

First Presbyterian Church

www.fpcjacksontn.org

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

SEPTEMBER 2020



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CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 20

Looking for the right Sunday school class? What about Wednesday night small groups? Wish you knew more ways you could help the children in our church?

Get the answers on Sept. 20th during worship. Leaders will share opportunities for involvement, teachers will be commissioned and our 6th graders will receive a Bible.

Join us this Sunday!

from the pastor

HEY FOLKS. I HAVE

served this wonderful church for nearly 18 years now, and many of you have become accustomed to seeing me wandering around the church and this community. I want you to know that the next time you see me, something may be different about my appearance. I am starting to wear a clerical collar. Why?

Good question. Throughout my ministry, I have always felt it is important to be relatable and accessible. I have felt that I should be a person around whom others felt relaxed, and a person who “fit” into many different settings. Therefore, I have chosen not to wear a clerical collar because I did not want to give the appearance that I was “set apart.”

While that approach has served me well, and I pray I am still relatable, things have changed. With everything going on in the world today, I now feel that it is important to convey the

fact that I AM set apart. I am first a follower of Jesus, and because of that, I am committed to the teachings of Christ. I am non-violent, I am a peacemaker, and I pray that I can love and compassionately accept people of all colors, genders, and beliefs as those who are desperately loved by a God who is love.

Folks, this world is more divided, and suffering more brokenness, violence, disease and apathy towards Christianity than at any time I can remember. Because of that, I feel called to be easily identifiable as a Christian clergyman. The world proclaims hatred and violence every day on the news; I want to proclaim Christ every day through my words, my actions, and even my clothing.

As I mentioned in a recent sermon, my father was in the habit of going to the same branch of the bank in Atlanta every time he needed to do



some banking. One day, he approached the bank and found the front door locked. An employee saw him standing there looking puzzled, and opened the door to let him in. It turned out that the bank had just been robbed at gunpoint, and the police hadn't even arrived yet. The employees knew my dad, and because of that, they invited him in to pray with the traumatized patrons and employees.

SEE PAGE 2

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH:

“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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STAFF

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fpcjohn@eplus.net

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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

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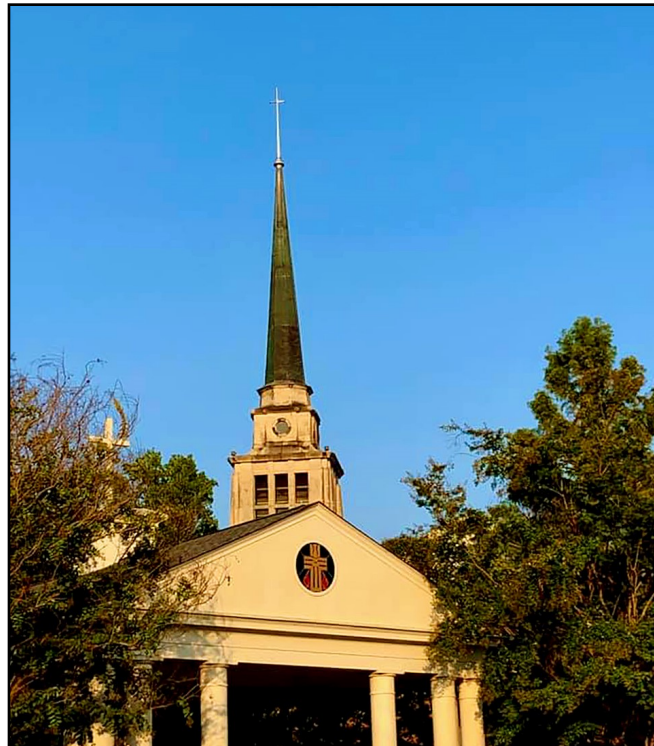
Class of 2021

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.

from the pastor



FROM PAGE 1

My dad was invited to minister, not because of who he was, but because of the office he held. In these troubled times, I feel called to make my office known, so that no matter who I encounter, my identity in Christ will be evident. Some will despise me because of my faith, while others

will welcome me. I hope I can accept both extremes with my ears open to hear, and my heart open to love.

