# GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 29, 2026 | NEWSLETTER

www.gspcmobile.org



## ALL SAINTS' DAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.



We will celebrate Christ's resurrection promises by sharing the Lord's Supper and reading names of members who have passed in the last year.



### It's that time again!

At 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday, November 1,
the clocks move backward to
1:00 a.m.



# PASTOR'S MESSAGE

October 29, 2026 | NEWSLETTER







## *A Message from Reverend Rebekah Abel Lamar:*

On the first Sunday in November each year, we celebrate All Saints' Day. During communion, we read the names of members who died in the last year. In the Presbyterian Church, a saint is not someone holier than the rest of us. Every ordinary person seeking to know the mystery greater than themselves is a saint. As we gather at the Lord's Table, we are united in a way beyond our understanding with Christ and with all of Christ's church across all time.

A friend recently shared a beautiful description of this communion found in Wendell Berry's novel Jayber Crow. In the book, Jayber is a former ministerial student whose doubts and questions led him to leave his ministry preparation. He works for a time as a church sexton and a worker in the cemetery. As he questions his own beliefs, struggles with the fire-and-brimstone preaching he has heard, and seeks to find where he belongs, he experiences a profound vision:

*"One day when I went up [to the church] to work, sleepiness overcame me and I lay down on the floor behind the back pew to take a nap. Waking or sleeping (I couldn't tell which), I saw all the people gathered there who had ever been there. I saw them as I had seen them [as a child] from the back pew, where I sat with Uncle Othy (who would not come in any farther) while Aunt Cordie sang in the choir, and I saw them as I had seen them (from the back pew) on the Sunday before. I saw them in all the times past and to come, all somehow there in their own time and in all time and in no time: the cheerfully working and singing women, the men quiet or reluctant or shy, the weary, the troubled in spirit, the sick, the lame, the desperate, the dying, the little children tucked into the pews beside their elders, the young married couples full of visions, the old men with their dreams, the parents proud of their children, the grandparents with tears in their eyes, the pairs of young lovers attentive only to each other on the edge of the world, the grieving widows and widowers, the mothers and fathers of children newly dead, the proud, the humble, the attentive, the distracted-I saw them all. I saw the creases crisscrossed on the back of the men's necks, their work-thickened hands, the Sunday dresses faded with washing. They were just there.*

*They said nothing, and I said nothing. I seemed to love them all with a love that was mine merely because it included me. When I came to myself again, my face was wet with tears."*

*We are all enveloped in a love that is ours simply because it includes us. Honoring the saints who have gone before us reminds us of our own small part in God's love story with this broken and beautiful world.*

*See you Sunday!*

*Grace and peace,*

Rebekah

## HAPPENING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

### All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, we celebrate All Saints' Day. We will celebrate communion as we remember the GSPC members who have passed from this life to the next and entered the Church Triumphant in the last year. Rev. Lamar begins a new sermon series titled, "Steadfast." She will preach on Hebrews 11:1-3 and the sermon is titled, "Everlasting to Everlasting." Special music begins with the choral introit for All Saint's Sunday, "Grant Them Peace, O Lord" and follows through the anthem "Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices" by Robert Powell. The organ prelude and postlude are from Gilbert Martin's "Life Everlasting" Suite.

***Click this link to download the bulletin.***

***Click this link to watch the livestream service.***



The Memorial Service for **Gary Curran** has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 19 at 11 a.m. with a reception following in the Library.

*Read Gary Curran's obituary here.*

## Next Sunday - November 8

Next Sunday, November 8, 2026, we will welcome Dr. Mark Douglas, the J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. After teaching during the Sunday School hour, Dr. Douglas will preach on Proverbs 1: 1-7 and Romans 12: 1-13. His sermon is titled, "The Renewing of Our Minds." Music includes a choral introit "I Was Glad" by C. O. Beck, and choral anthem based on the American Folk Hymn "Liverpool" titled "O For a Heart to Praise My God." The organ pieces will be from French composer Alexandre Guilmant.

*More details about Dr. Mark Douglas are on page 5.*

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**SUNDAYS**

- Sunday Book Study for Adults: 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library.
- Gospel 101 Sunday School for Adults: 9:30 a.m. upstairs in the Multi-purpose room.
- Children and Youth Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. (Children begin with singing in the corner Children's classroom on the 1st floor before dividing by age.) Youth meet in the youth room upstairs.

