

First Presbyterian Church

www.fpcjacksontn.org

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

JUNE | JULY 2020



from the pastor

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CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

We continue to pray for the following families:

Joyce Montgomery passed away on May 25.

Sylvia Showalter passed away on June 15.

.....
Congratulations to Stan and Carol Carnell on the birth of their grandson, Thomas Lee Carman (May 22) and to Jerry and Anita Callis on the birth of their granddaughter, Ella Kay Callis (May 27).

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH

the biblical Book of Esther? The book is an intriguing account of a Jewish orphan girl named Esther, who ends up marrying King Xerxes, the King of Persia (who is not aware of her Jewish heritage). As the story goes on, King Xerxes is convinced by an evil advisor to kill all the Jews in his kingdom. However, by using a series of fascinating political schemes, Esther manages to convince the King to spare the lives of the Jews, and thus she saves her compatriots. But not only does she save the Jews – she also manages to see to it that the really “bad guy” in the story, the evil advisor, is hanged!

Esther is a wonderful heroine if there ever was one, and the book bearing her name is short and well worth reading. But something else is interesting about that book...God is not mentioned in the book at all. “So,” you might ask, “If God isn’t mentioned in the book, why

is Esther in the Bible?”

I believe that the absence of God’s name in the book is a reminder that the absence of God’s name is not the same as the absence of God. Hidden under the drama of palace intrigue and politics, one can see God’s hand at work in all the amazing and interlocking events of Esther’s remarkable life. God is there, working God’s purpose out. We do not see seas parting, or hear God speaking from mountaintops. But when we look just a little bit deeper, we can see God guiding and sustaining.

In Romans 8:28 we read these words (NIV):
“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

That verse is an affirmation that Esther’s amazing life was



not simply a series of strange coincidences. God was guiding her life, and using her willingness and faith to save thousands of Jews.

This world is a disconcerting place to live these days, and some claim that the tumultuous events that have put stress on so many are evidence of the absence of God. Nothing could be farther from the truth. As Esther would affirm, the unseen God is not an absent God. Stand tall in
SEE PAGE 2

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH:

I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Psalms 122:1



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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

fpjacksontn.org

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.

from the pastor

FROM PAGE 1

your faith. Be not afraid. Do not be dismayed, for you are not alone. It doesn't depend on you. A God much greater, more loving, and deeper than we can know is at work in all these things. Today we see in a mirror dimly, and fear hangs on at the fringe of things, but one day soon, all will be clear. I end with a couple of verses from Hillsong Worship's "Be Still."

Be still and know

That the Lord is in control

Be still, my soul

Stand and watch as giants fall.

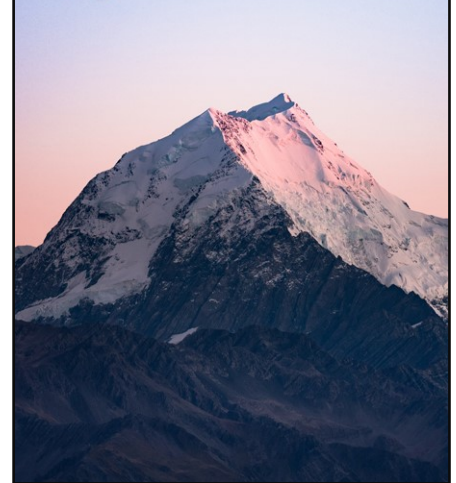
Be still and trust

What the Lord has said is done

Find rest, don't strive

Watch as faith and grace align.

