

First Presbyterian Church

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

www.fpcjacksontn.org

MAY 2020



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from the pastor

DOES ANYONE

remember the tremendously significant event that is recounted in the 9th chapter of Acts? (If you do, treat yourself to a nice piece of dark chocolate!).

That is the chapter where we read of the conversion of Saul, who later became known as Paul. Up until that point in his life, Saul had been feared far and wide as a persecutor of Christians – in fact, that chapter begins with the words, *“Saul was still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord.”* (Acts 9:1). But then Saul has a remarkable encounter with Christ, and becomes a completely different person. He goes on from that point to help establish numerous churches, and the letters he composes to those churches make up most of what we know as the New Testament.

In the person of Saul, God took perhaps the most unlikely of characters and transformed him into perhaps the most famous Christian the world has ever known. And the process of

Saul's transformation was not initiated or accomplished by Saul – it was all God's doing! When God sets about the business of transformation, watch out!

As we learn about a new and safe way of living during a pandemic, we must remember that nothing is beyond God's ability to accomplish! During the next few weeks and months, as we look at how things have changed, and the needs and goals of our church, we are bound to find some things that need transformation. Some of those things may appear to be daunting, but again, nothing is beyond the ability of God to accomplish. God, in fact, seems to delight in transforming seemingly un-transformational people and circumstances!

God was not surprised or confounded by this pandemic. God is not wringing his hands over the fate of humanity, nor is God concerned about losing a single sheep that belongs to God's flock. The world may be



in turmoil, but all is well with God and God's flock. From Ps. 46:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

What a joy it is to serve such a powerful and loving God!

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalm 139:13-14



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fp playschool@yahoo.com

SESSION

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2022

Chris Alexander
Mark Harris
Judy Herron
Shirley Nelson
Jamie Richardson
Robbie Rodgers

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Class of 2021

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

OUR VISION

We are 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.

the carillon



HEAR THE BELLS

If you are looking for an outdoor activity that will bring joy to your day and still allow social distancing, come to FPC and listen to the carillon mini-concerts that are happening at 10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM, 4 PM and 6 PM daily. Sit in your car or walk in the arboretum while you listen. It's a great way to fo-

cus your energy on something far more important than the hourly news cycle.

We are also ringing the bells to thank our healthcare workers each Wednesday night. We join with other churches across the Mid-South at 7:00 PM to thank those on the front lines.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2020

May 3 Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 10 Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 17 Acts 14:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 24 Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 31 Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or

ways to connect

WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU

We wanted to remind everyone that while our services and programs will not be held in person until further notice, we are providing other ways to connect:

1. We will continue to hold **online worship services** every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.
2. We continue to share **online devotionals** via email, Facebook, and our website and app each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday **between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.**
3. We are hosting an **online Bible study** each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. (Details about how to log into the study will be sent out each Wednesday, prior to the meeting.)
4. We have, as a service to the community and hospital, increased the frequency of our automated **carillon mini-concerts**. The concerts take place at 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00 every day. Each concert consists of 4 hymns automatically chosen by the system.
5. We are working to **maintain contact** with everyone in the church, with special emphasis on those who are sick, the elderly, and families with children. The contact will be through email, text, video links, and personal visits to those who request them or are in need.
PLEASE EMAIL fpccfamily@eplus.net IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING OUR CHURCHWIDE DAILY EMAILS and Emily will add you to the mailing list.
6. We are sending **update emails regularly**, and providing trustworthy websites you may visit for information. Two such websites are the **Centers for Disease Control**: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/index.html> and **Johns Hopkins University**: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>.



fpc graduates



BEHIND YOU ~ *all your memories*
IN FRONT OF YOU ~ *all your dreams*
AROUND YOU ~ *all those who love you*
WITHIN YOU ~ *everything you need*

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

A LETTER FROM JOHN JUNN

Dear FPC family,

This fall, I am going to attend Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I plan to major in psychology through the Honors Program and Interdisciplinary Core at Baylor. In the future, my desire is to give back the gifts I have received in my life for the betterment of my community. For this purpose, I found psychology to be an essential discipline, as it enables growth and a much broader vision of our reality. Furthermore, with the versatility of a psychology degree, I hope to pursue either a pre-law or pre-med track to be of service to people.



I am thrilled to go back to America.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you! At the same time, as I will probably have to go back by myself, I am more nervous about the transition.

Please pray for me as I travel back to America and begin a new chapter of my life at college.



