

“I’ve been meaning to ask...”

...is the new series that we will be using in September and October. This series will use questions to explore the lives of characters from the Bible. We will also use questions to delve into our own experiences and how they relate to our life with God and with each other.

As we ask questions of the scriptures, each other and ourselves, we may discover new insights into living joyous and abundant lives as the people of God. May our conversations guide us as we grow into the beloved community of God. Mary Jane



An introduction from the creators:

“In creating this series, we started by asking ourselves questions: “How can we listen to one another? How do we find connection? How do we create space for compassionate dialogue and for seeking the holy in one another?”

While the challenges of becoming beloved community to one another are endless, these questions are simple. We quickly recognized that all courageous conversations begin with simple questions and the curiosity to truly listen. We landed on our leading question, "I've been meaning to ask..." because it conveys intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies the following statements: “I’ve been thinking about you and I’ve been wanting to check in... You’ve been on my mind... I haven’t known how to have this conversation, but I’m getting started with a question.”

Our weekly sub-themes provide a trajectory for going deeper. May this series help us to behold each other as images of the divine. May it help us strengthen our capacity for empathy and compassion. May it remind us of the power of asking unassuming questions. May it show us that courage is rooted in the heart. Through vulnerability and authenticity, may our courageous conversations lead us to glimpse hope, joy, and beauty—and to become the community God created us to be.”

The guiding principles of I've been meaning to ask..."

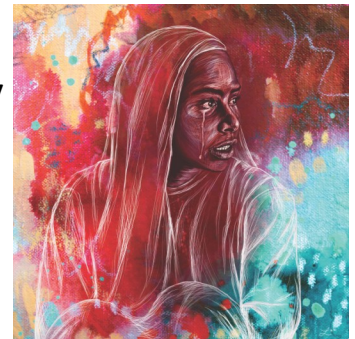
... where are you from?

We believe everyone is beloved, shaped from the dust of the earth and the breath of God. Everyone has a story to tell. Our stories are messy and beautiful, painful and hopeful—being written and rewritten over time. We commit to disrupting our assumptions and staying curious.



... where does it hurt?

We believe everyone carries hurt and has the capacity to acknowledge the pain of others. We believe God draws close to us in every moment of suffering. We commit to vulnerability and compassion.



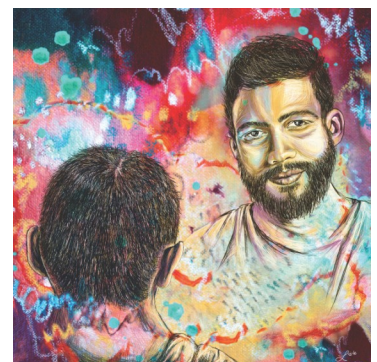
... what do you need?

We believe everyone has needs, but each of us needs different things at different times. We believe God calls us to care for one another—in seasons of joy, transition, and hardship. We commit to listening and being present.



... where do we go from here?

We believe courageous conversations have the power to change and transform us. We believe God bridges connections in unexpected ways. We commit to continuing the conversation.



From A Sanctified Art

In Memoriam



We remember and celebrate the life and memory of Alice
Her loving example guides her family and faithfully serves the Kingdom of God through the legacy she leaves.

March 15, 1936—August 11,
2024

A Thank You from Alice's Family

We wanted to take a moment and say thank you for your help and support after Alice passed away. The lunch you provided following the service was so thoughtful and we are so appreciative.

It really meant a lot to us and helped us to get through a difficult day.

Sincerely,
Alice's family



August Report from the Community Care Room

In the month of August, we gave members of our community:

- 6 pairs of shoes
- 23 hygiene packs/individual items
- 67 MREs (Meals Ready to Eat that contain enough nutrition for an adult for one day)
- 1 duffel bag and 4 backpacks
- 31 pairs of pants or shorts and 36 shirts
- 2 blankets, sheets, or other bedding
- 57 pieces of clothing such as socks, underwear, and hats
- 156 snack bags
- 9 packages of dog food or hot dogs for people's pets
- Nearly 200 bottles of water

Thank you for giving to this ministry—your donations make a difference!

Preachers and Scriptures for September and October

Sept. 8	Rev. Marie	Communion	Genesis 2:4b-15 <i>Where are you from?</i>
Sept. 8	Mary Jane	John 1:25-51	<i>Where are you from?</i>
Sept. 15	Rev. Michael	I Samuel 1:1-18	<i>Where does it hurt?</i>
Sept. 22	Rev. Robert	Mark 5:21-43	<i>Where does it hurt?</i>
Sept. 29	Mary Jane	Job 2:11-13	<i>What do you need?</i>
			<i>Healing and Wholeness Service</i>
Oct. 6	Mary Jane	Communion	I Corinthians 1:10-17 <i>World Communion Sunday</i>
Oct. 13	Rev. Michael	2 Timothy 4:9-18	<i>What do you need?</i>
Oct. 20	Rev. Marie	Ruth 1:1-22	<i>Where do we go from here?</i>
Oct. 27	Mary Jane	Acts 10	<i>Where do we go from here?</i>

Announcements

Study guides from our new series, "I've been meaning to ask..." are available for everyone. They include art, reflections, poetry, and commentaries on the scriptures. Our own Rev. Brittany has written some of the commentaries. You can pick yours up in the sanctuary or call the church office to have it emailed to you.