**Be not afraid.
Do not be dismayed,
for you are not alone.**



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE 2020

June 7 Genesis 1: 1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; Matthew 28: 16-20

June 14 Genesis 18: 1-15 (21: 1-7); Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19; Romans 5: 1-8; Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8 (9-23)

June 21 Genesis 21: 8-21; Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17; Romans 6: 1b-11; Matthew 10: 24-39

June 28 Genesis 22: 1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6: 12-23; Matthew 10: 40-42

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY 2020

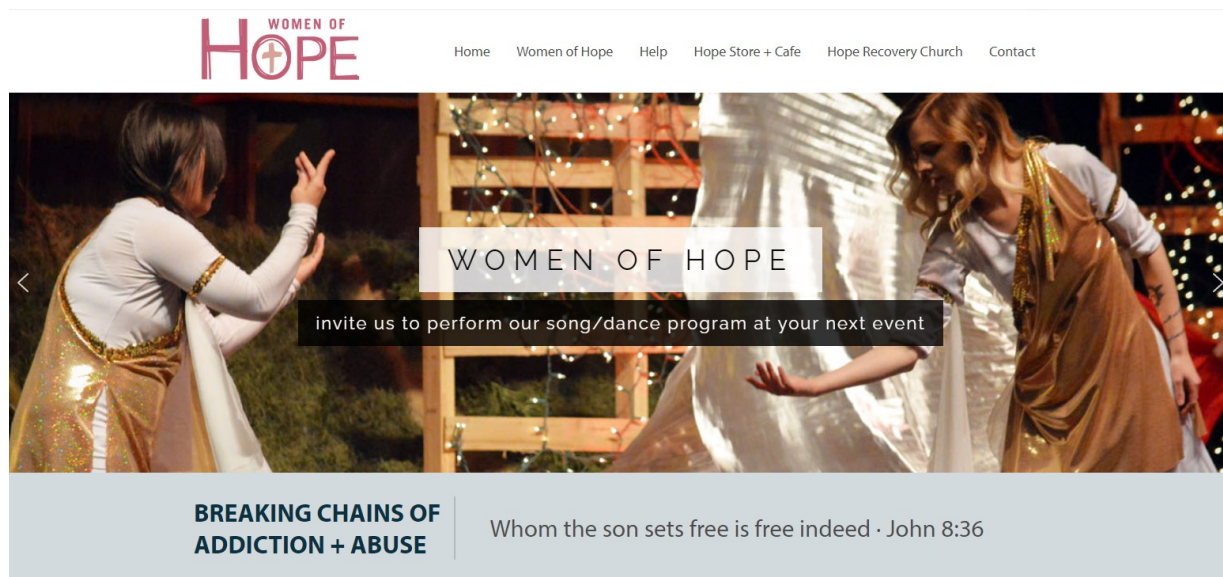
July 5 Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45: 10-17 or Song of Solomon 2: 8-13; Romans 7: 15-25a; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

July 12 Genesis 25: 19-34; Psalm 119: 105-112; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

July 19 Genesis 28: 10-19a; Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

July 26 Genesis 29: 15-28; Psalm 105: 1-11, 45b or Psalm 128; Romans 8: 26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

PW RECEIVES SERVICE GRANT



Presbyterian Women were pleased to receive a Together-in-Service grant from the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery. This \$100.00 grant was given to Women of Hope.

A local organization, Women of Hope is a faith-based, non-denominational, in-house rehabilitation treatment program. Their mission is to break the cycle of addiction and to enable each woman to live according to God's word, to thrive and prosper, and to serve God in her family and her community ... and ultimately "Pay it forward."

FACILITY REOPENING GUIDELINES

As we move toward reopening for worship on July 12, the time is right for us to reopen our facility for meetings of groups of 10 or less. The following rules apply:

1. **Call the church office to make a reservation for your meeting.**
2. **As you meet, please stay in the area assigned to you by the church office.**
3. **Social distancing is required (church will provide a large enough area and hand sanitizer).**
4. **Please do not attend if you have had a fever in the past week.**

Masks are strongly recommended.



reopening

WORSHIP WILL LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BUT WE ARE EXCITED TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are joyfully looking forward to again worshipping in-person beginning Sunday, July 12! However, our worship service will be different in many ways because of the necessity of social distancing and other safety precautions we will take in order to reduce the risk of exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

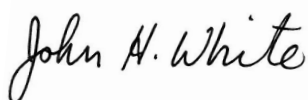
One important difference is that we will have to operate at a reduced capacity to ensure worshippers are able to maintain social distancing. **We will therefore be asking worshippers to make a reservation each week (for a while) to attend worship in person.** You will receive an email on July 1 with instructions for making your reservation online. You can also call the church office at 422-1591 to make your reservation beginning on July 1. Going forward, you will receive an email each Monday with a reminder to make your reservation for the following Sunday.

