

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Elliott Baby Shower 1pm (Leah Kiple Home)
3 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	4	5 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	6 Summer Fellowship 6 pm (Vollema Home)	7 WIC Prayer Time (Madeja Home) 10 am	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am PROMOTION SUNDAY Evening Service 6pm	11 Youth Fellowship 6 pm Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	12 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	13	14	15 Parent's Night Out 6:00 pm	16
17 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	18	19 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	20	21 WIC Prayer Time (Madeja Home) 10 am	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	25 Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	26 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	27	28	29	30 Men's Monthly Study Breakfast 8 am
31 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am FIFTH SUNDAY SHEPHERDING GATHERINGS						

Northpointe Presbyterian Church

920 Windmill Drive

Meridian, MS 39305

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



August 2025

From the Pastor

Soli Deo Gloria

This month, I’m going to cheat just a little. More accurately, I’m going to write on a topic fresh in my mind. In preparation for this year’s Youthiversity theme, I did a good bit of thinking about living unto the glory of God. Each night of that week in July, I invited the youth to explore with me the Scriptures’ full-orbed, whole-life call unto the chief end of man—that is, *to glorify God and enjoy him forever*. It is a topic that is aptly relevant for the youth. What could be more helpful to the mind and heart of a young person living in these days than to believe that their life has a paramount purpose? I hope to demonstrate here that it is topic aptly relevant for each of us, whatever our age bracket. While each of us is to grow out of diapers and sippy cups and (hopefully) our teenage angst, we never do grow out of our chief end or purpose. And so, borrowing from my study with the youth, I call you, believer in Jesus, to live the whole of your redeemed life *Soli Deo Gloria*—unto the glory of God alone.

The biblical sense of *glory* carries the ideas of the splendor, radiance, worth, and weightiness. The Scriptures do speak about the glory of man (Gen 1:26, Matt 6:29, 1 Cor 11:7). But the glory of man is a reflected glory having to do with our imaging God and his perfect Son, Jesus. That you and I are images of God, made in his likeness, gives to us immense worth. But God’s glory is eternal and unchanging. The difference in his glory, his worthiness, and ours is infinitely more than the difference between us and the ants. Paul writes in Romans 11:36—“For from him and through him and to him are all things. *To him be glory forever*. Amen.” God has always had all glory in himself. William Boekestein writes that “God cannot be made more glorious, just like the sun cannot be made brighter.” So, then God is never waiting on anything or anyone adding to his glory. He does not need glorifiers. But, in his gracious and condescending work of crea-

tion, God makes a creation and creatures to glorify him (again, Rom 11:36). The psalmist says in Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” What is true of all creation is especially true of the crown of creation, that is, mankind. You and I are to acknowledge and ascribe to God his due glory above all creation.

“To glorify God is to advertise him,” writes Boekestein. That is the best brief definition I have found. More than mere mental assent (though the mind must be engaged), man must live unto the promotion of God’s radiance and splendor and wonderfulness. John Piper says that glorifying God entails man “making much of God,” “feeling and thinking and acting in ways that ... give evidence of the supreme greatness of all his attributes and the all-satisfying beauty of his manifold perfections.” The whole of your life ought to be unto the holy advertising, the promotion, of God as he reveals himself in creation and his Word. Truly does the first answer to the Shorter Catechism say that *man’s chief end is to glorify God* and enjoy him forever.

Which brings us to the problem of our sin. Our sinful hearts want nothing to do with the advertisement of God. Rather, our sinful hearts want only to advertise self. *We are glory thieves*. See the Tower of Babel episode in Genesis 11. Sin causes us to fall utterly and completely short of the glory of God. So that, *on our own*, none of us can ever hope to achieve our chief end or to satisfy our purpose. Though we ever seek to satisfy our chief end by all manner of misplaced, empty ways.

Thanks be to God that through Christ Jesus we who fall short are raised up so that we might live unto our end.

Listen, the glory of God is the chief end of your salvation, believer! The whole shape of your redeemed life is to be unto the glory of God. *The whole shape*. Every part of your life, as you are brought increasingly into conformity to the image of the Son by the Spirit. What does this mean? It means God-glorifying godliness. It means obedience to God’s will in his Word. *You are to glorify God in your work*, worker, whether in the home or outside (Col 3:23). Students, this includes all your studies. Retired person, this includes all your retirement doings. *You are to glorify God with all that you do in and with your body* (1 Corinthians 6:20). Your eyes, ears, tongue, hands—the whole of you—are to be unto God’s glory lived out in obedience to him and his will for you. *You are to glorify God as a member of his Church*. The call to glorify God has both an individual and a corporate aspect. Peter, after calling Christians to use their God-given gifts in service to one another in the Church, offers the purpose: “in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 4:10-11). Don’t give up meeting together because you need one another that you might glorify God together. Paul, at the end of an extended section talking about how we are to live out gospel liberty in love toward one another (chs. 8-10), concludes his instruction by saying, “*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*” (1 Cor 10:31). Those words are written in the context of love-refined liberty. The whole redeemed Church exists and is to live in such a manner through Jesus Christ that God would be advertised. May this be true of you, members of Northpointe. Young and old, student and retired, single and married and widow, husband and wife, parent and child, layperson and church officer—your chief end is to glorify God. Glorify him as redeemed individuals and as a redeemed people. The whole of your life *Soli Deo Gloria*.

