

August Newsletter



First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview Road, Mexico, Missouri

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Volume 34, Issue 08

Published Monthly

July 24, 2025

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

Student Ministries

Director

Micah McNeal

Organist & Handbells

Barbara Green

Choir Director

Josh Yancey

Administrative

Sandy Weber

Financial Secretary

Lori Ray

Nursery Attendant

Barb Brandt

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service

9:00 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

High School Youth

12:00 p.m. Sundays

(First Presbyterian Church)

6th—12th Youth

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays

(First Christian Church)

Email:

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www.mexicofpc.com

Facebook:

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[mexicoFPC](https://www.facebook.com/mexicoFPC)

Wifi: MexicoFPC-Guest

Password: #liv2srv



So Many Bibles!



If you've ever shopped for a Bible — or even just opened stopped by mine or Micah's office and looked at our bookshelves — you know there are a lot of different translations and interpretations out there. New International Version (NIV), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), English Standard Version (ESV), the King James Version (KJV) I grew up with... it can feel overwhelming!

So why are there so many? Part of it is that language changes. Words and phrases that made perfect sense in 1611 (when the King James Version was published) don't always land the same way today. The newer translations work to make the text clear and faithful for modern readers.

Another reason is that Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic — the original languages of the Bible — don't always have perfect one-to-one equivalents in English. Scholars have to make choices: Should a word be translated as literally as possible, or should they aim for the meaning behind it? That's why some translations (like the ESV) lean more word-for-word, while others (like the NLT or The Message) aim for thought-for-thought. Then there's paraphrases, which are written to be easier to read and understand than word-for-word and thought-for-thought translations.

It's also worth noting that no one translation is necessarily "better" or "more faithful" than another. They each have strengths. Some are great for study, some for prayer, some for hearing aloud.

If you've ever wondered which one you "should" use, the good news is that you really can't go wrong. God's word comes through in all of them. You might even enjoy comparing a couple of translations side by side and seeing how the nuances deepen your understanding.

However you encounter the Bible — in the poetry of the King James, the clarity of the NRSV, or the paraphrases of the New Living Translation — remember: the point isn't which version you read, but that you listen for what God is saying through it.

See you in church, where we'll hear from God through God's Word!

Pastor Susan



AUGUST WORSHIP**August 3****Scripture**—Luke 12:13-34**Sermon**—Parable of the Rich Fool**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**August 10****Scripture**—Isaiah 1:10-20**Sermon**—What Makes God Mad**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**August 17****Scripture**—Jeremiah 1:4-10**Sermon**—Speak Up, Young People!**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**August 24****Scripture**—Luke 12:49-56**Sermon**—Burying Our Heads In the Sand**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**August 31****Scripture**—Psalm 81**Sermon**—Hymn Sing Sunday**Preaching**—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley**PRAYER REQUESTS****CURRENT REQUESTS**

- Family and friends of Anna Rentschler
- Michael Myers
- Mary Mock
- Dan Kriwiel (Peggie's husband)
- Jeff Kimes (Pam's brother)
- Stacy Cordier—(Elaine Mensching's daughter)
- Shirley Brauer

LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Jo Ann Azdell
- Barb Atkinson
- Larry Dubbert
- Virginia Carlson
- Lynn Cox
- Betty Coari
- Barbara Neumann
- Melissa Fayad
- Faith LaRue Wells (Barb Brandt's great niece)
- Julie Nance
- Candy Presley (Pastor Susan's sister-in-law)
- Gaytha Webber (Chris's mother)
- Bentley White (friend of the Nelson's)
- Neva Duea (Cheryl Slagle's mother)
- Michael Painter (Jody Fetterhoff's son-in-law)
- Sue Keeney (Peggie Kriwiel's sister)
- Dale Robb (Kim Robb's father)
- Connie Robley
- Judy Lowery (Jody Fetterhoff's sister)
- Jessica Jolly
- Luke Pickett
- Denzil McNeal (Micah's uncle)
- Stan Beard Jr. (Becky Fischer's brother)
- Nancy Fischer (Scott Fischer's sister in law)
- Tom Biesemeyer (Linda Sue's cousin)
- Lydia A. Neill (Linda Sue's cousin)
- Debra Kreyling