We recognize this pandemic is far from over and must be taken seriously and with caution. Therefore, we recommend that individuals in high risk categories not attend in-person worship for the time being, but continue to enjoy our worship services via livestream. However, after consulting with medical experts and CDC guidelines, we also believe that we can significantly mitigate risk of exposure for less vulnerable groups while meeting for a short period of time (approximately 40 minutes) in a controlled environment (such as our sanctuary) while taking social distancing precautions.

Please be aware that we will also require worshippers to **wear a mask while in the sanctuary**. Worshippers are encouraged to bring their own mask, but we will have a small supply available for those who need one. You can find further information regarding the precautions we are implementing on our website (www.fpcjacksontn.org).

We look forward to the day we can all worship together in-person. In the meantime, we are still “the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). We pray for you continually. If you have any questions or concerns about our reopening plans, please call or email either Pastor John or Pastor Courtney.

The Peace of Christ be with you,



Pastor John White



Associate Pastor Courtney Bowen



reopening



FPC REOPENING

The Session has approved July 12 as the reopening date for worship in the sanctuary. Safety guidelines are as follows:

- 1. Wearing of a facemask while in the sanctuary is required.**
- 2. Please use hand sanitizer as you enter.**
- 3. Do not enter if you have had fever in the past week.**
- 4. An usher will direct you to your seat. Please remain where the usher seats you.**
- 5. Restroom is available only for emergency.**
- 6. At the end of the service you will be dismissed according to pew.**

announcements

NACOME ALTERNATIVE



[2020-opportunities](https://www.nacome.org/summer-2020-opportunities).

Even though we are not attending NaCoMe as a church family this summer, there are several ways for our individual families to enjoy NaCoMe, which can be found on their website at:
[https://www.nacome.org/summer-](https://www.nacome.org/summer-2020-opportunities)

THANK YOU!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from y'all for my 90th birthday. In my mind I am still in my forties, but my body knows better.

Thank you so much for your cards and messages during this time of "crisis." Just remember the Lord is in charge of the "big picture." This too shall pass.

P.S. That trio who sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY reminded me of the Andrews Sisters during WWII. Thank you, Benita Brown, Libby Smith and Nelda Evans!

Sincerely, Richard Swaim



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR JUNE

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

JUNE 1: Richard Swaim; **JUNE 3:** Eden Barnhart, Russell Jones, Lynda Vance; **JUNE 4:** Marina Morgan; **JUNE 6:** Jerry Lucas; **JUNE 7:** Stan Carnell; **JUNE 8:** Chesley Dennison; **JUNE 9:** Jim Petterson; **JUNE 10:** Karen Broughton; **JUNE 11:** Suzy Collins; **JUNE 14:** Marilynn Ames, Catherine Carls, Jimmy Stewart; **JUNE 15:** Ruffin Craig, Debbie Hurt; **JUNE 16:** Jaimie Ide; **JUNE 17:** Allie Cowles, Jerry Thomas; **JUNE 18:** Caleb Jones, Margaret Ann Lucas; **JUNE 19 :** Bill Duke; **JUNE 21:** Sally Harlan, Stephannie Williams; **JUNE 22:** Steve Spurlin; **JUNE 23:** Stephanie Isaacs, Abby Leigh McNeal, Kakky Tanner; **JUNE 27:** Thomas McCaslin, Ken Stumpenhorst; **JUNE 28:** Jared Martin, Chuck Thompson; **JUNE 29:** Jeb Campbell IV, Carol Green; **JUNE 30:** Harbert Alexander

