

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEWS

Rev. Alan Jeffries, Minister, First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 472, 1000 Third Street, Moundsville, WV 26041 Phone (845-7155)

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

September 2026

Thoughts about September

The breezes taste of apple peel.
The air is full of smells to feel-
Ripe fruit, old footballs,
Burning brush,
New books, erasers,
Chalk, and such.
The bee, his hive, well-honeyed hum,
And Mother cuts Chrysanthemums.
Like plates washed clean with suds, the days
Are polished with a morning haze.

--John Updike

GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Tim Wilt will be our guest speaker on
Sunday, September 6.

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on Monday,
September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

Poem for laborers

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
from "A Psalm of Life"

Thoughts about September 11

The preacher, Dr. Thomas Lane Butts,
took his grandson to New York City in 2003.
Dr. Butts took the boy to see where the World

Trade Center had been. They were both
emotionally affected by what they saw and
what they remembered. Later the grandfather
wrote:

"As we stood on the edge of that huge
hole, we were suddenly struck by the
realization that we were standing on and near
the unidentified remains of some 3,000
victims. It was a solemn moment. It all came
back! I was struck by two powerful emotions:
profound sadness and profound anger. As
tears welled in my eyes, I mumbled things
which I hope my grandson did not hear."

Dr. Butts went on to write about our
inability to understand the actions of the
cruel-hearted perpetrators of the unspeakable
disaster. Yet he suggested that we must try to
understand the source of such hatred for
political, religious and practical reasons.
Radical religious and national
fundamentalism should not cause us to
respond in kind.

He writes, "Two sure ways to lose the
battle against terrorism: to cringe in
paralyzing fear, or to let [terrorist] ways
become our ways."

--Excerpts from The Mobile Register

LOOSE OFFERING

The second Sunday of each month is
designated for the loose offering to be given
to the Deacons to help with their projects.

DEACONS

The Deacons will meet on Sunday,
September 13 immediately following
worship.

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GRANDPARENTS' DAY

(September 13, 2026)

As we recognize GRANDPARENTS DAY on Sunday, September 13, I would like to pay tribute to my Grandparents, Arthur and Anna Erickson. They were married on November 11th, 1921 and moved to their farm the following day, where they lived for the next 67 years.

They raised 9 children; 4 boys and 5 girls and were blessed with 23 grandchildren. They were married for almost 67 years before Grampa passed away at the age of 92 on July 6th, 1988 and Gramma passed away about 10 years later at the age of 101 in 1998. They were members of the Reynolds Baptist Church in Gutches Grove, Minnesota and strong pillars of that little country church.

They raised their children to have a strong faith in Jesus Christ and strong family ties. Probably every family member could write a book about their good memories from the many big family get-togethers out at "the farm". There were countless home-grown chickens fried for Sunday family dinners and much of their free time was spent singing gospel songs around the piano.

As a grandchild, I spent the night every now and then. I remember eating breakfast with them in their little country kitchen, with the old wood stove burning, and listening to them take turns reading several chapters from the Bible for their morning devotions. The farm was sold the summer that Grampa died in 1988 and it all became a memory. However, the memories that they left behind and the strong Christian impact that they

made on so many will remain with us throughout our lives and it makes us realize what an influence grandparents can have in the lives of their loved ones.

--Donna Park, Editor

SESSION

The Session will meet on Sunday, September 20 immediately following worship.

WOMEN OF WORSHIP

at First Christian Church in McMechen

Women of Worship is a gathering of women of all faiths for fellowship, worship, and making new friends. The gathering will be held at the First Christian Church, 30-4th Street in McMechen on Thursday, September 24, 2026, with refreshments available from 6:00-6:30pm. There will be a short worship service led by Rev. Deborah Messham. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!! Casual Attire. Come and join in for an evening of fellowship. There is also a chance to win a door prize!

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Jeffries leads a Bible Study every Monday afternoon at 1:00. Public is welcome to attend.

Lay off on Labor Day

Pope Benedict XVI would appreciate our Labor Day holiday. Recently, while addressing a large audience, the Pope warned against working too hard. It is "bad for the spirit," he said.

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He quoted the 12th-century writings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who spoke of “the dangers of an excessive activity, whatever the...office held, because many occupations lead to a hardening of the heart.”

Whatever our work, we must take at least one day each week to rest. For most people, this will be the Lord's Day, the Christian Sabbath. As the Bible says: “Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work....” (Exodus 20:8-10, NRSV).

PAINTING A PICTURE OF CHRIST

Help me to paint a picture, Lord
A beautiful likeness of Thee
That others may see Thy beauty
Through my personality.

Help me to paint a picture, Lord
At home with those I love,
That will point the way to Heaven
Our beautiful home above

Help me to paint a picture, Lord
Where I work in the marts of men.
May the life I live before them
Be a real rebuke to sin.

Help me to paint a picture, Lord
At church where I worship thee;
May others be drawn closer
Through my love and loyalty.

Help me to paint a picture, Lord
By the help of Thy wonderful Grace,

That I won't be ashamed to show Thee
When I meet Thee face to face.

And if I should mar the picture, Lord,
As I travel through life with Thee,
Oh, blot it out with Thy blood, dear Lord,
That was shed at Calvary.

--Susan Symon

Honor teachers

James Michener, the author of books such as *The Source* and *Hawaii*, was once invited by President Eisenhower to a dinner at the White House. He answered the president with these words:

“Dear Mr. President: I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers.”

President Eisenhower answered Michener by saying, “In his lifetime a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents, but a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely.”

Sunday school is now in full swing so let us honor all of our teachers. They sacrifice their time to prepare lessons, decorate classrooms, teach with loving care, and most importantly, to be “ther” for their students.

IF YOU WANT YOUR
NEIGHBOR TO KNOW WHAT
THE LORD WILL DO FOR HIM,
LET HIM SEE WHAT CHRIST
HAS DONE FOR YOU!