

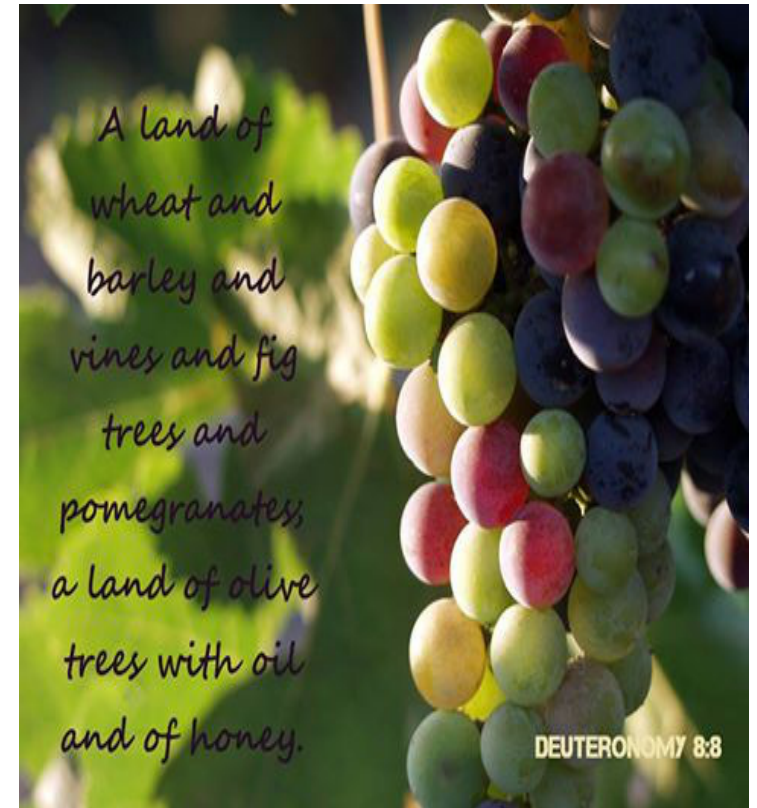
First Christian Church

645 Briarwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
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Rev. John W. Shearer, Senior Minister
Betty Shearer, Organist/ Choir Director
Madeline Mobley, Administrative Assistant
Sara Caldwell, Moderator of Congregation
Rev. Dr. Nadine Burton, Executive Pastor



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Jackson, MS



The Christian Caller

November 2017

Briarwood Churches Will Join Together During
the Thanksgiving Season:
“GIVING THANKS BEFORE THANKSGIVING”



**In everything give thanks for this is
the will of God. 1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Fall “History of Thanksgiving” Series

Luncheon Schedule

12:30 – 1:30 pm

**Wednesday – November 1, 2017
First Christian Church**

**Wednesday – November 8, 2017
Briarwood Presbyterian Church**

**Wednesday – November 15, 2017
Briarwood United Methodist**

Note- Bring your own bag lunch, Host will provide
chips and drinks

Global Mission Concern for November

Kenya

In al-Shabaab’s deadliest attack to date, militants slaughtered 148 people in a day-long raid on Kenya’s Garissa University in April 2015. Laughing and taunting their young victims, the gunmen separated Christians from Muslims before killing them. They beheaded those who could not or would not recite passages from the Quran.

Al-Shabaab is a Somali-based terrorist organization with links to al-Qaeda, but after Kenyan authorities took the decision in 2011 to send troops into neighboring Somalia to help counter terrorist activity, Kenya has been plagued with acts of brutality, often against the country’s Christian population. In Mandera county, which borders Somalia, militants singled out the non-Muslims and brutally murdered them in two violent attacks in late 2014.

It is estimated that around 500 people, mainly Christians and Kenyans from the south of the country, have been killed in Islamic attacks in the two years leading up to summer 2015 in a bid to clear a pathway for the establishment of sharia law.

A senior Kenyan Christian leader explained that al-Shabaab’s aim for Kenya (a nation which is 80% Christian) is to make it ungovernable, to make the Church fearful, and to prevent Christians from doing outreach in Muslim-majority areas of the country.

Christians and Muslims peacefully coexist in many parts of Kenya, although Christian converts from Islam can face pressure and even violent threats to renounce their new faith in Christ. In Muslim-majority areas, Christians are discriminated against and local Muslims are seeking to settle matters through Islamic (Kadhi) courts.

