

Had I Been Joseph's Mother

I'd have prayed protection from his brothers
"God, keep him safe.
He is so young, so different from the others."
Mercifully, she never knew there would be
slavery and prison, too.

Had I been Moses' mother
I'd have wept to keep my little son:
praying she might forget
the babe drawn from the water of the Nile.
Had I not kept him for her nursing him the while,
was he not mine?
and she but Pharaoh's daughter?

Had I been Daniel's mother
I should have pled "Give victory!
this Babylonian horde godless and cruel
Don't let him be a captive-better dead,
Almighty Lord!"

Had I been Mary,
Oh, had I been she,
I would have cried as never mother cried,
"Anything, O God, Anything...but crucified."

With such prayers importunate
my finite wisdom would assail
Infinite Wisdom.
God, how fortunate
Infinite Wisdom should prevail.

*-Prodigals and Those Who Love Them, Ruth Bell
Graham, 1991, Focus on the Family Publishing,
p. 69*

Second Presbyterian Church
700 Pine Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402

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May 2020

IN HONOR OF MOTHERHOOD

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of motherhood. Thank you for the blessing it is to have a mother; and the blessing it is to be called "Mom." Thank you for the good plans you have in store for those who still wait to be a Mom. Thank you for the numerous children you have given to so many "spiritual moms" and mentors. We pray that you would fill this day with favor and grace as we honor mothers everywhere.

We ask for comfort for those who are grieving loss and heartache, especially on this day: those who have lost mothers and those who have lost children. We ask for strength for those who wait for children to come back home. We ask for healing for those who have been hurt by relationships that were intended to be loving and nurturing. We ask for faith for those who will someday be moms, who find themselves on a journey that seems so hard. We ask for great encouragement and grace to cover those who have made a brave and loving choice for adoption. We ask for incredible provision and care over every single parent mom who works so hard on behalf of her children. We ask that you would remind those who, though they do not have "physical" children, have the gift of being amazing hope-bringers to many spiritual children they've nurtured through these years.

God, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you that your heart is for us and that you are with us, in all our unique journeys and pathways. Thank you for the ways that you mother us and all children.

Today we pray for refreshing, for joy, for grace, for wisdom, for great peace...for all mothers, for mothers to be, and for women who nurture and lead.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

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PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting weekly via zoom. We have summarized the surveys and have the top responses listed below from 72 surveys. We have completed the 'Minister Information Form' to be presented to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, and expect to get their comments soon. Thank you for your patience and encouragement during this difficult time and process.

Desired Pastoral Attribute

- * Compassionate
- * Preaching and worship leadership
- * Spiritual Maturity
- * Advisor
- * Willingness to engage in conflict resolutions
- * Collaboration
- * Task manager
- * Decision making
- * Interpersonal engagement
- * Self differentiation

COVID-19 SESSION NEWS

The Session has determined that all church activities will remain suspended through May. Your elders, deacons and interim pastor are especially holding us and our community in prayer. Please contact any of them with special needs and prayer requests. In emergency, Cathy Meyer, 330-317-4077."

SESSION NEWS

The Session has been meeting each week for updates about the virus and what is needed to keep our church family and friends safe. It was decided to cancel all activities and worship at the church through the month of May. Worship will continue to be live streamed from the sanctuary unless other arrangements need to be made. Many thanks to David Friberg, Kevin Ford and family, Caroline Dale, Ken Waddell and Beverly Steyn for participating and lending invaluable support to make this happen.

Please continue to support the work and ministry of Second with your offering! You can also designate additional giving to the Deacons or Pastor's Discretionary Fund to make resources available for emergency situations. We encourage the use of Zoom, Facebook and other internet apps to stay connected and see each other!

Our Session and Deacons are also calling members and friends and sending notes of encouragement. Their leadership and care is much appreciated and your prayers for them valued.

DEACONS FUND

This is just a reminder that the Deacons Fund is available to help all members in need of financial assistance. Whether such need is due to COVID-19, the tornadoes, or something else, we are here to help. The Deacons will review all requests discreetly in a case-by-case basis. Please contact me with your request at cathyimb@yahoo.com or call me at 423-827-7051.

Also, if you would like to donate to the Deacons Fund, all such monies will be greatly appreciated.

Cathy Lamb

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Just a quick reminder to my Sunday School Class that when we gather together again we will begin a fascinating study, "Knowing God by His Names." Every name of God has special significance for the Christian. His names reflect Character, Promise, Comfort, Peace, Healing, Strength, Life, Majesty and so much more. There are 206 names for God! Don't panic we will not do them all. I do believe you will find this study interesting and helpful on your faith journey.

Here's one that you may be familiar with:

"God Almighty" is a translation of the Hebrew El Shaddai. El is the root of Elohim and refers to His mighty power. The word shaddai means breast and refers to God's nourishing and sustaining us. Thus El -Shaddai is all-powerful to meet our needs and fulfill His promises, according to His will and His timetable.

"God Almighty" Characteristics= all powerful - keeps promises.