Pastor Kevin Vollema

MISSIONS MINUTE

A note from Mark Horn-Hope Springs Presbyterian Church-Ocean Springs, MS

Stories of New Starts in the Church

God is bringing a work of next chapters and new faith to our church: I recently had the privilege to meet with a nine-year-old little girl whose family has started coming to our church, and I got to listen to her speak of her new faith and how she wants to give her life to Jesus. And then, just last week, I got to meet with a teenage young man from our church and hear the same story: After growing up in the church and under his parents’ faith, he is now ready to become a follower of Jesus himself! And all of this is in the midst of a sweet season in the church – As we have finished a spring Bible study on the worship that will mark us as a priority in this church, and as we are preparing to move to Sunday morning worship, Lord willing, starting this fall. Lest everything seem rose-colored and simplistic, please let me be clear: I am not trying to cherry pick, nor do I mean to give the impression that “All is wonderful, all the time.” There are hard days of ministry. Heart-breaking days. Times when the team and I have poured ourselves out into someone, inviting them to the gospel... Only to see them turn and walk away. And times when I wonder if what we are working so hard for is making a difference. And in the middle of it all, Stephanie and I have been dealing with personal hardships within our own extended family. And yet, all around us, the evidence is clear: Our God is on the move! His fields are ripe unto harvest (Mathew 9:35-38), and He wants to bring a harvest of souls many times over. Our God is changing eternity by changing lives in Ocean Springs! He has promised, “Behold, I am making all things new” (Rev. 21:5), and we see evidence of that with reclaimed lives and faith, new conversions, and covenant children making their own claim to the gospel spoken over them from the beginning. All to God’s praise, and all to God’s great glory!

Prayer Requests

• Pray for Rick, an ex-pastor and his newly restored and reclaimed faith. • Pray for Carter to be grounded in his new faith, fed by the word, and discipled by his new brothers here in the church. • Pray for new faith and new conversions among the children, teens, and adults of our launch team and new church body. We anticipate and are looking forward to celebrating these young people as they make professions of faith and are baptized! • Pray for Steve and Sherry Lanier, who have become an integral and key part of our ministry team here and who are investing so much into our new church and into our sharing the gospel in Ocean Springs. And, our church recently got to pray over them, commission them, and send them out from us onto a two-week mission trip of church planting and evangelism in Thailand. • Pray for this new church, Hope Presbyterian Ocean Springs, as we spend the summer studying biblical core values and foundations from the gospel that will compel us and carry us forward as a church that exists to complete the Great Commission in Ocean Springs – and as we prepare to shift to morning worship services this fall. • And finally, amid all that God is doing and all the ways He is on the move – would you pray for Stephanie and me? We are loving this season of ministry more than ever. But we are also carrying burdens for family with whom we are walking through hard and trying seasons of seeking the Lord and the assurance of His perfect plan as our wonderful Father. In all of this: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! For being part of this ministry with us, and this incredible story of the gospel making all things new and saving real lives that God is bringing to Ocean Springs – and beyond!

Find Us Online

• Our church Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/613907074215025> • Our YouTube page (where meetings are live-streamed and videos are posted) is at <https://www.youtube.com/@HopePresbyterianChurchofOceanS> • And the recent podcast we were privileged to do, telling the story of God’s movement in Ocean Springs, is at <https://pcamna.org/resources/growing-together-podcast-hope-springs-eternal/>

REMINDERS

- ♦ The *Lord’s Supper* will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, **August 3**.
- ♦ No Readers Game Night dates have been set for the summer.
- ♦ Men’s Prayer Breakfast dates for this month are **August 5, 12, 19, and 26**, at 6 am.
- ♦ *Women’s Prayer Times* this month are at 10 am, on **August 7 and 21**, in the home of Carmel Madeja [420 Eastwood Street].
- ♦ The *Men’s Book Study* dates are **August 11 and 25**, at 7 pm [Madeja Home].
- ♦ *Parents’ Night Out* will be **August 15**, from 6 - 9 pm. Please make sure to pick up your children by 9 pm.
- ♦ The *Men’s Monthly Fellowship Breakfast* will be **August 30**, at 8 am.

ELLIOTT BABY SHOWER

Please join us as we celebrate the coming addition to the Elliott family! We will have a shower for Emily at the home of Leah Kiple (5736 18th Place) on **August 2**, at 1:00 pm. We will have food, fun, and especially a time of prayer for this new covenant child. Pick up an invitation on the women's ministry table.

AUGUST WEDNESDAY SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

The final Wednesday Summer Fellowship will be in the Vollema home (8341 Van Zyverden Rd) on **August 6**, from 6 to 8 pm. No food will be served, so please feel free to bring your own and come join in these special times of fellowship.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, **August 10** is the big date when your student gets “promoted” to their next class according to age and/or grade. This is a big deal, and we want to make much of it. Here are our current Sunday School classes: 3-5 year olds, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, and 7th-12th grade. Please see Pastor Kevin with any questions about your child’s class.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Northpointe Youth! Escape the heat. Come to our house (5323 Linmoor Drive) **August 11**, at 6 pm. We'll have dinner, games and a devotional. Looking forward to seeing you!

FIFTH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS

August has five Sundays, so we will be gathering within our Shepherding Groups for times of fellowship, Sunday, **August 31**. Please watch your email inboxes for details.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Please mark your calendars! Wednesday Night Activities will resume on **September 10**, with a meal beginning at 5:30 pm and Bible classes for all ages. Please invite a friend and plan to join us.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gabriella Wadley
- 4 Mary Elizabeth Thaggard
- 8 Ashley Purvis
- 9 Dawn Boes
- 10 Sadie Ausbrooks
- 11 Ray McIlwain
- 18 Harrison Hill
- 22 James Morrow
- 23 Christina Elliott
- 25 Brighton Joransen Ramsey Rushing
- 30 Gunner Joransen Heather Wadley
- 31 Lowry Elizabeth Vollema Caroline Hoskins

