

Message from the Pastor

The other day, as I was reading Wayne Oates' book, On Becoming Children of God, I came across a sentence which really leapt out at me. Oates is talking about the relationships between teachers and students, and he says:

"We stand with our students at the gates of a new life in the fullness of a consciousness that we both are, and are becoming, children of God."

At FPC, we certainly recognize that our children are becoming "children of God." We teach them well and seek to involve them in almost every area of the life of the church. Here we don't believe that the children are the future of the church – we believe they are the present church. All very true, but Oates' point is that even the "teachers", even those of us with years of theological education, are still in the process of becoming children of God.

Years ago one would frequently see a bumper sticker that read: "I Found It!" It was an attempt to proclaim to the world that the bearer of the bumper sticker had found Christ, but the message is misleading. It implies that the search is over – that the goal has been reached – the lost has been found and we can all go home now. The thing is, there is no endpoint to our Christian experience. It is not as if we were struggling to climb out of a pond and once we reach dry ground we collapse and relax and stay right where we are. We must constantly change and grow in our faith and our relationship with God. In Philipians, Paul says:

"I do not consider myself to have attained ... but I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."



Let us never make the mistake of thinking that we are "finished" creations. Around this church there are many opportunities to experience, share, and serve. So come to worship and Sunday school – go on a mission trip – participate in VBS – learn about your gifts and use them to glorify God – and if you can't actively participate, PRAY! That may be the most important of all. Remember- God isn't finished with you yet.

Scripture of the Month — 2 Timothy 1:9 NLT

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

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Special dates of interest:

- May 2: National Day of Prayer
- May 2-5: Great Banquet for Women
- May 4: Service Day
- May 5: Session Meeting
- May 8: Last Wednesday Night Dinner/Children's Program
- May 12: Mother's Day Confirmation Sunday
- May 12: Called Session meeting
- May 13: PW Bring-A-Dish/Birthday Offering
- May 14-15: Playschool End of Year Programs
- May 18: Hazardous Waste Collection
- May 19: Earth Care Sunday
- May 27: Memorial Day Church Offices Closed



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SESSION

Class of 2019

Leigh Anne Bentley
Tammy B. Anderson
Bryan Byrd
James Harris
Carol Sue Keathley
Justin Smith

Class of 2020

Benita Brown
David Greene
Russell Jones
Stacey McAdams
Kevin Pauley
Stephannie Williams

Class of 2021

Greg Abbott
Barry Broughton
Russell Cook
Debbie Hurt
Mary Jane McWherter
Patty Smith

OUR VISION

First Presbyterian Church is called to be a faithful and inclusive congregation which enthusiastically glorifies God in our worship, education, nurture and service through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FPC Honors Eloise Phillips

On Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, after singing the Easter music with the choir, Eloise Phillips hung up her choir robe, and retired from singing in the choir after forty-two (42) years of faithful and dedicated service to the music program of First Presbyterian Church.



The Easter Service music was dedicated to Eloise Phillips, and was announced in the bulletin as:

THE MUSIC TODAY IS DEDICATED TO ELOISE PHILLIPS:

For forty-two years, Eloise Phillips has served the First Presbyterian Church in the Chancel Choir. Today, the choir honors her service by dedicating the music in this service to her. She will be taking her rightfully earned spot in a pew after today.

Eloise, words cannot express our gratitude to you!



With friends and family in attendance, Eloise was honored by her choir family with a breakfast in the choir room, and gifted with a memorial plaque to show their gratitude and appreciation for all that Eloise has meant to the music program of First Presbyterian Church all these years.

As music is such an important part of her life, we know she will keep on singing, but now from a pew with the congregation!



Lectionary Readings for May 2019

May 5 ~ Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 12 ~ Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 19 ~ Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 26 ~ Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10; 21:22-22:5; John 14:23-29; John 5:1-9

Wednesdays @ First



Join us Wednesday nights for fun, good food, and informative programming. Dinner is at 5:00 PM, with special programming at 6 PM. There are separate activities for the **Youth** and for our younger friends at **Launch Pad Kids** and **Blast!**, while the adults are involved in their activity. A nursery is also provided. *We are taking a break after May 8* for the summer and will resume again in August. Watch your newsletter and bulletin for more information.