MARI MORGAN

Mari Morgan graduated on May 21, 2020 from Madison Academic High School. Mari will be attending the University of Memphis in the Helen Hardin Honors College in August, majoring in Pre-Law.

events & reminders

REOPENING GUIDELINES

Recommendations on reopening FPC have been assembled by the Reopening Committee and are being mailed out on Friday, May 22nd. Please watch your mailbox for the latest information.



NaCoMe CHURCH FAMILY CAMP 2020:

Mark your calendars for July 17-19, 2020. We had a blast last summer at NaCoMe!

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 our fun 2019 video at this link: <https://www.fpcjacksontn.org/nacome/>



WELCOME TO THE WORLD:

Lilly Grace Odbert was born on April 29th in Murfreesboro. Mom, (Molly), Dad (Daniel) and older brother (Jack) are doing great. Lilly's grandparents are Julia and Bill Kipp.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the members who celebrate their special day this month!

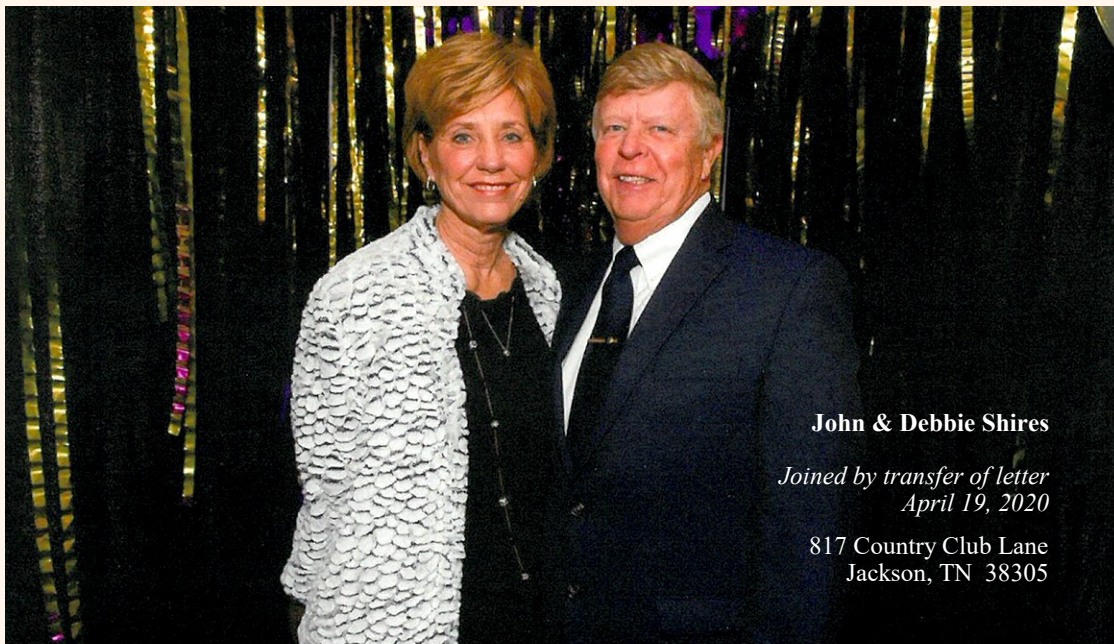
MAY 1: Ali Mason; **MAY 2:** Byron Elam, Robbie Rodgers, Ezra Stevenson; **MAY 3:** Jake Campbell, Justin Smith; **MAY 4:** Annika Jerge, Dolly Mathis; **MAY 5:** Matt Varino; **MAY 6:** Lynn East; **MAY 7:** Rick Kendall; **MAY 8:** Clara Smith; **MAY 9:** Jeff Harbin; **MAY 11:** Terry McRoberts; **MAY 12:** Wayne Monks; **MAY 14:** Kristin Bodiford; **MAY 17:** Helen Johnson, Stone Pickens; **MAY 20:** Jan Crossett, Kathy House, Sherry Taylor; **MAY 21:** Doug Jones; **MAY 22:** Jeff Chambers, John Kendall; **MAY 23:** Bill Kipp; **MAY 24:** Grace Abbott, Lilly Kate Varino; **MAY 26:** Vivian Jones; **MAY 29:** Tim Crossett, Kevin Jerge, Elizabeth Thomson; **MAY 30:** Will Bodiford, Bryan Byrd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MAY 9: Pam & Sid Conger; **MAY 11:** Sharyn & Chuck Thompson; **MAY 16:** Elizabeth & Trey Climer, Carly Ann & Jake Fry; **MAY 24:** Kristin & Jace Bodiford

membership corner

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



John & Debbie Shires

*Joined by transfer of letter
April 19, 2020*

817 Country Club Lane
Jackson, TN 38305

wednesday night bible study

Join us for our Wednesday Night Online Bible Study at 6:00 PM each week. Pastor John and Pastor Courtney have been leading us through the book of Philippians - one of Paul's letters that is full of joy (even though he wrote it from PRISON!)