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

JUNE 5: Bob & Helen Redding; **JUNE 6:** Ty & Ceil Cowles; **JUNE 9:** Kevin & Vivian Pauley; **JUNE 10:** Justin & Kendra Smith; **JUNE 17:** Wesley & Molly Richardson; **JUNE 18:** Jody & Linsey Pickens; **JUNE 19:** Rick & Nelda McCune; **JUNE 20:** Robert & Susan Reeves; **JUNE 21:** Perry & Anna Poole; **JUNE 22:** Ruffin & Jenny Craig; **JUNE 25:** Brad & Melissa Hayes; **JUNE 27:** Steve & Lisa Spurlin; **JUNE 28:** Russell & Carrie Jones

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR JULY

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

JULY 1: John Ewen III, Nick Reynolds; **JULY 2:** Nora Alexander, Julia Kipp; **JULY 4:** Carol Sue Keathley; **JULY 6:** Alexandra Climer, Amelia Thompson, Lisa Tiede; **JULY 7:** Rosemary Kipp Monegue, George Smith; **JULY 8:** Morgan Cowles, James Howell; **JULY 9:** Mary Abbott, Chase Ames, Brian Fowler; **JULY 10:** Sandra Brasfield, James Harris; **JULY 11:** Harrison Smith; **JULY 12:** Elizabeth Pickens; **JULY 13:** Jacob Gordon, Charles Parliament; **JULY 14:** Melissa Hayes; **JULY 15:** Ellen McClune; **JULY 16:** Hannah Crossett, Ann Mayo, Eloise Phillips; **JULY 17:** Susan Reeves; **JULY 18:** Don Lewis; **JULY 23:** Jackie Isaacs; **JULY 24:** Virginia Conger, Hayes Puffer; **JULY 25:** Lyn Parliament; **JULY 28:** Spencer Poole; **JULY 29:** Susan Boutwell; **JULY 31:** Tisha Blankenship, Trey Bodiford

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

JULY 20: Gary & Susan Boutwell; **JULY 25:** Harbert and Tausha Alexander; Jeff & Pamela Chambers;
JULY 28: George & Patty Smith

choir corner

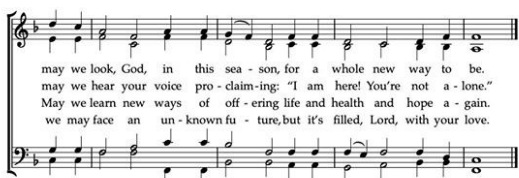
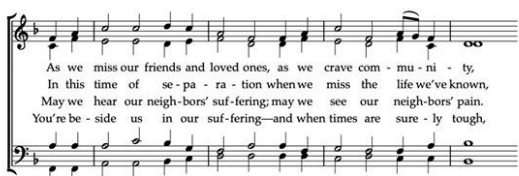
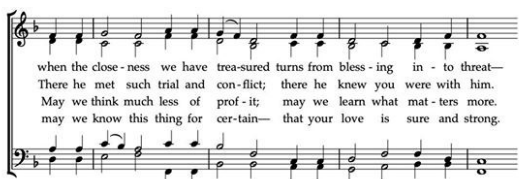
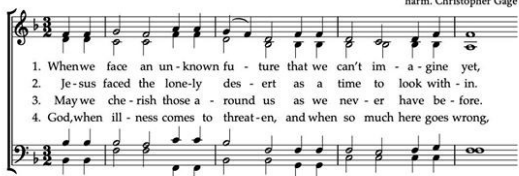
HYMN OF HOPE AND COMFORT

Since we are not sure when it will be safe to sing together again, we thought we'd share this hymn of hope that expresses what most of us are regularly feeling these days.

Written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, *When We Face an Unknown Future*, provides comfort during the challenging days of COVID-19.