May 1— **MENU:** Caesar Salad, Spaghetti Bake, Green Beans, Bakes Peaches, Garlic Breadsticks, and Lemon Cake for dessert.
PROGRAM: *Service Opportunities by Stephanie Williams & Peru Mission Trip by James Harris*

May 8— **MENU:** Garden Salad, Pork Loin with sweet mustard glaze, Wild Rice, Roasted Carrots, Steamed Broccoli, Buttered Bread, and Banana Pudding for dessert.
PROGRAM: *Children & Youth End of Year Program*

All meals include Bread, Salad, Fresh Fruit, Beverages (tea, lemonade, coffee or water), and "Kids' Foods". Children's menu will vary weekly, but will be kid-friendly foods. Juice boxes and milk provided. Peanut butter, jelly and bread is always available for our more selective eaters.

Reservations required in church office by Monday at 4 PM (422-1591).

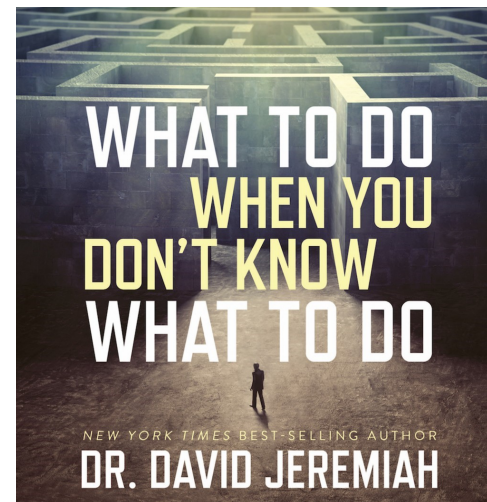
Cost: \$6 for adults, including children over age 12, \$4 for children ages 3-12, with an \$18 max per family.

Adult Summer Sunday School begins June 9th!

Calling ALL Adults! Join us for a new Sunday School class for the summer beginning Sunday, June 9th. It will be led by David Greene, and will meet in the Library.

"What To Do When You Don't Know What to Do" by Dr. David Jeremiah

Renowned Bible teacher Dr. David Jeremiah walks you through the Book of James to glean God's wisdom on issues such as finances, faith, and decision making. What does it look like to consider God in all of your plans, depend on God rather than wealth, and put prayer above your personal efforts? Learn how to receive God's supernatural strength to meet the challenges you face. As James learned, the road of spiritual wisdom always leads to joy.



HEARING ASSIST DEVICES AVAILABLE!

Do you have a need to hear the worship service better in the Sanctuary? Hearing assist devices are available for your use. Please

let Nelda Rhodes in the church office know of your need by email fpcnelda@eplus.net or call 422-1591.

We will mark a unit with your name, identified for your use, and place it in the basket on the usher table at the rear of the sanctuary.

Kevin Pauley or Ken Stumpenhorst can provide instruction for use, if needed.





PW of First Presbyterian

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

CT MEETING:

NO CT meeting in May

MAY CIRCLE MEETING—

PW Bring-A-Dish May 13 at 6:30 PM

All Circles will meet together at the Spring Gathering on May 13th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

It is a Bring-A-Dish and we will install our New Officers. All women of the church are invited.

TO ALL LADIES!! To all ladies of the church who would like to participate in a Circle/Bible Study, please contact Vivian Pauley at 506-5545 or Kathy House 423-1065. *All are welcome!*

PW BIRTHDAY OFFERING: The PW Birthday Offering will be collected at the May 13th Bring-A-Dish Supper. This offering began in 1922 and has enabled a long succession of mission projects both

overseas and in the United States. If you would like to contribute, but are unable to attend the supper in May, you may send your check to **Presbyterian Women**, c/o Susan Boutwell, 14 Windover Rd., Jackson, TN 38305. Please indicate "Birthday Offering" on the memo line.

Service Opportunities:

Helping Hands: Will NOT meet in May

Threads of Love: Will NOT meet in May

RIFA Soup Kitchen —(Desserts)
May 1—Deborah
June 1—Mary

Collect Eyeglasses for Mark Harris to take overseas.