On September 8 we will have a Congregational Meeting after the worship service to elect three members to the nominating committee. Those three members, along with two members from the session and the pastor will nominate three members to be active elders on the session for 2025-2026. Please prayerfully consider who God might be calling to serve on this important committee. For the nominating committee we will take suggestions from the floor so if you have someone in mind, please check with them before September 8 to see if they would serve on the nominating committee.

Hospitality time will be **September 1**. We will gather after the worship service in the Hospitality Room to enjoy snacks and a time of visiting together.

September 15 will be our **Community Potluck**. Let's bring a dish or two to share with our church family and our neighbors in our community.

The **Bible Study** Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. For the next few weeks, we will be using the Study Journal from the series, "I've been meaning to ask..."

FYI

Mary Lee has begun classes at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is enrolled in the Certificate in Ministry program. This semester she is taking Old Testament and New Testament. Let's encourage her and pray for her as she begins this new challenge.

From the Presbytery:

Social Media 101, An Online FREE Workshop! The Presbytery's Resource Team has hired media specialist Christen Kinard to lead an online workshop on **September 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm**. This workshop will demystify social media platforms and teach you how to use them most effectively in connecting with your congregation and beyond. [Click here](#) and register today!

Adultquake '24 - Are you looking for a weekend of rest and renewal with other adults at camp? Join us November 8-11 for a restful weekend. Thursday evening will be an optional add-on for anyone who needs to be back for their Sunday gigs. Our leadership is packed with amazing familiar faces in the Presbytery of Arkansas. We will hear keynotes from Rev. Anne Russ, be led in worship by Rev. Julianna and Rev. Alice Whitson, and Rev. Jeremy Wilhelmi will lead us in camp songs and singing of all sorts.

Registration is open now! Click [Adultquake](#) to register. Coupon codes available (including young adults), if you need financial assistance. Please contact [Sarah Leer](#) for a code.

Attendance for August

August 4: 23

August 11: 28

August 18: 32

August 25: 27

Garden Report

The community garden continues to produce lots of vegetables. Currently, tomatoes, cucumbers, and okra are being harvested. Peppers, zucchini, and sweet potatoes will soon be added. The grant money we received for the garden is being used to purchase supplies, seeds and plants, and insect control. We have not yet found a pump that will sufficiently pump water from the rain barrels to the garden. Our monthly expenditure for water has increased by \$64 over last year. This could be due to an increase in water prices as well as an increase in water usage since we are watering more frequently this year. The vegetables are taken to the Methodist Church weekly to be distributed from their food pantry and at their community dinner on Wednesday night. Lee, a member of our community has been invaluable in making the garden successful.

Keeping God's House Clean

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month. We can do it if we all pitch in!

Report of Session meeting

The session met on August 17 at 10:00 a.m. They decided to move the session meeting time to the 4th Sunday every month, after church. Finance Committee requested a pay raise for the secretary which was approved by the session. The updated building use agreement was accepted as well as the updated lay leader and usher guidelines. A congregational meeting was set for September 8 to elect congregational members to serve on the nominating committee for the new class of church elders. After discussing the merits of offering showers to the underserved of the community, it was decided to continue through August and contact the Methodist Church to see if they were ready to start providing them instead. The session agreed to support the Methodists with volunteers from our church. The next session meeting was scheduled for September 29th.

Prayer Requests From August

Alice's family	The leaders of our city, state, and nation
Barbara J.	
Bill C.	People affected by natural disasters
Billie Ann and Steve	
Buck B.	Peace for those affected by wars
Britnee L.	
Buck B.	Safe journeys for travelers
Catherine	Our church, city, and country
Chris, Ella, and Ella S.	Those with marital issues
Diane W.	
The H. family	
Ivan S.	
Jeannie P. and family	
Jeff and Pam S.	
LaRayna H.	
Larry D.	
Monica S.	
Nancy H.	
Safe travels for Pam M.	
Pat H.	
The P. family	
Ron Q.	
Rosemary B.	
Tom and Christie C.	
Toni H.	
The family of Travis	



Nothing Can Separate
Us From the Love of God
Romans 8:31-39

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*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out
your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your
heart to love.
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ on you.*

First Presbyterian Church
1208 West Main Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!