When We Face an Unknown Future
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020 *Beach Spring*, attr. B. F. White; harm. Christopher Gage



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Harmonization © 2017 by Christopher Gage. All rights reserved. Permission granted for free use in worship.
New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com



WHEN THE SOUTH GOES BACK TO CHURCH

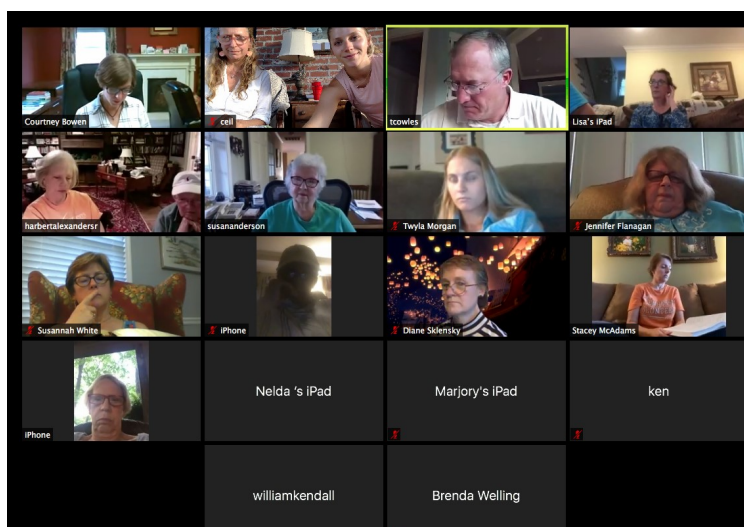


wednesday night online bible study

Join us for our Wednesday Night Online Bible Study at 6:00 PM each week. These Zoom sessions will continue through the month of July and will have various congregation members leading us through scripture.

The link for our Bible Study changes weekly, 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/>



the children's corner

WE MISS YOU!



Ms. Laura , Ms. Ellen, Ms. Libby, Ms. Lindsey

Hi, everybody!

Boy we really miss seeing you guys running around church! We are praying that you are staying safe and not driving your parents crazy during all this time at home. Normally we would be gearing up for VBS right now. I would be up to my eyeballs in decorations and ingredients to make slime! We love putting together those fun days to help our kiddos experience the love of Christ! Don't worry, we are still working on activities to keep you entertained, and help you learn and spread the love of Jesus. While you wait, enjoy a few pictures from our previous adventures. I can't wait to see you and hug you all soon!

Ms. Laura



Precious Covenant Children of FPC,

We miss you all so much and one day soon we will be back together. But for now, we must be patient, we must be safe and we must continue to lift each other up.

Randy Jones shared this with me and I want to share it with each of you...

👁️ Look forward with HOPE 🌈

👁️ Look back with gratitude ☞

👁️ Look up 🖐️ with faith 🙏

👁️ Look around 🙌 with love ❤️

Enjoy your summer!!!

Ms. Libby



Hello, Blast Kids!

I have really enjoyed our Sunday School lessons from email and I hope you are all having a great summer! Please continue to pray for our friend, Elizabeth Pickens, as she recovers from surgery. I can't wait until we can all get back together again.

Love,

Ms. Ellen

Hi, Blast kids & parents!

I sure have missed being with all of you over the last couple of months! I have been praying for you each by name and can't wait to see what He's been doing in your lives when we come back together. Until then, keep SINGING. Our God loves to hear you use your voice to praise Him! If you need some song ideas you can search "Hillsong kids" on YouTube or Apple music.

Love and blessings,

Ms. Lindsey



GRADUATIONS AND SURVIVAL GIFT BASKETS

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

MOLLY RICHARDSON,
YOUTH DIRECTOR
fpcmolly@eplus.net

The Youth are still finding ways to connect during this crazy time.

Even with social distancing, we got to celebrate Mari Morgan's high school graduation. The Youth had a "drive by reception" for Mari. We drove by her house, honking our horns, waving, and cheering for her. Mari's response was, "I'm shook."