MEN'S TUESDAY COFFEE GROUP

**9:00 AM
Sun Parlor,
Memorial Hall**



Our Men's Coffee Group is GROWING! If you would like free coffee and free food, as well as great fellowship and lively conversation, why don't you come and join us? It's casual - we gather at 9 AM and finish up about 10 AM-ish....and you are welcome to come and go as needed. We would love to have you join us! Just show up on Tuesday morning!

SAVE THE DATE!
**Household Hazardous
Waste Collection Day**
Saturday, May 18, 2019
9 AM—1 PM

112 Union Ave.
(behind the Farmer's Market)

Gather all pesticides, paint thinners, oil based paints, old computers... anything around the home that will harm the environment if thrown in the regular trash.

Help us to protect the environment!

SPRING GREAT BANQUET: Women ~ May 2-5, 2019



This 72-hour experience is for anyone who wishes to strengthen their spiritual life.

If you are interested in learning more about the Great Banquet, or to register for an upcoming Banquet, please contact:
John White fpcjohn@eplus.net
or Ceil Cowles fpcceil@eplus.net



**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE
May 18, 2019**



NaCoMe 2019 - Mark your calendars for July 19-21, 2019

We had a blast last summer at **NaCoMe** ! Check out our fun video at this link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10h-golvEn5t4l4Vn-WZAvNR5fYMyjxWy/view>

What is NaCoMe? It is a wonderful time for fun, spiritual growth, and fellowship in God's natural setting. This is an awesome annual tradition for the *ENTIRE* Church family – there is something for all ages!

If you haven't been to NaCoMe, you have been missing a treat! NaCoMe has modern cabins with air conditioning, a COLD swimming hole, a creek for crawdad hunting, excellent food, and wonderful fellowship with your Church family!

NaCoMe Camp & Conference Center is located in Pleasantville, TN on the Western Highland Rim. Check out their website: www.nacome.org

Membership Corner ~ Welcome New Members!!

**“In Christ, we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5**



Julie Jones, Jan Jones, & John David Jones
*Joined by Reaffirmation of Faith
April 7, 2019*

77 Chickering Rd.
Jackson, TN 38305



Will and Miranda Harbin
*Will joined by Reaffirmation of Faith
Miranda by Profession of Faith & Baptism
April 14, 2019*

Children: Lana and Addie
647 Edward Williams Rd.
Gadsden, TN 38337



Arnold Bruns
(pictured with wife, Melissa Bruns)
*Joined by Reaffirmation of Faith
March 31, 2019*

30 Wilmington Cove
Jackson, TN 38305



Addie discussing baptism with Pastor John!

Mission Trip to Peru ~ July 17-27, 2019



The Mission Team of First Presbyterian Church will travel to Peru July 17-27, 2019.

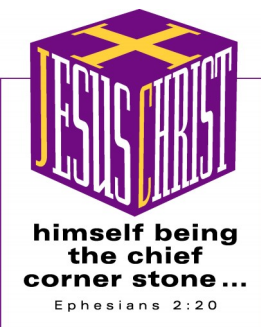
The purpose of our mission is to teach basic first aid, CPR and gardening techniques to the Women's Bible Institute, lead by Pastor Leopoldo Quispe Aguillar and his wife Sister Jesusa Chavez. This will be in the Urubamba region of Peru in the city of Quillabamba. Also, the women will be taught about medical conditions that affect the local people. Our sister Urpi, who is familiar to our church, will teach the women natural remedies to other women. We will encounter over 60 women across five presbyteries which constitute La Convencion Synod of the Iglesia Evangelica Peruana, our sister denomination in Peru.

The deadline to sign up for the trip is April 30, 2019. Mission Trip Applications are with Machele in the church office. The application must be completed with a \$1,000 deposit. The total cost of the trip will be between \$1700 and \$2200, depending upon the costs of the international flight. The total amount includes in-country travel, lodging and meals. If one wishes to travel to Machu Picchu, this will add another \$350 to \$400 to the cost of the trip. **There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall** for those who will travel.

There will be a **fundraiser** to offset the costs of those who will travel to Peru. The team will be smoking **Boston butts and chickens** the night of **May 17th**, with **pick up available May 18th**. There will be a sign up sheet for those who wish to participate in the fundraiser, as well as a sign up sheet for those who wish to order the Boston butts and chicken. Pricing information will follow.