The link for our Bible Study changes each week, so make sure you are signed up for our church-wide email to get this and all other important information.

Click here to sign up
<http://www.fpcjacksontn.org/e-news/>



thank you

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

All of our members should have received a letter recently from Pastor Courtney and myself.

The letter was a “thank you” for continuing to support our church financially during this horrible pandemic.

I want to reiterate that “thank you” now, because we could not be doing the ministry that we are now doing without your wholehearted support.

For your generosity, your faithfulness, your loving support, the leadership of our church offers you our sincere gratitude. The Church is still the Church, thanks to God’s grace and your response!

DOWNLOAD FPC’S MOBILE APP

1. Text “fpcjacksontn app” to 77977. (note the space between “tn app”)
2. Click the link provided and follow the steps.
3. Download the app and enter the provided keyword.
4. Open the app and confirm that this is your church.
5. Once the app is on your phone, you’ll be able to tithe through the GIVE button on the home screen.
6. Click GIVE
On the next screen, click the heart icon to be taken to the giving screen. (at right)

To give, simply follow the steps



FPC Jackson, TN

AMOUNT

\$

0.00

FUND

Tithes & Offerings ▾

Give
one time

Make a
recurring gift

FREQUENCY

Every
week

Every 2
weeks

Every
month

1st &
15th
monthly

STARTS

Apr 19, 2020 ▾

NEXT

practicing our faith

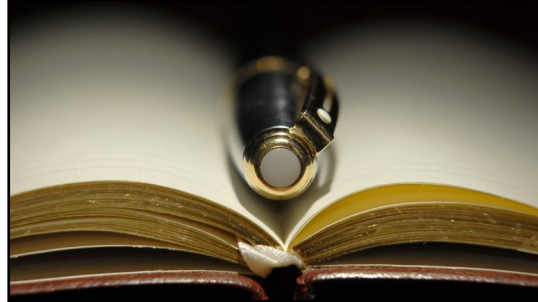
STRENGTHENING OUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICES



COURTNEY BOWEN,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
fpccourtney@eplus.net

How does our faith grow? How do we deepen our faith? This question is especially important right now as we are socially distanced from our sisters and brothers in Christ. It is especially important right now, when it's so easy to be disconnected from church life. If we're not careful, our faith might stagnate and wither if we do not tend to it. So, how can we grow in our faith during this time of quarantine?

Like other aspects of our lives, our faith is strengthened through practice. An athlete may read and research their sport and watch their peers to gain insight and better understanding, but it is only practice that develops muscle memory, increased speed, better form,



and improved skills. In the same way, our faith is strengthened as we put it into action and practice.

With that in mind, we invite you to explore our new video series, *Practicing Our Faith*. In this series, we will suggest spiritual practices that may be incorporated into everyday life. We hope to share a wide variety of practices – some ancient, some new; some contemplative, some more action-oriented; some easy, some not so easy – because we each come to God in different ways and find meaning and connec-

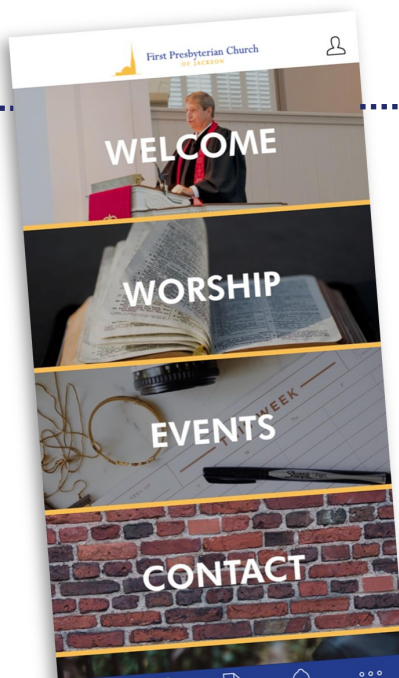
tion in different approaches.

Each Friday, a new video will be sent out in our daily email, as well as posted on our website, Facebook and YouTube. We encourage you to take the following week

to explore the suggested practice. You may find that some practices work better for you than others. Or you may find that a practice you did not initially find interesting becomes more meaningful to you.