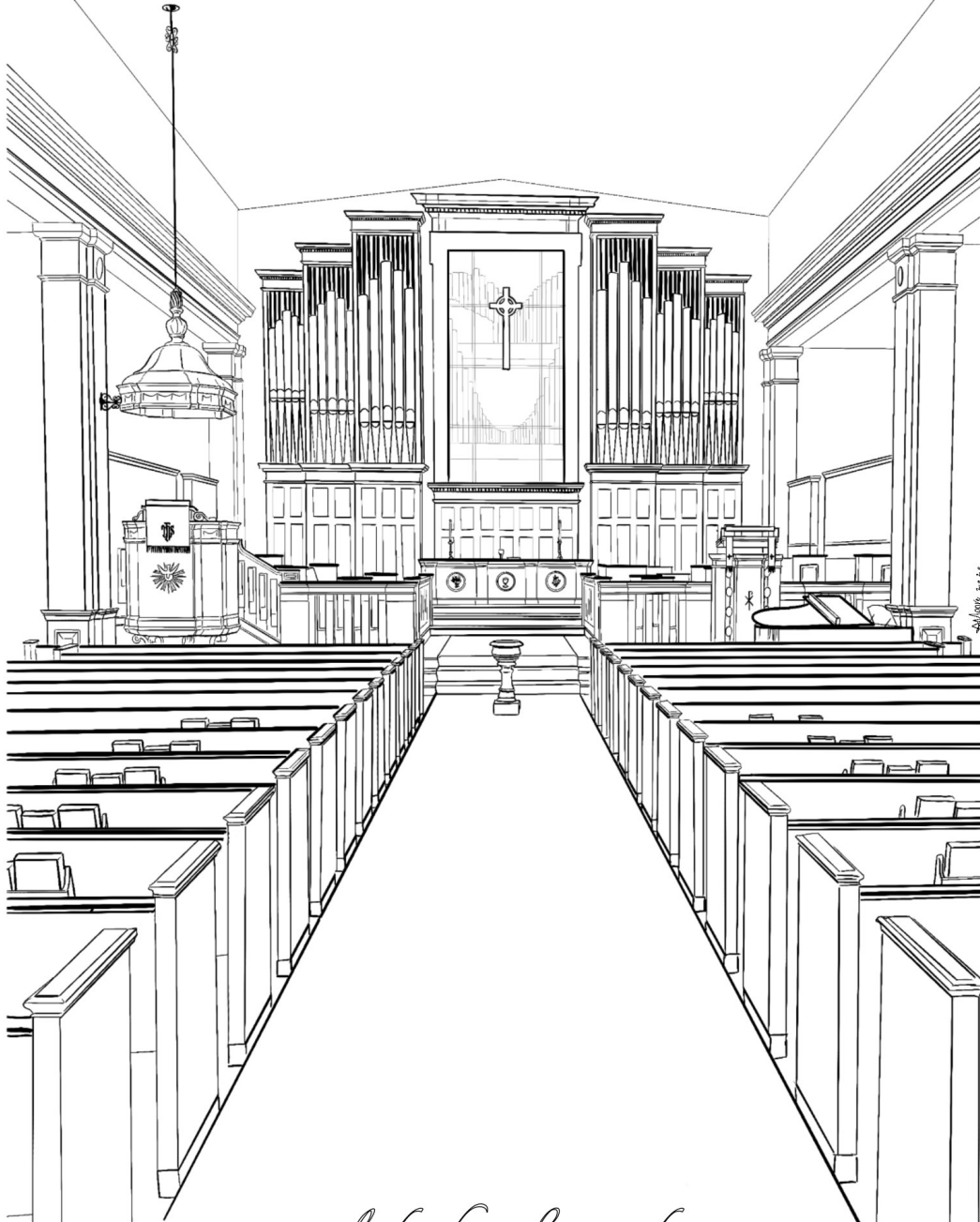
Courtney and Molly also dropped off "summer survival" gift baskets for all the youth members, with fun items like bubbles and candy, along with inspirational messages and scripture verses.

Happy Summer to all our Youth members! We miss you and can't wait to be back in person together!



sharing our gifts

We are so grateful for talented church members at FPC!
A HUGE thank you to Allison East Moore for this beautiful illustration of our sanctuary,
which we have all certainly missed these last few months.