Pray that the Lord will shield His people in Kenya from the violent attacks of radical Muslims. Ask God to comfort those who have been bereaved or injured. Almost 100 schools have closed in northern Kenya with teachers, many of them Christians, too afraid to work because of attacks against education institutions. Pray that al-Shabaab will be defeated and that stability will be restored to the region so that children can learn in safety. Pray also for protection for converts from Islam and for the help of the Holy Spirit as they begin their new life in Jesus.



Notes Galore

Psalm 92: "It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
To sing praises to your name, O Most High."

Thanksgiving! The wonderful season of fall – the time for harvest of fruit and fields of ripened grain. And a time for remembering our many blessings; they are myriad, each breath, food, clothes, homes, families, friends.

If we are thankful God can bless the "good, the bad and the ugly." Although we cannot comprehend all of His workings, we are blessed over and over by His amazing power, His grace to anoint our small efforts and to reverse adverse circumstances to bring good from evil, as He cares for His trusting children.

So let us "weep with those who weep"; let us pray for those who suffer that they will glean strength and endurance. And let us "rejoice with those who rejoice!" as we celebrate with thanks and praise. -Betty

Hymn #25: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation.
Words: Joachim Neander, 1680

Hymn #528: "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
Words and Music: Henry Smith, 1978

Reformation 500th Anniversary 1517 – 2017

October 31, 1517 Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk of Wittenburg, posted on the door of the church at Wittenburg Castle the famous 95 theses which stated his biblical beliefs in protest of practices of the Roman Catholic Church. It was a period of time known as the Renaissance. He was excommunicated but continued to embrace the worship of the Latin mass in Cathedrals. His teachings and writings (as well as others) led to the Lutheran and other churches calling for the return of Biblical-based faith from Jesus' original teachings. For the common people he introduced songs in German, the language of the people, so they could understand and worship freely with familiar folk tunes. His best known hymn is:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, 1529

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing, our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

Congregation Corner

Prayer

I have often heard it said, "Prayer changes things." I know that this is true, but I recently read something about prayer that I think is even more important. It said, "Prayer changes me." I know that this is true also, and I also believe that it is more important that I change than that 'things' change.

I hope that I will continue to change as I continue to pray so that I will become more like Christ in all my thoughts and my actions. I pray the same for all of you.

Know that we can trust the Lord to take care of all the things of this world, and also to provide for us, giving us His salvation, His peace and His joy. Help us to share these with all the others we meet each day.

- Barbara Price



We give thanks for Barbara Price, our resident artist, whose quilts win blue ribbons at local fairs and in many of our hearts and homes!!!



Sunday School Teachers

November

5th Barbara Price
 12th Sara Caldwell
 19th Hillory Wright
 26th Barbara Price

Elders Serving for November

5th Lector/Offertory
 Martha Bise
 Communion/Greeter
 Sara Caldwell

12th Lector/Offertory
 Martha Bise
 Communion/Greeter
 Sara Caldwell

19th Lector/Offertory
 Sara Caldwell
 Communion/Greeter
 Martha Bise

26th Lector/Offertory
 Sara Caldwell
 Communion/Greeter
 Martha Bise

This year the Briarwood Community of Churches will host a three Wednesday luncheon, similar to the Lenten luncheons we do each year. (See full page article in this Caller). We hope you will be able to join us.

Here we are, in November, the month we celebrate with a feast, family and friends. Before that we pause and give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings we have been afforded. There is a hymn named, 'Count Your Blessings.' As I write this article I find blessings too numerous to share. But lest I forget, I start with what they call 'Make the main thing the main thing.'

The main thing is the Creator God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We don't sing 'America the Beautiful' because our land is ugly. Rolling snow-capped mountains, swirling rivers streaming to the oceans, white with foam- 'God Bless America, our Home, Sweet, Home.'

Each Sunday church bells toll their welcome. Our people make their way to the church of their choice to worship the God Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth. This month we will sing 'God of our fathers, whose Almighty Hand, leads forth in beauty all the starry band.' Then probably the Sunday before our big Thanksgiving feasts, we will sing 'Now thank we all our God.'

I could go on and on. But, I'll close by giving thanks to you, First Christian Church family, for the joy of allowing Betty to oversee our music ministry as I try to be the Shepherd of this flock of God's people.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EACH OF YOU. And to our many friends all across America who receive our monthly newsletter, The Caller.

Pastor John Shearer