Keep an open heart and an open mind and just have fun and enjoy spending time with God.

Our sincere hope is that this will not be just another item on your to-do list, but rather a fresh opportunity to learn about your faith and to grow ever deeper in your relationship with God.



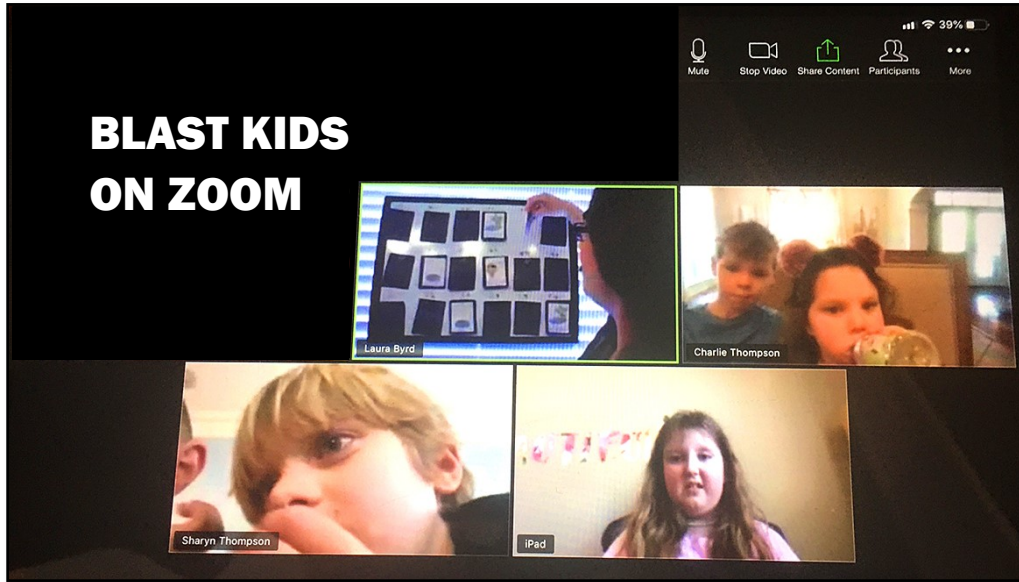
STAY INFORMED

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4. Open the app and confirm that this is your church.
5. Enjoy!

the children's corner

ZOOMIN' ALONG UNTIL WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN



WE ARE MISSING ALL OF OUR kiddos, but have been having a blast on our Zoom calls. It's great to see everyone's faces!

We pray that we can gather together again soon for some fun and fellowship. We hope all of our FPC kiddos are ready for summer and have been outside enjoying the

beautiful weather!

Our friend, Elizabeth Pickens, had an accident back in April that required surgery. As you can see from the above photo, her recovery is going well and we are hopeful she will be running and playing again soon. We continue to pray for you, Elizabeth. Get well soon!



Even though we didn't get to do Breakfast with the Easter Bunny this year, Jesus was still in our hearts!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE:



"Knights of North Castle" Bible School has been postponed indefinitely as we work on ideas that will allow us to gather together safely and figure out new potential dates.



connection

VIRTUAL YOUTH MEETINGS



REV, COURTNEY BOWEN,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
FOR YOUTH
fpccourtney@eplus.net

MOLLY RICHARDSON,
YOUTH DIRECTOR
fpcmolly@eplus.net

WHO KNEW AT THE TIME THAT OUR TRIP TO NACOME IN EARLY MARCH WOULD BE A “LAST HURRAH” FOR OUR YOUTH GROUP THIS SEMESTER?

But, as with everything else right now, our Youth have had to socially distance during this pandemic. However, we have continued to gather (virtually) over Zoom every Sunday evening for a devotional, time to chat and check-in, laugh, and pray with

one another.

We unfortunately had to cancel our annual Montreat trip due to the health crisis. Instead, we are exploring other options for a retreat or time together later this summer. More details to come!

We also made the decision to push back our Baccalaureate service to a to-be-determined date this summer, when we will hopefully be worshiping again in-person. We are so proud of our graduating seniors: Mari Morgan, who graduates from

Madison Academic High and plans to study Pre-Law at the University of Memphis, and our ministry partner in Asia, John, who writes FPC “will always be my home church.” May Mari and John’s journeys be blessed and filled with deep joy, love, and hope. We look forward to seeing how God will help them both continue to grow in their faith and to share their many gifts with our world. Good luck Mari & John! And may the peace of Christ be with you!

fun & games

We thought we'd have a little gaming fun this month. Since we're all quarantining and have some extra time on our hands, why not play a little bingo?