Once we have the team completed, there will be **three preparatory meetings** for the trip to Peru. Watch your bulletins, newsletters and churchwide communications for all details as they unfold.

This is a mission for the whole church even if you do not travel. We will be organizing a prayer chart so that the team is covered in prayer as we travel and work. Stay tuned for more details.



Cornerstone Group Trip to Pinson Mounds

On Wednesday, April 17 the Cornerstone Group drove to **Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Site**. We toured the museum and enjoyed the video.

Ranger Lane Erwin guided us on a tour of the Park pointing out the different mounds and artworks. These mounds and earth works were built approximately 2000 year ago as a ceremonial place. The park covers 400 acres.



Lunchtime found us at the **ComeUnity Café** in Jackson.

Please join us for future trips.
If you have any ideas or suggestions, please call the church at 422-1591 or Nora at 424-2380.

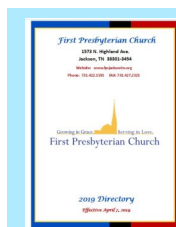
LOVE • FEED • DIGNIFY		
SOUPS	SALADS	SANDWICHES
1) Beef, Bean, Cabbage Stew (GF)	1) Blueberry, Pecan, Goat Cheese (V, GF)	1) Cajun Turkey Bacon Melt
2) Poblano (V, GF) Potato	2) Garden Pasta Salad (V)	2) Smoked Gouda Pimiento Cheese (V)

Playschool News



Our hearts are heavy because we have lost one of our dearest friends, "Miss" G.G. We are so proud to be a part of the legacy that she helped to create, beginning in 1972. Every day at Playschool we honor "Miss" G.G. by staying true to her vision of loving, educating and cherishing our Playschool "Cutie Pies".

We loved her dearly. Heaven has gained a beautiful angel.



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Have you picked up your copy of the 2019 First Presbyterian Church Directory?

They are available in the Fellowship Hall on the Small Group Study table in a labeled box. *Get them while they last!*

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!



Birthday blessings to the following members who celebrate their special day this month!

5/1	Jonathan Hill	5/10	David Johnson	5/26	Vivian Jones
5/2	Byron Elam	5/11	Terry McRoberts		Beth Norwood
	Andrew Powell	5/12	Wayne Monks	5/29	Tim Crossett
	Robbie Rodgers	5/13	Giovannie McCoy		Kevin Jerge
	Ezra Stevenson	5/14	Kristin Bodiford		Elizabeth Thomson
5/3	Jake Campbell	5/17	Helen Johnson	5/30	Will Bodiford
	Justin Smith		Stone Pickens		Bryan Byrd
5/4	Annika Jerge	5/20	Jan Crossett		
	Dolly Mathis		Kathy House		
5/5	Matt Varino		Sherry Taylor	5/09	Pam and Sid Conger
5/6	Lynn East	5/22	Jeff Chambers	5/10	Lauren and Jimmy Henson
5/7	Rick Kendall		John Kendall	5/11	Sharyn and Chuck Thompson
5/8	John Singleton	5/23	Bill Kipp	5/16	Elizabeth and Trey Climer
	Clara Smith	5/24	Grace Abbott		Carly and Jake Fry
5/9	Jeff Harbin		Lilly Kate Varino	5/24	Kristin and Jace Bodiford

Happy Anniversary!

Please let the church office know your birthday and anniversary! If your May birthday or anniversary is not listed, we don't have it on record in the church office. We don't wish to miss anyone and would appreciate you calling the office (422-1591).

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER PROGRAM

Each week we randomly select individuals or families for whom we encourage everyone to pray. During the coming weeks, please pray for:

May 5 ~ Matt, Mary, Thomas and Lara McCaslin; Mac, Sherry & Branch Thomson; Twyla, George, Samantha & Mari Morgan;

May 12 ~ Sally Harlan; Chuck, Sharyn, Luke, Sam, Charlie, & Amelia Thompson; Lesa Barton & Abby McNeal;

May 19 ~ Arnold & Melissa Bruns; Steve & Sandra Lawson; Brian, Gabi, Ava and Camille Cox;

May 26 ~ Aaron & Lisa Tiede; Don & Kay Thomson; Jim & Gail Marple

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION is extended to friends and family of Henry Harrison who died April 22, 2019; to friends and family of G.G. Bray, who died April 10, 2019; and to Kevin Pauley & family, Lyn Parliment & family, and their brother Bill Pauley upon the death of his wife, Linda Young Pauley on April 4, 2019.