**AUGUST SCHEDULE**

3rd—All Church Bar-B-Q

3rd-6th—Vacation Bible School @

Mexico United Methodist Church

17th—Sundae Sunday, Backpack Sunday &

Bible Buddy Sunday

17th & 24th—Music Sticks with You—Sanctuary

No Sunday school through August 24th

31st—Let's Sing Together—Hymn Sunday

31st—Sunday school resumes

Sunday Morning Nursery

Infants and children are welcome to
come and play during worship
and/or Sunday school.

**MISSOURI UNION PRESBYTERY**

Stated Meeting
Tuesday, August 26, 2025

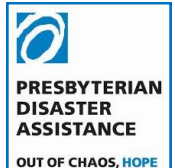
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Columbia, MO

Delegate : Ron Ray

NATIONAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The National & Global Missions committee met on July 8th, 2025. The committee agreed that the most pressing need at this time is due to the recent flash food in Texas, the continued devastation in North Carolina and the predicted flooding in New Mexico.

Members present voted to give \$1743.27 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Lawanah Gillette.



Happy Birthday!

Lyle Toellner	1	Brenda Gordon	9	Charlene Thompson	18	Rusty Brett	28
Vanessa Lamb	2	Shirley Brauer	10	Joy Young	18	Lindsey Yancey	28
Larry Frey	3	Randy Huddleston	10	Robert Fenlon	19	Vicki Briggs	29
Lauren Hanley	3	Kim Sydenstricker	10	Kristen Keith	20	Connie Cox	29
Stephanie Robinett	3	Elaine Mensching	12	Elizabeth McNeal	22	Kris Charles	30
Mara Smith	4	Vickie Everitt	13	Stu Miller	22	Susan Chitwood	30
Kamden Ekern	5	Ans Schmidtke	13	Lois Runnels	22	Robyn Baker	31
Don Decker	7	Elizabeth Albin	15	Cheryl Toalson	24	Janet Heaton	31
Carol Gallaher	7	Ashlie Crawford	15	Kathy Cusick	26		
Michael Myers	7	Robert Dalton	16	Raigan Robinett	26		
June Wagner	7	Bruce Oliver	16	Beverly Williams	26		
Elizabeth Burks	9	Vanessa Miller	17	Clifford Wilson	26		
Emogene Fox	9	Kimberly Robb	17	Kathryn Burks	27		
		Nancy Decker	18	Andrew Lummis	27		
		Timothy Jackson	18	Kathy Quick	27		

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY 21, 2025**

The session met on Monday, July 21, 2025. Micah opened the meeting with prayer. Joys and concerns were shared. The consent agenda was accepted into the record, including prior minutes, financial reports, and the current meeting agenda.

Adult Fellowship: Andy Ekern reported that 9 people went on the river boat cruise. Trivia night is this Friday at 6:30 PM. Hickory Ridge . Sunday Funday will be October 5th.

Adult Personal Support Committee: Elaine reported that the group has new trained caregivers and welcomes new care receivers.

Children's Committee: Micah reported on VBS starting August 3rd. The first night will be a Block-party at the United Methodist Church. Also, Sunday, August 17 will be the Blessing of the Backpacks, Bible Buddies Recognition, and Sundae Sunday.

Columbarium: Robby reported that he had spoken with Don Decker and that the LED lights will soon be installed.

Music and Worship: Josh reported that they are still working on updating the Funeral Guidelines and hope to have it ready for session approval by October.

National and Global Mission: Susan reported that the committee has been working with Mobility Worldwide, a Columbia group that makes mobility scooters. A representative will speak with our congregation about their work on September 7.