Key verse: Genesis 17:1

In this time of Covid-19 it sure is great to know that El Shaddai is powerful and He can and will meet our needs!

See you in Sunday School- till then remember Deut. 31:8

Blessings,

Suzanne Rushworth

GUARDIAN ANGELS UPDATE

The Guardian Angels "Big Reveal" breakfast was scheduled for Sunday, May 3 BUT as I am sure you all realize -that gathering will not be happening. So...What will happen?

The Christian Education Committee is suggesting that all Guardian Angels continue until the end of June. Then in early July, in some form or fashion, we will make the big reveal to the youth that you have been praying for and secretly keeping in touch with all year.

Thank you all for your faithfulness as Guardian Angels, especially during this pandemic which has at this time greatly altered the lives for the youth of our Church and their families.

In His Service,

The Christian Education Committee

Paul Hessilink- Chair

Suzanne Rushworth-Guardian Angel Program

SUNDAY WORSHIP TELESERVICES

Many thanks to Choir Director, Kevin Ford, for recording our Sunday services and inserting hymns, responsive readings, anthems and other information that lend helpful resources to our experience. Compiling all the parts is an art that he has graciously offered to produce; and we're grateful!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I lead a group of guys who have responded to tornado and hurricane disasters over the last three years here in the South. (eastern NC, southwest GA, Opelika AL, and TN) I have recently worked in Cookeville and three days in Ooltewah with Samaritans Purse. I hear they (SP) might be pulling out May 5th. If I can round up a few guys, is there a group in your church that is still helping these folks clear trees after this Easter Storm? Thanks.

Jim Reich, Faith Presbyterian Church, Blue Ridge GA.

Email: jimreich72@gmail.com

Phone: 404-423-7622



Greetings to all PW,

I hope that everyone is staying safe. These are difficult and challenging times for all of us. Yet during this Covid-19 pandemic and the recent tornados, we can find blessings if we open our eyes and allow the Lord to show us.

During the 40 days of Lent I decided to read the book "50 Women every Christian Should Know" by Michelle De Rusha. I got it from our church library. Which on a side note is one of the best kept secrets at Second. Each of these women experienced difficult and challenging times. From familiar names like Lottie Moon, Corrie ten Boom, Catherine Booth, Fanny Crosby, Mother Teresa, Madeleine L'Engle, and Amy Carmichael to not so familiar names like Therese de Lisieux, Hildegard of Bingen and Julian of Norwich, these women accomplished incredible things at home and on the mission field.

What did they have in common? Each was open to the leading of the Lord. When they could not see the

way forward they trusted in God and stepped out in faith and courage. Each believed that God would guide their steps in difficult and challenging times.

What was the foundation of their trust? It was prayer and the knowledge of scripture.

In these difficult and challenging times we can trust God to guide us too. Please continue to pray daily and work on your Bible study. PW also continues to support mission work here in our community. Recently the Presbyterian Women at Second sent donations to The Chattanooga Area Food Bank, The Salvation Army, the Red Bank Food Pantry, the Red Cross and to the UTC Denise and Tim Downey Student Emergency Fund! We continue to serve even as we adjust to these difficult and challenging times!

Let me close with one of the refrains from Fanny Crosby's most famous hymn "Blessed Assurance"
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Suzanne Rushworth, PW Moderator

2020 BIRTHDAY OFFERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Theme- "But I will hope continually, and will praise you yet more and more" Psalm 71:14

Do you ever wonder the history behind special offerings? Well let me share with you the history of the Birthday Offering. It started in 1922 when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged each member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift" for Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Japan.

Since then, PW through the Birthday Offering, has contributed more than \$36 million to help improve lives at home and around the world. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, PW's commitment to caring for others has not.

The Birthday Offering Luncheon was to be June 7. All the proceeds and other donations collected that day would go directly to this year's Birthday Offering recipients. Because of the Pandemic we are unsure whether this luncheon will take place after church. So PW and others who might have eaten lunch at the church on June 7 are invited to donate to the Birthday Offering. Just send a check to the church (attention

Presbyterian Women) made out to Presbyterian Women and earmarked for the Birthday Offering. I am sure Hallie Paxton Winsborough could never have imagined how her challenge in 1922 would continue into 2020. God gave her "a work to do" and PW is honored to continue that work. Thank you for your support.

This year's Birthday Offering Recipients for 2020 are:

Center for Social Assistance to the disabled, Family & Children

PREOBRAZHENIYE
Assisted Living facility— Davydovo, Russia

GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia
Expand Access and Service Space
Northeast Georgia Presbytery

Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center in Payson, Arizona
Childcare and Pre-Kindergarten Facility
Presbytery of Grand Canyon

Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota
Northside Healing Space Expansion
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

FINANCE UPDATES

First Quarter Summary – As a whole, expenses are running slightly under expectations, and income is running within expectations. No unusual expenses of significance for the first quarter. It is expected that this will change in many ways (some predictable, some not) with the second quarter.