*I was glad when they said unto me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

-Psalm 122:1

FINANCIAL UPDATE – APRIL 2020

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2020 Pledges	\$ 330,710	\$ 218,378	\$ 283,277
Total Contributions	\$ 351,594	\$ 250,718	\$ 304,568
Total Income	\$ 374,052	\$ 309,478	\$ 326,963
Total Expenses	\$ 298,397	\$ 309,478	\$ 280,027
Net Income	\$ 75,655	\$ 0	\$ 46,936

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 Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991 or Machele 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 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.

session highlight

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, met in a virtual meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- Approve a motion to not hold Family Camp in 2020
- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session meeting of May 17, 2020
- Approve the Auditor's Report
- Elect Judy Herron and Benita Brown as commissioners for the August 13, 2020, Presbytery meeting
- Approve a Bears Cheer camp usage of gym on August 3-4, 2020, from 9:00-noon
- Approve cancellation of a Stated Session meeting in July

On June 5, 2020, the Session voted by electronic means to approve the following motion:

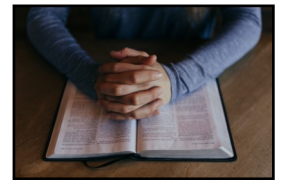
Motion: That we adopt a reopening date of July 12, limited to 75 persons (excluding worship leadership), utilizing the regulations listed as follows:

1. Wearing of a facemask while in the sanctuary is required.
2. Please use hand sanitizer as you enter.
3. Do not enter if you have had a fever in the past week.
4. An usher will direct you to your seat. Please remain where the usher seats you.
5. Restroom is available only for emergency.
6. At the end of the service you will be dismissed according to pew.

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

NEXT SESSION MEETING | August 9 @ 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:

JUNE 7: Jace, Kristin, Will and Trey Bodiford; Jim and Mona Campbell; Steve and Catherine Carls

JUNE 14: Virginia Conger; Ruffin and Jenny Craig; Martha Hanserd

JUNE 21: Byron Elam; James Harris; Cary Henson

JUNE 28: Jerry and Martha Kizer; Ali Mason; Gary and Shirley Nelson

JULY 5: Jessica, Jacob, Emma and Jane Barron; Donald, Rita and Gioia Carp; Rex and Allison Climer

JULY 12: Ty, Ceil, Morgan and Allie Cowles; Nelda Evans; Sally Harlan

JULY 19: Bill Hatch; Tamara Haynes; William, Teresa and David Ide

JULY 26: Jan, Julie and John David Jones; Carol Sue Keathley; Jamie, Marlie, Graylynn and Ford Richardson

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:

Laura Camp
Rev. Courtney Bowen's Mother
The family of Sylvia Showalter
Debbie Lee | Lori Howell's sister-in-law
James Hargrove | Lori Howell's uncle
Diane Greer (cancer)
friend of Benita Brown
Don Lewis
(recovery from surgery)
Rebecca Priddy Muncie
Jim Cahill
Eleanor Cahill's brother
Ken Taylor
Evelyn Taylor's brother-in-law
Nancy Trent
Libby Smith's cousin
Kyle Young
Kim Dunnivant's nephew
The family of Joyce Montgomery
Tyler Stevenson
Sherry Taylor's son | and all law enforcement across the nation
Blake Stevenson (ongoing recovery) Sherry Taylor's grandson
The family of Machel Daniel-Hall
Byron Wilson, Sr.
Stephannie Williams' Dad (broken back)
Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar Quispe
Pastor Jesusa Chavez Lima
Elizabeth Pickens
Emily Smith
(recovering from surgery)

Jennifer Geraghty
Dot Holt, Mary Jane Lily, Rachel Lily
The family of Ray Woodson
Vivian Pauley's brother-in-law
Gwen Golden (cancer)
Healthcare and service providers
The health of our nation and world
Callie Dollar family
Georgina Harlan
Luther Mercer
Middle Tennessee tornado victims
Ashley Lovell and family
Nicholas Hallock-Diaz
Clarence & Norma Smith
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
Anne Garrard
Marilynn Ames
Judi Wilson
John and Susan Anderson
Richard and Liz Swaim
Mission Partners in Asia



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

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Jackson, TN 38301-3454

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

731.422.1591
www.fpcjacksontn.org

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.***