Property: The committee's extensive report was received with gratitude. Their work includes benches on the playground, painting of the highway sign, the camera/security system, water fountain in fellowship hall, smoke/CO detectors, shed repair, boiler clean-up, tree trimming/removal, sink work, sidewalks. There was discussion about sale of the riding mower, pylons in front of the playground, and repair of accent lights in the front portico.

Stewardship: Robby reported that cashflow is good. They will start talking, next month, about the 2026 budget. The committee continues to use 2 counters weekly, to verify the collection of the offerings.

Technology: Micah reported that they will start to work on replacing the rear projector soon.

Trustees: The Investment Portfolio Report was received. Ron reported that the funds have had nice gains and that all is going well.

Youth and Young Adult: Micah reported that youth went to camp at Jo-Ota, and they will be going to Triennium in Louisville July 28-31. Trivia Fundraiser Night is Friday, July 25th.

Old Business: Micah reported on the May 20th Presbytery Meeting in Moberly. Our former moderator was celebrated as he leaves our Presbytery to take another position. Dianne reported on Boundary Training.

New Business: Ron Ray was elected to the August 26, 2025 Presbytery meeting. The church bylaws and anti-racism policy were reviewed and approved. With thanks to those who have volunteered to help with it, it was voted to discontinue the share-a-ride phone as it has not received any use. The church will host a Presbytery Council meeting on September 18 and a Presbytery elder communion training on October 18. The Presbytery has changed the nomination procedure for Eveyln Bedell awards, and we will make appropriate changes.

Clerk's Report: Communion was served on June 1 during the service and at King's Daughters. New members Tempe Polson, Jeanne and Karl Shellabarger were welcomed. Malena Olson was baptized. Dianne attended the Presbytery minutes review and passed.

The meeting closed with a devotion by Andy Ekern on being transformational rather than transactional, and with prayer. The next Session meeting will be Monday, August 18, 2025.





**ALL CHURCH
BAR-B-Q**

**Sunday
August 3th
@ 10:30 a.m.**

**Food provided by
Adult Fellowship &
Fellowship Committees
Dessert by the Fischer's**

**Let's Get Together!
*No Sunday School***

51st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Scott and Rebecca Fischer invite you to enjoy
a piece of cake in celebration of their
51st wedding anniversary.
August 3rd @ All Church Bar-B-Q



Adult Personal Support Committee

The Adult Personal Support Committee is a trained group of Christian caregivers who have been trained in confidential listening skills and caregiving. This is a one-on-one relationship for persons experiencing a difficult time in their life.

We have recently trained five new members: Jackson Lamb, Abby Chitwood, Sharon Linss, Jeanie Shellabarger and Chris Doolittle. They are joined by previously trained members: Dr. George Comfort, Elaine Mensching, Pam Miller, Mike Briggs, Sue Chitwood, Lawanah Gillette, and Brad Brett.

If you or someone you know could benefit from talking to a good listener, please contact:

- ◇ Pastor Susan at (573) 581-5689, or
- ◇ Brad Brett at (573) 582-2127, or
- ◇ Elaine Mensching at (573) 473-9435.



CONGRATULATIONS PEGGIE KRIWIEL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2025 HONORARY LIFE MEMBER



SCOUTS IN THE NEWS! Troop 38 traveled to Camp Hohn for summer camp. Over the week Scouts earned merit badges in addition to riding jet skis, scaling the climbing tower, rifle shooting, disc golf, zip lining and water polo. They celebrated Independence Day watching fireworks over the Lake of the Ozarks.



Vacation Bible School

Mexico United Methodist Church—All ages welcome!

August 3-6—5:30—7:00 p.m.

Sign up with this QR code (above) or at:

<https://mexicofpc.breezechms.com/form/vbs2433>



Blessing of the Backpacks & Sundae Sunday August 17th



Bring your backpacks to church to receive a blessing for the new school year during the Children's Moment! Then join us for ice cream and fun during fellowship time. Bring a friend!

