

Churches need to welcome what youth have to say, he said.

“When you focus on youth, you listen,” he said. “You explore together. You create a place where people feel welcome to share their beliefs, their hopes, their fears, their hurts. In that, you discover God’s grace and God’s presence among you.”

Christian doctrine can be a hard sell alongside the allure of a materialistic lifestyle.

“The hard thing about ministry, teaching theology and what it means to be part of the church, is recognizing what cultural influences are happening, and not knocking them, but recognizing the difference between that way of living and the way of following God,” Miles said.

“And sometimes, how they can come together. One of the hard parts about being Presbyterian is people are looking for certainty. It’s really easy to tell someone, ‘If you believe this, if you do this, you’re going to heaven.’ For Presbyterians, it’s complex. Theology is not just black and white, it’s gray and hard.

“Following Jesus is not an easy thing to do. Each experience, each encounter you have in the world, it gets messy sometimes, different perspectives, different experiences. It’s our role as members of the church together to discern that. Sometimes, it’s hard and it takes time.”

The pastor tries to help find a way.

“In today’s world, a lot of people just don’t want to give the effort and time that it requires to grow in the way that God’s calling us to grow,” he said.

Fellowship Lunch



Susan

Alonda

Elaine

Linda

Lud

Sara

Sue

Nick

JOIN US NEXT TIME



Thurs Sept 26 @ 11:30

1218 N. Pine Street, Florence



Kyndall Crosslin & her dad, Philip, recently attended a Luke Bryan concert together!



Send articles/pics to:
Alondacr@gmail.com
256-710-8662