

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
3 September 2017**

Assemble In God's Name

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "Flee As a Bird to Your Mountain" arr. Paul Mickelson
ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP
"Men of Faith, Rise Up and Sing" Martin Smith

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 105 (NRSV) Matt Johnson
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 **Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**
3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
4 **Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**
5 Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
6 **O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**
23 Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the
land of Ham.
24 **And the Lord made his people very fruitful, and made
them stronger than their foes,**
25 whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.
26 **He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had
chosen.**
45 Praise the LORD!

Let us pray together: **God of our salvation, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have fulfilled your promise to our ancestors in the faith to redeem the world from slavery and to lead us into the promised land. Grant us living water from the rock and bread from heaven, that we may survive our desert pilgrimage and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

* HYMN 804 "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" MARION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **We have sinned this week, O Lord, in word, thought, and deed. We have said things we ought not to have said and withheld praise when it should have been given. We have thought that which was unkind, unholy, and unprofitable, and we have failed to think the thoughts of love, peace, and righteousness your Spirit would have given us. We have been busy about many things that should not have occupied our time and have neglected to do those things that would have served others and pleased you. Therefore we condemn ourselves before you, and ask that your grace and mercy may be upon us, to forgive our sins, heal our brokenness, and return us unto ways that are profitable to your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON *Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's forgiveness is as everlasting as the ages.

People: His mercy is as wide as the seas.

Leader: Surely he will forgive our iniquities.

People: He will restore a right spirit within us. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

Proclaim God's Word

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 20:1-21 Message Version

** HYMN 188 "Jesus Loves Me!" (first verse)
*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "God's Top Ten"

(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren.)

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 12:9-21 Message Version

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "There Is Far More At Stake Than Religion" Dr. Bron

* HYMN 734 "Hope of the World" DONNE SECOURS

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: **I believe in God, who created the world and is still creating. I believe that he is the God of time – of the slender moments that slip through the hourglass and of all the incomprehensible aeons that constitute eternity. I believe that he has given us the years of our lives as a period of growth and testing, to prove ourselves worthy of the life that is yet to come. He does not measure worthiness as we do, in terms of wealth and power and the observance of niggling rules; but he measures it in terms of love and grace and generosity, and whether we have thankful spirits that recognize the gifts he lays daily upon our humble doorsteps. I believe the gifts are there, and that I must learn to see, and seeing, respond; for it moves me that the creator of the world would offer gifts to me. If he has time for me, then I must make time for him. Amen.**

Give Thanks To God

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "If You Love Me" Natalie Sleeth
(*Visitors please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate*)

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(Hymnal) pg. 35

BREAKING THE BREAD AND OFFERING THE CUP
PRAYER

Go In God's Name

* HYMN 370 "This Is My Father's World" TERRA BEATA

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Rise Up Church, with Broken Wings" Martin Smith

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "March: Stand Up for Jesus" Webb/Geibel/Mickelson

* Those who are able, please stand

** Seating of worshippers

We welcome our visitors today. If you wish more information about this congregation or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please speak with the minister. New members are received by 1) Re-Affirmation of Faith; 2) Transfer of Membership; and 3) by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

A very special thank you to all the men who participated in our "Men's Choir" today and to Doug Shaw for sharing his flute with us.

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*A rose is placed on the communion table in celebration
of the birth of Henry Whitfield Newton,
son of Sarah and Whit Newton, born August 27, 2017.
Grandparents are Tommy and Annette Newton.*
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CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109

Frances Hubbard - GlenAire

Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 715

Betty Heaton – Mary Gran; Rm. 105

OTHERS:

Angie Prucha – (Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope)

Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)

Joe Butler – (Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)

Jim McGuirt – (Former GMPC member)

John Michael Bron – (Nephew of Jerry Bron)

Margaret Williamson – (Mother of Kermit Williamson, Dale Purcell & Wanda Coleman)

SYMPATHY TO: *Carol Wilson and family* on the passing of her sister,
Lydia John Senter Langdon.

September ushers are: David Brock, Hampton Brock,
Rick Green, Sim Green, Mark Harrell, Allison Martin

September: (Wednesday's: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.)

- 04 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 06 - 5:30 p.m. - Worship Committee Meeting
- 07 - 10:00 a.m. - Assemble Presbyterian Women Handbooks (Volunteers Needed)
- 10 - 8:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast @ First Baptist
- 9:00 a.m. - Fall Breakfast Kick-off
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) Promotion Sunday
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group Kick-off: Fun, Fellowship & Food
- 11 - 7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Combined 1st Meeting/1/4 Gathering
- 12 - 6:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Beginning Sunday, September 3, 2017, **Membership Rosters** of those eligible to serve as officers of GMPC will be made available for the upcoming elections. **Nomination Forms** will be included as bulletin inserts on September 17th, 24th and October 1st.

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held on November 5th for Elder and Deacon elections. *Individuals who wish not to serve should annually declare their unwillingness to the office.*

Volunteers are needed on Thursday, September 7th at 10:00 a.m. to help assemble the P.W. Handbooks. Please call the church office to share your willingness to help. Thank you.

The **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast Meetings** will resume September 10th, 8:15 a.m., at First Baptist Church. Mark your calendars now and make plans to be in attendance.

Fall Breakfast Kick-off: We cordially invite everyone, adults, youth, and children, to a Fall Breakfast Kick-off on **Sunday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m.** to celebrate a new program year here at GMPC! Please plan to attend this celebration of a new beginning!

NEW: GMPC Mission Buddies (For All Children – 12th grade). Mission Buddies first group meeting will be held on Promotion Sunday, September 10, 2017 as part of Sunday School. Join us for Sunday School on the 10th at 9:45 a.m. to learn more.

September 10, 2017 is Promotion Sunday! This is a special time when we commission our leaders for the coming program year. This is also a time of recognizing our children and youth as they are promoted to new Sunday school classes. Bibles will be presented to our first graders; Prayer Books and Presbyterian Hymnals are given to Worship Readiness children who are entering second grade and will now remain in the sanctuary with their parents during worship. The Bibles and prayer books are a gift from the church and the hymnals are funded by the GMPC Music Fund. Rising ninth graders who have served as acolytes will also receive recognition.

***NEW DATE:** GMPC's **Summer Concert Series** will conclude on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st at 7:00 p.m.** with a **Handbell Concert featuring the Clinton Ringers.** Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a time of community fellowship. A special thank you to the Capparruccia's for orchestrating these enriching opportunities for GMPC and the community!

GMPC Youth Group will Kick-off on Sunday, September 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with: FUN (Oh Yes!), FELLOWSHIP (That's Right!), & FOOD (Yum!)! Mark your calendars and make plans to be in attendance!

PW Circle Meetings will resume with a 1/4 Gathering on Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 p.m. The 2017-2018 P.W. Handbooks and P.W. Horizon Bible Study Books will be distributed.

PresbyCrew, for children in Kindergarten-5th Grade, resumes Wednesday, September 13th. *Welcome back letters and registrations have been mailed.

PresbyMusic, for children Prek-1st Grade; 2nd-5th Grade; and 6th-8th Grade, resumes Wednesday, September 13th. *Welcome back letters and registrations have been mailed.

An **Installation Service for GMPC Presbyterian Women Officers and Leaders**, for the upcoming 2017-2018 program year, will be held on September 17th during Worship.

The Balcony Team is crafting devotionals to share with the congregation over the coming year. The devotionals are centered on the ideas of promoting peace, unity, and purity of God's church here at Graves Memorial. If you have a passage of Scripture that inspires you on this subject, we invite you to craft a brief devotional around it. The Balcony Team (Amelia Surratt, Anne Price, Linda Williamson, and Justin Lockamy) will provide the template and feedback for the devotional. We will then share it with the church family. And don't worry, no one will know who wrote what devotional – these are by the people of GMPC, for the people of GMPC.

CAKES NEEDED: for the September 14th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 13th. *Please contact Linda Williamson to sign up/ place your name on the September list. We thank you in advance.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg, every third Saturday, monthly, bags of food are given to those in need beginning at 9:00 a.m. What you can do to help: *Volunteer Your Time! Donate Food Items!* **Next Food Bank: September 16, 2017.**