FINANCIAL UPDATE – MARCH 2020

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2020 Pledges	\$ 285,915	\$ 165,438	\$ 230,874
Total Contributions	\$ 306,499	\$ 189,938	\$ 244,746
Total Income	\$ 323,586	\$ 234,453	\$ 260,401
Total Expenses	\$ 242,260	\$ 234,453	\$ 203,764
Net Income	\$ 81,326	\$ 0	\$ 56,637

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

For questions or more details on the financial report, contact Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991 or Machel Daniel-Hall (Financial Secretary) at 422-1591.

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 Machel 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.



EARN FREE MONEY FOR FPC

Do you shop on Amazon & want to give free money to First Presbyterian?

If so, just go to: smile.amazon.com and select First Presbyterian Church Jackson and then start shopping (Note: you must be on smile.amazon.com and not just amazon.com).

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .05% of your purchase price of eligible products to FPC.

session highlight

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, met on Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- **Approve the minutes of the Stated Session meeting of March 8, 2020**

The Session voted previously by electronic means to:

- **Continue regular payments to our employees, (through the pandemic) with a two-week reevaluation, even if they are not on site at the church.**
- **Approve a virtual Maundy Thursday service with communion.**
- **Apply for the Federal Payroll Protection Program loan.**
- **Encourage all employees to work from home unless absolutely necessary.**
- **Receive for membership John and Debbie Shires by transfer of letter from First Methodist Church.**

NEXT SESSION MEETING | May 17 @ 5 PM

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 3: Julia Austin; Audrey Channell, Chloe and Bridger Hudson; Eleanor Cahill

MAY 10: Tiffany and Brent Strieter; Pam and Sid Conger; Mabelle Daniel-Hall

MAY 17: Carly and Jake Fry; Catherine and David Greene; Melissa, Brad and Hart Hayes

MAY 24: Deborah and Billy Hurt; Carrie, Russell, Logan and Caleb Jones; Rick Kendall

MAY 31: Mary, Matt, Thomas and Lara McCaslin; Rosemary Monegue; Lyn Parliment



ASSISTED LIVING AND EXTENDED CARE:

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #234

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Helen Johnson, #D65

Betty Stewart, #M8

Dolly Mathis, #M32

Martha Hanserd, #E85

Regency Retirement Village

Martha Stockard, #129A

Elmcroft

Bob Elam, #215

Judi Wilson

Northbrooke

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Morningside of Jackson

Dorothy Prince

(Carol Whitnall's mother)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

The family of Mabelle Daniel-Hall
Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar Quispe
Pastor Jesusa Chavez Lima
Rev. Walter Lockhart and wife Lois
The family of Rev. Paul Currie
The family of Jean Winterbottom
Elizabeth Pickens
Sylvia Showalter
Helen Brandon
Patricia McFarland
Emily Smith (recovering from surgery)
Jennifer Geraghty
Dot Holt, Mary Jane Lily, Rachel Lily
Gwen Golden (cancer)
The family of Kenneth Wyatt Jr.
(Vivian Pauley's brother)
Healthcare and service providers
The health of our nation and world
Callie Dollar family
Blake Stevenson
(Sherry Taylor's grandson)
Georgina Harlan
John Ross's Aunt
The family of Jessica Fail Young
The family of Gene Hughes
(Kathy House's brother-in-law)
Luther Mercer
Middle Tennessee tornado victims
Ashley Lovell and family
Joyce Montgomery

Nicholas Hallock-Diaz
Gail and Jim Marple
Clarence & Norma Smith
Jimmy East
Jean Wilson (hospice care)
James Harris
Tisha Blankenship
Mike, Christie, and Jared Martin
Rick McCune
Martha Hanserd
(Brookdale Jackson Oaks)
Mandy Little (cancer)
Phillip Pickens (cancer – Jody's brother)
Florence Bridges (recovery and rehab)
Eloise Phillips
Debbie Lee
(Lori Howell's sister-in-law), cancer
Anne Garrard
Judy Harber (Kathy House's cousin)
Marilynn Ames
Judi Wilson
John and Susan Anderson
Richard and Liz Swaim
James Hargrove (Lori Howell's uncle)
Anderson Presbyterian Church
Disaster victims-all areas involved
Cancer patients on our hearts
Mission Partners in Asia
Mission Partners in Peru
Unspoken prayer concerns



**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 Emily Morrow, Church Secretary at: fpcemily@eplus.net. Articles will be used as space permits and may be edited for length. **Deadline for submissions are the 18th of each month.***