**MONDAYS**

- Circles of Hope and Joy: This group currently meets on the second Monday at the Guesnard House, through May. The gathering begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Bible study at 6 p.m. All are welcome. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

**TUESDAYS**

- Bible Study for Women, 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams
- Bible Study for Women, 10 a.m. at the church and via Zoom. Contact: Mary Elizabeth Perry.

**WEDNESDAYS**

- The Wednesday Bible Study Group meets at noon at the home of Beth Rouse.
- Men's Bible Study meets at 6 p.m. at the church and via Zoom. Contact: Bo Perry.

**OTHER STUDIES FOR WOMEN**

- Young Women's Bible Study: Monthly in the Guesnard House.
- PW Circle & Bible Study. Form more information, contact Lucinda Haas.

## Second Sunday Lunch

**November 8!**

**Potluck Lunch**

The church will provide fried chicken and drinks.

Please bring a side dish to share.





## ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, please contact Ann Adams at 251-591-8586, or email her by clicking this link.



## ADULT MUSIC MINISTRIES

**VESPER ECUMENICAL RINGERS -** Rehearsal Monday Evenings at 5:30 p.m. This group is hard at work on an Epiphany Bell Concert for Sunday, January 10, 2027 at 4 p.m. Please put that on your calendars! We will end the Christmas Season by singing and playing all of your favorite carols that get put away until next year.

**CHANCEL BELLS -** Rehearsal Wednesday Evening at 5:30 p.m. We can always use a few subs. If you can read music please let Nancy know at nancy@gspcmobile.org

**SANCTUARY CHOIR -** Rehearsal Wednesday Evening at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, at 9:45 a.m. This is a talented and awesome group of singers! Teens and adults of all ages are welcome!



*Chancel Bell Rehearsal, October 28*

## MADE FOR PRAISE!!

**Children 3 year olds - 5th grade**

Please join us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Children's Choir Room. Ms. Gabi and Ms. Nancy need your voices!

## FALL FESTIVAL - A BIG SUCCESS!

A tremendous "thank you" to the entire Christian Formation Committee and our Youth for all of their helpon the Fall Festival. Also, a big shout out to Kendall Dexter and team for the fish fry, Marlene Jones and family for organizing and running the children's games, Sage Arnold for securing the inflatable, and James Tamblyn, Jarrett Callaway and band for the musical entertainment. Of course, we could not have pulled it off without Barbara, Marilyn, Willie Mae, and James!









*Travis Goodloe*
Chairman of the Christian Formation Committee
and *Lisa Goodloe*

Do you have news or photos to share?
**Email** them to: *jennifer@gspcmobile.org*



Mark Douglas is an ordained PCUSA minister and the J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he directs the Center for Theology and Contested Publics. His most recent books include *Christian Pacifism for an Environmental Age* (Cambridge UP, 2019) and *Modernity, the Environment, and the Christian Just War Tradition* (Cambridge UP, 2023) and he is currently working on a new book, *Wars in a Warming World: Religion, Resources, and Refugees.*

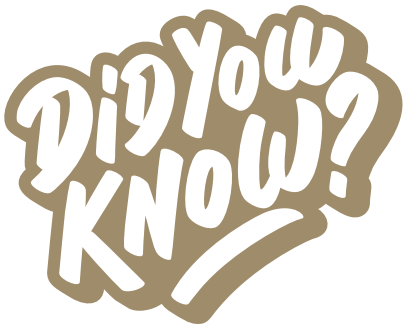
## Special Guest ~ Dr. Mark Douglas

### November 8 & 10

On **November 8 at 9:30 a.m**, Dr. Douglass will be speaking during the Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary. The topic is ***"When Red and Blue Don't Make Purple: The Church and Political Dysfunction."*** That we are living in one of the most politically polarized times in memory is no surprise to anyone who turns on a television, fires up a computer, or glances at the feed on their smartphone. And although this is not the first time U.S. society has been so polarized, the forces shaping polarization today look different than they have in the past. What are some of those forces? Where have they come from? What role has the church played in shaping them? And how might the church respond to them? These are big and important questions. Join Dr. Douglas and the GSPC community to think through such questions in hopes that we might shape a faithful and useful public Christian witness during these politically dysfunctional times.