Bible Buddy Sunday August 17th

Children who completed their benchmarks over the summer or who were not able to attend the ceremony in April will be recognized.

LET'S SING TOGETHER

From poems written long ago, set to singable tunes,

- ◇ we learn that Jesus is our friend,
- ◇ that God's faithfulness is great,
- ◇ that we can stand on His promises,
- ◇ that it is sweet to meet Jesus in the garden or anywhere else for a sweet hour of prayer,
- ◇ that God's grace is amazing and
- ◇ that in peace or sea-billowing sorrow, God teaches us that it is well with our soul.



From hymns we can learn theological truths; we can learn about God's greatness and unchanging Biblical truths. From these poems, which we now call hymns because the poet or someone else has set them to music, we can learn more about God, memorize scripture, praise God, thank God, and confess to him our shortcomings.

On Sunday, August 31, our worship service will be a hymn-singing service. We invite you to send us the name(s) of your favorite hymns (by Sunday, August 17) and we will include as many of them as possible in the service. We may not be able to include all verses. Don't worry if it is not in our current hymnal. We have permission to project the lyrics.

Hymn Request _____

Requested by _____

Any special memory or story about this hymn

*Return to office or Barb or Susan by Sunday, August 17
EMAIL @ OFFICE@MEXICOFPC.COM
(forms are available near entrances)*

Music Sticks With Us— Especially as Kids!

Join Barb in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 17th & 24th immediately following worship for 10 or 15 minutes of music. Come Sing with Us!

KIDS FOR CHRIST 25-26

SIGN UP NOW

Kindergarten—5th Grade

Bible Time, Crafts, Recreation & Snacks. Transportation from schools provided!

Wednesdays—3:30 to 5:00
during the school year.





STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE @ YOU TUBE

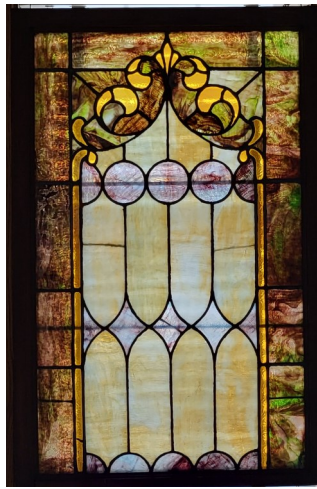
Just go to: www.youtube.com and search for:

Mexico First Presbyterian Church

Or scan this QR code



YouTube



Stained Glass Window 1899—1968

In April of 1968 the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Mexico moved into the new building at 400 Lakeview Road. Soon after, there was an auction at the old church on Promenade Street where the stained glass windows, pews and other items were auctioned off.

Glenn and Annette Hatfield purchased the stained glass window pictured above. They displayed it in their home for decades that followed. In 2025 the window was graciously donated back to the church by the Hatfield family. Ron Ray and Jim Brunner, members of the Property Committee, hung the glass in the stairwell near the downstairs foyer. It is a wonderful addition to our church. Congregation members can now see the light pouring through the beautiful old window. For some, it will be for the first time and for others, perhaps a treasured memory.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Saturday August 2nd, 8am - 12 noon

**** Mexico United Methodist Church ****

The Annual Back-To-School Health Fair is presented to you by the Community Health Ministry Team and the Audrain County Public Health Department.

Backpacks and school supplies are provided for children of grades Kindergarten thru 12th, at no cost. If you would like to volunteer for this event, contact Pastor Susan.



Mexico Soybean Festival

The Outreach Committee has reserved a spot at the Soybean Festival on Saturday, August 23rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to help with our "Outreach Booth", please contact Michelle Doolittle or the office and let us know what time you can help out. Otherwise, just come by and say "hello"!



Who
is the
"Captain"
now
Gramps??