Speaking of which, Second Presbyterian continues to operate, which requires the continued payment of bills and reimbursement of expenses. Needs from our Mission community are expected to increase significantly with all the economic dislocations caused by the COVID-10 pandemic and the related social upheaval. If you are fortunate enough to continue receiving an income during this crisis, please continue to maintain and, if possible, increase your giving to Second Presbyterian. We have made it even easier to do so with links to Paypal and the Breeze donation app on our church's website, <https://www.secondpreschattanooga.org/>. As always, checks mailed to the church office will also be gratefully accepted.

Our efforts to obtain a waiver of the Business Improvement District fee are on hold as both parties in this negotiation have put future meetings on hold until it is safe to do so again.

Happy to report that our Treasurer, Sandy Franklin, is on the mend and will be back in the swing of things soon.

Michael Morrison - PMP, Chair Budget, Finance, and Stewardship Committee

UPDATE ON SAINT MATTHEW'S SHELTER

Most of us are aware that our church is home to Saint Matthew's Shelter for men from the homeless community. This is an update re: the status of the shelter and those whom we serve.

Our church began the shelter more than 30 years ago in a joint effort with our neighbor, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. It has gone through several transitions and now is sponsored basically by our church. We have a separate committee of Session for Saint Matthew's Shelter (chaired by Betty Whitaker), a line item in our budget indicating what funds we designate for this ministry, and a separate line item under "accounts payable" which allows specific donations to the Shelter to remain in an ongoing account for Shelter use only.

Two years ago we invested about \$20,000 in capital improvements to the area of the building that the shelter occupies. In the last year we have revisited our Vision, Mission, and Operational Procedures for the Shelter and renewed our relationship with the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. This has resulted in our Session adopting the following statement as the Vision for Saint Matthew's Shelter.

"To provide a safe and comfortable place to sleep overnight while the guest is a participant in the VIP Program, the PSH program, or the Employment Program - The shelter will be managed by the Chattanooga Community Kitchen."

We pay the Chattanooga Community Kitchen a fee to manage the shelter. This program is the only one of its kind in the network of resources for homeless men in the Chattanooga area. The Shelter is basically transition housing for men who are on their way up and out of a homeless situation. Men can be assigned to the shelter from three programs coordinated by the CCK.

- * **VIP Program** – an intensive drug/alcohol recovery program
- * **PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing) Program** – when homeless individuals have applied for housing from the various agencies and are close in the process to gaining permanent housing – this allows them to stay in our shelter (short term) until the housing is available
- * **Employment Program** – when individuals are "on the way up and out" to being on their own – working regularly, but don't have enough funds to get started paying rent, etc. – this allows them to save some money, get on their feet, and move to independence.

As you can see the target population for the shelter is purposely specific and the rate of success with our guests has been significant. We need volunteers to spend the night in the shelter periodically. We need folks willing to help prepare, serve, and share the simple weekly meal on Wednesdays that Betty Whitaker and Martha Huskins do currently. We also need prayers for the men who are our guests and the staff and volunteers who work with them. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Betty Whitaker.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>Lily of the Valley</i> MAY BIRTH FLOWER Humility Purity Sweetness</p>					1 Church Office Closed	2
3 Worship Online at 11:00 am	4	5	6	7	8 Church Office Closed	9
10 Worship Online at 11:00 am 	11	12	13	14	15 Church Office Closed	16
17 Worship Online at 11:00 am	18	19	20	21	22 Church Office Closed	23
24 Worship Online at 11:00 am	25 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	26	27	28	29 Church Office Closed	30
31 Worship Online at 11:00 am						

Thank You, Veterans

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2020 occurs on Monday, May 25. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

May Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Sam Thorton | 12 David Ford |
| 1 Clifford Duke | 17 Brenda Carter |
| 3 Jo Beth Kavanaugh | 18 Linda Langston |
| 4 Al Whitbeck | 21 Katie Franklin Lundgren |
| 4 Patsy Brown | 23 Haley Rymer |
| 5 Mary K. Roberts | 24 Ron Oslin |
| 6 Melissa Hamp | 24 Dominic Peirano |
| 9 Casey Voy | 24 Sarah M. Cook |
| 9 Juliette Weaver | 26 Allyson Ford |
| 9 Bonnie Bryant | 28 Betty Whitaker |
| 10 Robert Dean | 29 Julie Ascioilla |
| 12 Anne Marie Ford | 30 Larry Cooley |



CONGRATULATIONS!

Love and blessings to Jonathan and Kendall Hunter on the birth of their son and Henry's new little brother, Milo McKinley Hunter, who was born in April weighing 7 pounds and 20 inches long!

Please Remember These People in Prayer

- Ann O'Connell
- Rachel Simmons
- Sandy Franklin
- Peyton Eddington (Granddaughter of Susan Vance)
- Donlee Roberson and Family
- Joyce Harrison (Debbie Barnes' Aunt)
- Betty Spaulding
- Edwin Dale
- Ann Riley
- Steve and Diane Justice
- The men of St. Matthew's Shelter
- Members of PNC
- Our country and the world