ASSISTED & EXTENDED CARE

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #233

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Helen Johnson, #D65

John Singleton, #F95

Betty Stewart, #M8

Dolly Mathis, #M32

Judi Wilson, #E85

Regency Retirement Village

Martha Stockard, #129A

Adamsville Healthcare and Rehab

Charles Huffman, #515

Elmcroft

Bob Elam, #215

Northbrooke Nursing Home

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Bells Nursing and Rehab

Sue Carruth, #209

Morningside of Jackson

Dorothy Prince (Carol Whitnall's mother)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Porter Bunch

Judy Harber

Audrey Toombs

Margaret Harrison & family

Lyn Parliment, Kevin Pauley & Bill Pauley

Jody Pickens & family

Audrey Toombs (Presbytery Office)

Joey Campbell

Christen Reynolds

Marilynn Ames

Patricia White

Bill King

Russ Truell

Marshall Fox

Alex Hastings

Jim Cahill

Rita Carp

Erik Hoffman

Jeanett Bennett

Evelyn Taylor

Ron Taylor

Nancy Strawn

Dwight Smith

Myra Deal

Kelly Deere

Carolyn & Henry Hefley

Lark Taylor

Linda Houston

Jerry Barnes

David & Eleanor Hooper

Joan Harville

David Smith

John and Susan Anderson

Walter Lockhart

Barbara Day

Kathy Whitener

Mildred Brimm

Billy Brimm and family

Hunter and Kelsi Gray

Izzie Green, and baby Iris & family

Mike Taylor (recovery)

Lisa Samarrippas (thyroid cancer)

Alex Harris

Harbert & Nora Alexander

Betsy Babb

Bobby Benson

Felicia Cobb—John Ross' sister

Jean Wilson (James Harris' grandmother)

Clairey Purinton

John and Susannah White

Tom Blackmon

Bill Sipes

Gina Fortner (Bill Sipes' sister)

Paula Smith (Gabi Cox's mother)

Brian Fowler (cancer)

Phillip Pickens (cancer)

John Meriwether

Jim Marple

Chase Mobley

Richard and Liz Swaim

James Hargrove (Lori Howell's uncle)

Cancer patients on our hearts

Mission Partners in Asia

Mission Partners in Peru

Disaster victims: fire, flood, hurricanes

*We are united in the Spirit when we pray
for our brothers & sisters in Christ in our
Presbytery and around the world. This month
please pray for:*

Anderson Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN

Older Adults

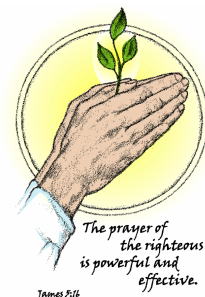
First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN

Family Promise of Memphis

Campers and Staff at Pinecrest & NaCoMe

LaGrange Presbyterian Church, LaGrange, TN

Disability Inclusiveness



***FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
NOTE CARDS***

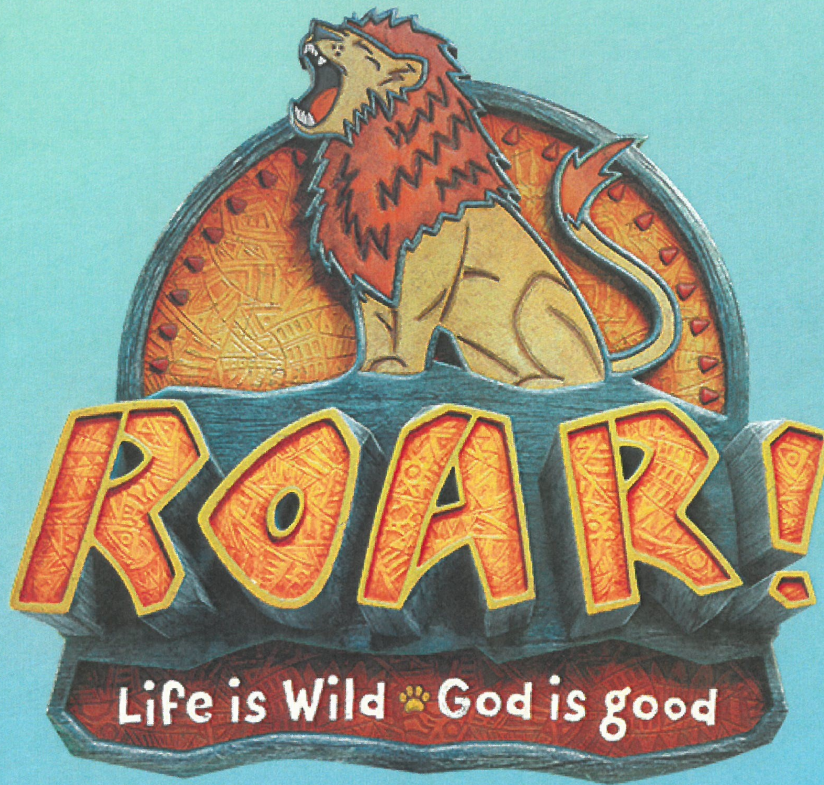
NEW STOCK AVAILABLE

We have a new stock of
fine quality notecards featuring a picture
of the church on the front
and blank on the inside
for your personal message.

Packet comes with 10 notecards
and matching envelopes for \$5.00.

You may purchase
in the church office
during regular office hours.

Reserve yours by calling 731-422-1591!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL @ FPC

JUNE 10-13, 2019

9:00 AM - NOON

\$5 PER CHILD

REGISTER ONLINE OR IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

PLEASE CONTACT LAURA BYRD OR LIBBY SMITH
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Rotation Sunday School



Rotation Story:	Week 1:	Week 2:	Week 3:	Week 4:	
<i>The Parable of the Talents</i>	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	
K-2 3-5	Cooking Drama	Drama Cooking	Games Games	Video Video	

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 4:10

"Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully."

OUR CHILDREN LOVE IT! Many thanks to all the people who have volunteered to help teach our Parable of the Talents rotation, including Jazel Ross, Vivian Pauley, and Callie Dollar.

Mary and Martha's Kitchen (Cooking): Children will make a "Hero Sandwich".
Focus: Children will learn how to handle the gifts that were given to them by God.

MasterPeace Theatre (Drama): Children will explore the importance of using (not burying) their talents by performing a Parable of Talents skit.
Focus: Discovering what you can do with your God given talent.

The First Century Cinema (Video): Children will view the movie "Back to the Drawing Board" from the McGee and Me Series.
Focus: Learning that talents are gifts from God.

The Synagogue School (Bible Skills, Games and Music): Children will review the meaning of the story as they play a board game.
Focus: God wants us to use our talents to help others.



The Children's Corner



Grow, Proclaim, Serve!
Growing our Faith by Leaps and Bounds!

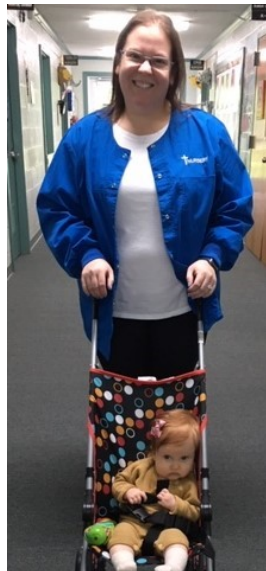


Ms. Laura

Ms. Ellen

Ms. Libby

**Children Are
A Gift From God!**



youth connection

Youth News!



Molly Richardson
Interim Youth Director

**** IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE A MEAL FOR THE YOUTH
DURING YOUTH CONNECTION ON SUNDAY NIGHTS
PLEASE CONTACT MOLLY @ fpcmolly@eplus.net ****



2019

Our 2019 Confirmation Class
and their Sponsors.

CONFIRMAND

Jacob Barron
Emma Barron
James Howell
Annika Jerge
Stella Crenshaw
Lara McCaslin
Catey Beth Donnell
Callum Donnell
Ava Beller

SPONSOR

Jim Campbell
Mona Campbell
Randy Jones
Nelda Evans
Ann Mayo
Kim Dunnivant
Stephannie Williams
Robert Reeves
Lynn East



We have been
enjoying
the beautiful
spring weather
and getting
so close
we are even
starting
to dress alike!