May we all proclaim our faith through our words and actions, and work diligently to make this world, this nation, this community, a better place.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR AUGUST 2020

September 6 Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105; 1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

announcements



WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Congratulations to Paul, Emily, Wilder and Holden Taylor on the newest addition to their family, Marigold Alice Taylor.

Marigold was born on July 7 at 12:50 PM, weighed 8 pounds, and measured 20 inches long.



Wednesday night dinners will resume on September 23rd as to-go meals.

Small groups and children's programming will be meeting from 5:30-6:15, with to-go dinners available immediately following.

September 23 MENU: Fresh fruit salad, chicken salad, broccoli & cauliflower salad, croissants, lettuce leaves & tomato slices, cheese cubes & celery sticks; lemon chess squares

KIDS ~ chicken nuggets & fries, juice box, carrot sticks, fruit pouch, cookie

September 30 MENU: Yogurt glazed fruit bowl, Cuban sandwich sliders, potato salad, broccoli & tomato ranch salad, cheese cubes & celery sticks, lime tartlets

KIDS ~ corn dogs & baked beans, juice box, carrot sticks, fruit pouch, cookie

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

Cost: \$7 for adults, including children over age 12, \$5 for children ages 3-12, with a **\$20 maximum** per family.



Dear FPC family and friends,

I would like to personally thank all of our wonderful, talented musicians who have stepped up to give us inspiring music for our live stream services. Our soloists and small ensembles have made life bearable in light that we can have no choir. We continue to have top quality music in all our services.

On Sunday, Sept 6, we welcomed trumpet player Joey Moore.

On Sunday, Sept 13, our coming back together service, we welcomed Tere Ervin, a favorite flutist. She is renowned for her versatile technique. She is a Jackson resident, a graduate of Lambuth and teaches private lessons.

Please do your best to thank all our musicians. We must do so!

*Blessings,
Helen Redding*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many thanks for the prayers, food, cards, and calls of concern as we struggled to overcome COVID-19. Brian, Barry and I have recovered and are here to live life another day!

Barbara Fowler

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR SEPTEMBER

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

SEPTEMBER 1: Patrick Dollar, Sr., Charles Mayo, Nancy Strawn; **SEPTEMBER 2:** Rebecca Hurt, Wesley Richardson; **SEPTEMBER 4:** Ann Schmidt, Abby Varino; **SEPTEMBER 5:** Machele Daniel-Hall, Lara McCaslin, Ted Showalter; **SEPTEMBER 6:** Charlie Collins, Andrew White; **SEPTEMBER 7:** Stacey McAdams; **SEPTEMBER 9:** Nathan Smith; **SEPTEMBER 10:** Jerry Callis; **SEPTEMBER 12:** Jessica Barron, Mae Howell; **SEPTEMBER 13:** Twyla Morgan; **SEPTEMBER 14:** Jimmy East; **SEPTEMBER 15:** Holden Taylor; **SEPTEMBER 16:** Clarence Smith, Elizabeth Swaim; **SEPTEMBER 17:** Ridley Alexander; **SEPTEMBER 19:** Barry Fowler; **SEPTEMBER 21:** Anna Poole; **SEPTEMBER 23:** Sherry Thomson; **SEPTEMBER 24:** Walker Ray McWherter; **SEPTEMBER 25:** Cooper Harris; **SEPTEMBER 26:** Mike Taylor; **SEPTEMBER 27:** Rex Climer; **SEPTEMBER 28:** Brian Williams; **SEPTEMBER 29:** Randy Jones, Vicki Pope; **SEPTEMBER 30:** Kay Thomson, Meredith Varino, Forrest White, Kathelene White

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

SEPTEMBER 1: Khris & Stephanie Gordon; **SEPTEMBER 4:** Harbert & Nora Alexander; **SEPTEMBER 17:** Will & