

# The Lighthouse

September 2021

## Our Biblical Worship

*“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” And he said, “Go...” (Isaiah 6:1–9)*

There is a much confusion and debate concerning worship in our day. As our society throws out traditional values, it is no surprise that there has been a move from traditional to contemporary *forms* of worship. There is a temptation to think that if the church does not change to go along with cultural trends that it will cease to be relevant. That is why it is important to understand why we Presbyterians worship in the way that we do. There is a reason behind it and the reason is not, “Because that's how we've always done it!”

First and foremost, our form of worship must be Biblical. Jesus said God must be worshipped “in spirit and in truth.” Not only must God be worshipped with a right heart (“in spirit”), but he also must be worshipped in a way that is in agreement with his Word (“in truth”). Our confession of faith sums it up in this way:

Chapter XXI Paragraph 1. The light of nature showeth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and doth good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshiping the true

God is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshiped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.

The Confession goes on to remind us of those elements the Bible dictates for worship. “Prayer, with thanksgiving..., the reading of the Scriptures with godly fear, the sound preaching and conscionable hearing of the Word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence, singing of psalms with grace in the heart; as also, the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God: beside religious oaths, vows, solemn fastings, and thanksgivings upon special occasions, which are, in their several times and seasons, to be used in an holy and religious manner.

So, the Bible gives us the elements, but why do we put them in the order in which we have them? The answer is that our order has a *Gospel structure* to it. The order of our worship service is meant to communicate an appropriate response to the Gospel.

We begin with a time of *praise* (call to worship / prayer of praise / hymn / *Gloria Patri* / Creed); followed by a time of *confession* (recitation of the Law of God / confession of sin / assurance of pardon / collection); which is followed by a time *employing the means of grace* (intercessory prayer / sacraments / Scripture reading / sermon); which is followed by a response of *thanksgiving and blessing* (concluding hymn / benediction).

This is the pattern we see in Isaiah 6. Isaiah goes to the temple, he encounters the glory of the thrice holy God, he sees himself as a sinner and repents, he hears God's word and responds with service. Wouldn't it be awesome to have the same experience as Isaiah?

It is my hope that all of us would worship intelligently on Sunday mornings (and any other time we worship, as well!) – to understand what we are doing and why we are doing it as we are. It is always easier to be engaged in an activity when you understand the “why” behind it!

Grace & Peace,

Tim

From our missionaries Evan & Bonnie:



## Dear Friends and Family

We are excited to announce the birth of our third child, Aidan Peter Jones. He was born on July 23rd and he and Bonnie are doing very well. We've been spending the past month getting to know Aidan and transitioning into a family of five. Charlotte has been absolutely thrilled about having a new brother, and tries to hold him and take care of him in any way possible. She can barely stop talking about him. Lucas is also excited to be a big brother and he's very interested in Aidan, but he's not quite able to understand that he can't wrestle with him yet.

This summer has been very busy for all of us. In the spring, I had been attending classes part time at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson but for the summer I decided to take an intensive course in Hebrew. So for the past two months I have driven to and from Jackson every day and studied Hebrew on campus. It has been challenging, but it has also been an amazing opportunity for me to learn the original inspired language.

Support raising has been going well recently, despite being forced to visit only nearby churches due to my schedule at seminary. Since attending presbytery and talking to the local pastors, I have been able to connect with more of the Presbyterian churches in Grace Presbytery, and I have had two more local churches join our ministry team. We still expect to be able to leave at some point this fall. We lack only 600 - 700 dollars per month before being fully funded. If

anyone desires to join our financial team please consider donating soon.

In just a few more days, I will be flying out to Zimbabwe, along with the local pastor I work with, Jean Baptiste. We will be there for a week long training in Urban Agriculture through an organization called Foundations for Farming. We have been trying to go since last year, but we have been canceled for Covid-19 each time. This will be a great time to learn more about modern methods for small scale farms, and Jean Baptiste will be able to use family land in Burkina Faso to grow a community garden and use what we grow for the church meals. Jean Baptiste has had a long history in farming and he is excited to learn how to use his skills for ministry. Please pray for him as he has never flown before, and he is very nervous about flying to an English speaking country.

Thank you so much for your prayers and partnership with us! Bonnie and I are excited that we will be returning soon to Burkina Faso and spread God's word there. Please pray that we get the last of our support by November at the latest. And please pray that travel will still be possible for our return with Covid-19 cases rising in West Africa.

Love,  
Evan, Bonnie, Charlotte, Lucas, and Aidan



Charlotte loves holding her little brother

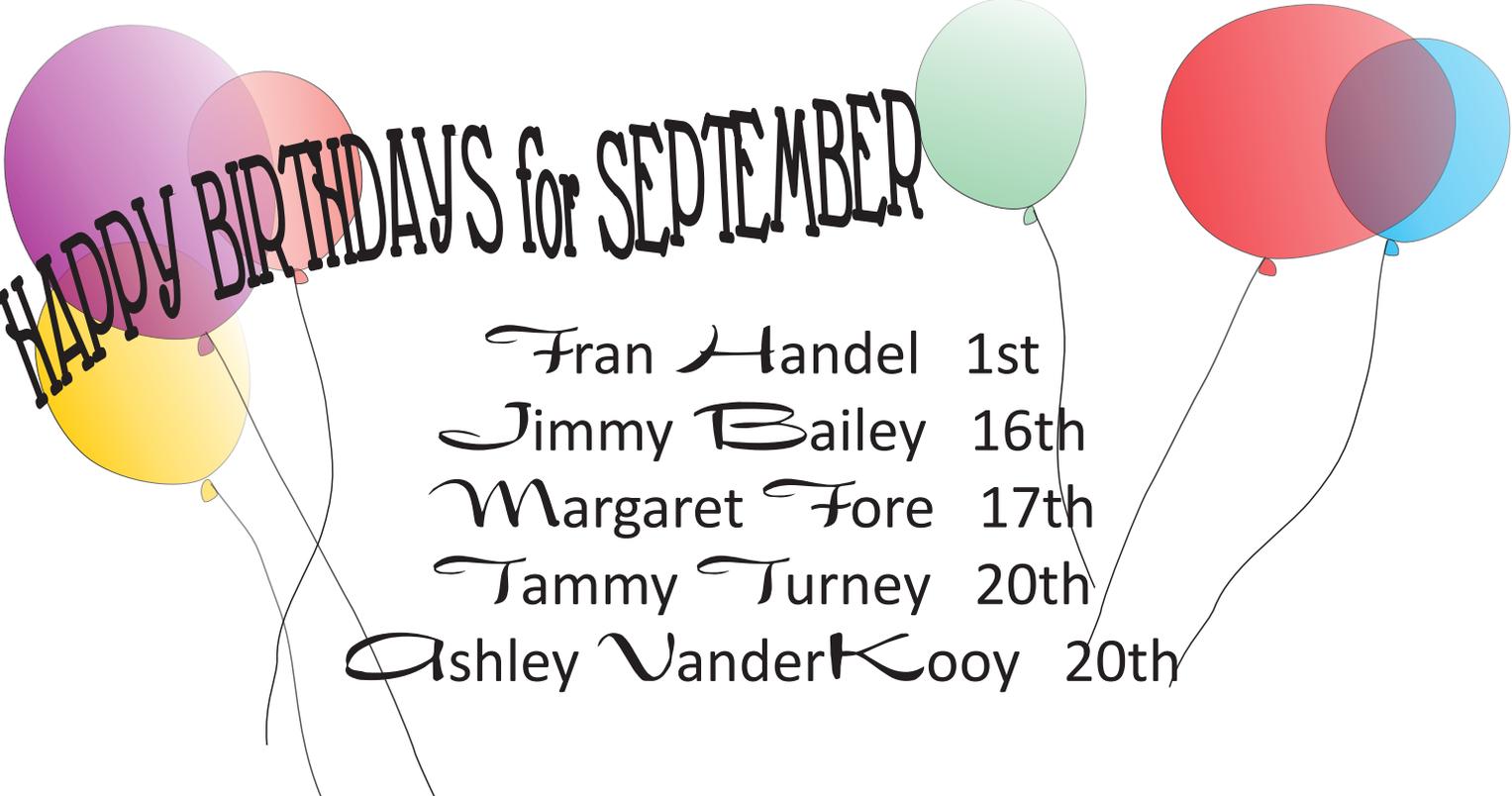
### **How Can You Give Financial Support**

1. You can give online at [www.MTW.org](http://www.MTW.org). To find us, put our account number 13727. You will not see our names mentioned because we are going to sensitive country, but any donations to that account number will go toward our ministry. To have the support automatically taken and applied to our support account you will need to make an account with MTW.

2. Send out a check to Mission to the World (in the memo line add: account 13727) and send the check to:

Mission to the World  
P.O. Box 744165  
Atlanta, GA 30374

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAYS for SEPTEMBER

Fran Handel 1st  
Jimmy Bailey 16th  
Margaret Fore 17th  
Tammy Turney 20th  
Ashley VanderKooy 20th

## Dates to Remember for September

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| September 5  | Communion  |
| September 6  | Labor Day Holiday, church office will be closed  |
| September 8  | WIC Circle at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall  |
| September 12 | Monthly luncheon after the Worship service, please bring a dish to share. "Note-don't feel obligated in attending this.  |
| September 12 | Sunday Night Service will have a change starting tonight at 5pm. Rev. Shannon Phillio will be preaching on the "Fruit of the Spirit. Meeting in the Sanctuary. |
| September 14 | Grace Presbytery will meet here at the church.   |
| September 18 | Hymn & Psalm Sing at 6pm at the church with an Ice Cream Social afterwards. "Note-don't feel obligated in attending the Ice Cream Social."                     |

No Men's Breakfast this month due to the Labor Day Holiday

Up coming for the Women in the Church - Mark your calendar for Grace Women's Ministry Fall Retreat, Tuesday, October 5th at 9am to 1:30pm, First Presbyterian, Hattiesburg with guest speaker, Sherry Lanier. \$15 advanced registration, \$20 at the door. Childcare available by RSVP to [Kyoung@fpcpca.net](mailto:Kyoung@fpcpca.net). Phone requests to Ramona Wicht, 601-268-9990.