



The First Press

*Celebrating the
Members, Ministries,
Happenings, and
the Amazing Grace
and Love
at
First Presbyterian
Church
Decatur, Alabama*



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INSPIRATIONS - Pastor Brooks

Religion & Faith come together at Lent & Easter

Let us always remember that we are not called to be religious people. We are called to be faithful people.

Religion is a set of beliefs, principles, and practices which have been passed down to us. **Faith** is the personal and corporate response to Almighty God's transforming power in our lives and our society. Religion has to do with tradition, while faith has to do with transformation.

Our religious practices can remind us and should encourage us to be faithful. I often use the analogy of the candle and the flame. Religion is the candle. It has its purpose in looking attractive and providing possibility. The flame, however, is our faith that can warm hearts and hearths, guiding and directing those willing to be touched by God's loving relationship.



Lent and **Easter** are religious observances. **Lent** is the forty-day season of preparation for the Easter celebration. **Easter** is the annual celebration of Christ's resurrection. Both are empty rituals if not accompanied by the glow of God's power that lights the flame of our faith.

During this self-examination period, we are called to reflect on our growth toward the transformed people of God and how we contribute to the transformation in our families, city, state, nation, and the world. Allow your participation in these historical religious celebrations to be like a candle that ignites and grows the flame of faith in your life.

STAY CONNECTED



Our congregation continues to worship via the short 30-minute VIDEO WORSHIP SERVICE each week. This service is available from Saturday afternoon through the next week. You can find these worship events at YouTube.com or Facebook.com. Search for "FPCdecaturAL". **DVD copies of these worship services are available by contacting the church office by phone or email with your request.**

SERMON SERIES

For Lent

Steps to Wisdom and Faithfulness



YOUR PARTICIPATION is important. These are lonely times. Join us each week for fellowship by phone or computer to catch up on what is happening and share your family's news. Your Zoom invitation and instructions will arrive via email each weekend.

Need help setting up Zoom Conference on your computer? Just call the office. We will work with you.



BIBLE STUDY for YOU If you are interested in joining by phone or Zoom conference, please email the church office at FPCdecatur-AL@gmail.com. You will be included in our Wednesday notification.

Happy Birthday...

March 5
Bob Sparks

March 8
Parker Moore

March 9
Charlie Guyton

March 20
Donna Huffman

March 20
Nancy Moss

Our Homebound:

Juanita Dukes
Lynn & Ann Fowler
Barbara Martin
Sue & Charles Murphree
Liz Pilgrim
Jane Rowe
Caroline Taylor

Our Family Members in Military Service:

Peyton Davis
Army
Fort Campbell, KY
(nephew of Luke Pryor)