Dr. Douglas will also be preaching on **November 8 during the 10:30 a.m.** worship service. His sermon is titled "The Renewing of Our Minds," from Proverbs 1: 1-7 and Romans 12: 1-13.

**On Tuesday, November 10 at 9 a.m.,** the congregation is invited to join other members of the Presbytery of South Alabama at the meeting at GSPC. Dr. Douglas' presentation "Reformed Responses to Christian Nationalism," will help us understand Christian Nationalism and how it is changing. Using our Reformed tradition, Dr. Douglas will suggest some ways the PC(USA) might engage with and respond to this changing expression in our country.




Did you know... You can check in from your REALM app to mark your attendance in church?

### REALM

GSPC members are encouraged to upload a photo to their Realm profile. Having a photo in the directory helps the people who are new to our community! If you need help, call Jennifer at 251- 432-1749, or email her your photo to jennifer@gspcmobile.org and she will upload it for you. Need help logging in for the first time? Call Jennifer. She is happy to help.

### Director of Christian Formation / Associate Pastor for Christian Formation

The church staff is seeking applicants for the following position: **Director of Christian Formation / Associate Pastor for Christian Formation.** GSPC has partnered with Ministry Architects to conduct a search for a Director of Christian Formation / Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. *This is the link to the job posting.*

The job link is also available on the *GSPC website.*

*Cick here to view more details about this job opportunity and to apply.*

## HELP NEEDED

### Making Scented Sachets for McKemie Place



Members of the **Missions Committee** are seeking volunteers to help make holiday sachets for the women of McKemie Place. These are small, hand-stitched or embroidered scented sachets. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Meredith Johnston at 251-323-5954 or *mwjohnston@crimson.ua.edu*. Thanks to those who have already committed to participate in this project.

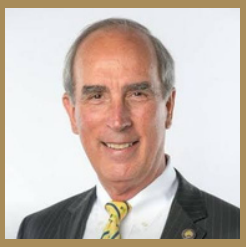



## CALLING ALL CHEFS:

The Congregational Care Committee is asking for volunteers to help prepare food for Memorial Receptions, Take Them A Meal, and other GSPC events. If you are interested in preparing food for our congregation, please let the church office know. Email *jennifer@gspcmobile.org.*

### TUESDAY LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Come to lunch! The congregation and community are invited to the fall "Tuesday Lunch and Learn at GSPC" series. Each week through November 17, we'll have a lunch with a guest speaker from the community. The lunches are held from noon to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The cost is $10, which includes drinks and dessert.



**Nov. 3:**
**Sandy Stimpson,**
Chairman of the Mobile Airport Authority

**Nov. 10: No Speaker**

**Nov. 17: Jack Brunet,**
Author of "My Story: Medic," a memoir of his year in Vietnam.

## MORE URBAN MISSIONS:

*More information about GSPC's Urban Missions* can be found on the website.

## SIP and SEE ~ November 15

After church on November 15th, there will be a Sip & See at the Guesnard House. We will celebrate:

- Watterson McNeil Majure, son of Will and Hannah Majure
- Mary Louise Majure, son of Christopher and Paden Majure
- Travis Bedsole Goodloe IV, son of Travis and Sally Goodloe
- Robert Milton Hope IV, son of Robert and Emma Goodloe Hope
- Grant Carlisle Riis, son of Burruss and Carly Riis

If anyone has a baby that they would like to celebrate and share with their church family, please let the church office know, or email *jennifer@gspcmobile.org*.

Do you have news or photos to share?
**Email** them to: *jennifer@gspcmobile.org*

## YOUTH

**Wednesday, November 4:** Meet at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. for dinner. Events for the remainder of the year are listed below.







## Parents of Nursery - 3K Children:

Join us at Hackmeyer Park as we learn fun and creative ways to pray! Bring your little ones along with a towel or blanket to sit on. We'll also have time for a snack and to play with church friends. We hope to see you there!

*Please sign up using the Facebook event.*
Hackmeyer park is in the Llanfair subdivision.
The address is 300 Amruth Drive. *See the map here.*