Important dates
to remember:

May 5

Confirmation Sunday

May 8

**Last Wednesday Night Dinner/
Youth and BLAST performance**

June 9-15

Montreat Youth Conference

FINANCIAL UPDATE – March 2019

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2019 Pledges	\$ 232,034	\$ 156,768	\$ 232,495
Total Contributions	\$ 245,169	\$ 181,268	\$ 259,169
Total Income	\$ 260,753	\$ 226,514	\$ 271,147
Total Expenses	\$ 202,952	\$ 226,514	\$ 181,213
Net Income	\$ 57,801	\$ 0	\$ 89,934

Pledges can now be paid using ACH bank drafts on a weekly or monthly basis. If you are interested, please contact Machele Daniel-Hall at 422-1591.

For questions or more details on the financial report, contact Carol Sue Keathley (Finance Chair), at 431-1262, Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991, or Machele Daniel-Hall (Financial Secretary) at 422-1591.

Session Highlights

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Tennessee, met on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at 5:00 PM in Memorial Hall and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- approve the minutes from the Stated Meeting of March 10, 2019; Called Meeting of March 17, 2019; Called Meeting of March 24, 2019; Called Meeting of March 31, 2019;
- approve the dates of July 17-27 for the 2019 Peru Mission Trip;
- approve the fundraiser for the mission trip cooking Boston Butts and chickens May 17-18;
- move the May Stated Meeting of the Session from Mothers' Day to May 5th at 5:00pm;
- approve Elder James Harris to preach and lead worship on May 26, 2019;
- call a meeting of the Session on May 12, 2019 at 9:00am to examine confirmand Annika Jerge and approve membership.

All members of the Session encourage questions or comments at any time.

**NEXT SESSION MEETING
May 5 @ 5 PM**



ONE OF OUR DEDICATED SOUP KITCHEN CREWS!

WHEN MAKING PURCHASES FOR THE CHURCH:

Since FPC has a tax-exempt status, and we have a sales tax exemption number, all persons making purchases for the church should use the tax form and number when making purchases.

As part of our latest audit report, we are not to reimburse anyone for sales tax as part of a receipt/request for payment. You may get a Tax Exempt form upon request from Machele to use when buying items for the church, which should be provided to the retailer at point of sale.

The church will no longer reimburse for sales tax paid.

Blessing of the Land or a Garden

God of the Universe,
you made the heavens and the earth,
so we do not call our home merely
“planet earth.”

We call it your creation, a divine
mystery, a gift from your most blessed
hand.

The world itself is your miracle.
Bread and vegetables from earth are
thus also from heaven.

Help us to see in our daily bread your
presence.

Upon this garden may your stars rain
down their blessed dust.

May you send rain and sunshine upon
our garden and us.

Grant us the humility to touch the
humus, that we might become more
human, that we might mend our rift
from your creation, that we might then
know the sacredness of the gift of life,
that we might truly experience life
from your hand.

For you planted humanity in a garden
and began our resurrection in a garden.
Our blessed memory and hope lie in a
garden.

Thanks be to God,
who made the world teeming with
variety, of things on the earth, above
the earth, and under the earth.

Thanks be to God
for the many kinds of plants, trees, and
fruits that we celebrate.

For the centipedes, ants, and worms,
for the mice, marmots, and bats,
for the cucumbers, tomatoes, and
peppers, we rejoice that we find our-
selves eclipsed by the magnitude of
generosity and mystery.

Thanks be to God.

Submitted in honor of Earth Care by
Benny Houston



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON, TN

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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OUR MISSION:

First Presbyterian Church
seeks to provide opportunities
for people to encounter the life changing
presence of Christ through:
preaching, the study of scripture,
engagement in worship, faithful stewardship
and service to others
in the church and community.

*If you have an article for the newsletter, please
send it to Nelda Rhodes, Church Secretary at:
fpcnelda@eplus.net. Articles will be used as
space permits and may be edited for length.
**Deadline for submissions are the 18th of each
month.***

Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Breakfast!



Beautiful Weather
Hunting for Eggs
Pictures with the Easter Bunny
Breakfast with the Bunny
Easter Crafts....
Plenty to Love about the Saturday
before Easter! Hoppin' Good Time!