**ADULT
FELLOWSHIP
MARK TWAIN
RIVERBOAT CRUISE**
July 17th, 2025





2025 Camp Counselors: Connie Street, Steven Owings, Micah, Marcos, Jasmine Reeves, Zane Whorton, Sara Bright

Blessing Box

The Local Missions Committee wants to thank everyone who supports the Blessing Box. It is a great mission for our community and church and is supported by many. There is a lot of activity there every day, both those putting in supplies and those taking what they need. You may place items in the containers in the church or put them directly in the box outside. The only thing that we seem to have an abundance of is dried beans and lentils, so if you can use these please help your self. Thanks again.

All donations are welcome!

August Blessing Box suggestions are:
canned tuna or chicken
and/or canned vegetables.



RECENT MEMORIALS

Endowment

Bonnie Kimbel
Glenn Hatfield
Carl Smarr



(These are monetary memorials received in the last 30 days)

What's On Your Mind?

This study group meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 7:30 a.m. in the Westminster Room. Topics vary from session to session.

Join us for coffee and conversation.

August 9th & 23rd

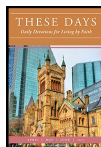


Help Center

Please bring your plastic grocery bags and egg cartons to the barrel by the office or drop off at the Help Center.



**Our Daily Bread
&
These Days Daily Devotions**
are available near each entrance for anyone who would like to pick one up.

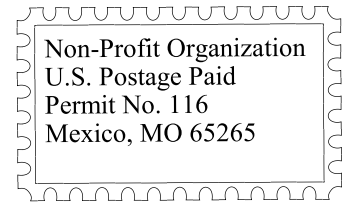


BUDGET REPORT As of 07.21.2025

INCOME	Actual \$	Budget for Year \$	Actual vs Budget %
Pledged Giving	\$153,687.50	\$294,000	52.27%
Non pledged	\$70,630.20	\$130,000	54.33%
Other Income	\$10,103.38	\$18,100	55.82%
Total all income	\$234,421.08	\$442,100	53.02%
EXPENSES			
Administration	\$1,450.71	\$6,050	23.98%
Adult Ministries	\$113.66	\$1,100	10.33%
Children's Ministry	\$652.62	\$4,500	14.50%
Local Mission	\$5,356.83	\$13,000	41.21%
National & Global Mission	\$860.00	\$7,000	12.29%
Other programs	\$22,948.06	\$40,500	56.66%
Outreach	\$706.50	\$2,200	32.11%
Property	\$50,485.96	\$67,961	74.29%
Personnel	\$168,973.69	\$319,924	52.82%
Technology	\$5,515.24	\$9,474	58.21%
Worship	\$2,917.96	\$5,300	55.06%
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	\$2,736.72	\$7,500	36.49%
Total all expenses	\$262,717.95	\$484,509	54.22%

First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview
Mexico, MO 65265



Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

2025	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Children's Message	Keith Louder	Deb Haag	Joanne Nelson	Teresa Carlson	Micah McNeal
Liturgist	Lindsey Yancey	Sebastian Matuz	Jerry Ahillen		Becky Fischer
Flowers	Chris & Tori Webber	Shirley Brauer	Dwight & Karen Linnemeyer	Barb Brandt	
Ushers	Andy Ekern Bob Fenlon Donna Haerer Mark Schnake Sheryl Louder Taytum Louder	Bruce Oliver Nancy Oliver Linda Woods Bill Woods Clarissa Cauthorn JR Cauthorn	Mark DeJaynes Kenny Nelson Lori Ray Ron Ray Joanne Nelson Charleigh Lewis Owen Lewis	Dianne Maguire Pat Maguire Lawanah Gillette Paul Gillette Grant Toellner Everett Toellner Ollie Toellner Eli Toellner	Peggie Kriwiel Tempie Polson Stephanie Robinette Nancy Baker Andy Baker Bryce Robinette Raigan Robinett
	Communion Servers Robby Miller Ron Ray Kim Sydenstricker Jim Brunner	Communion Preparer Darlene Isaacs	August Session Devotional Robby Miller	August Deacon of the Month Jody Fetterhoff	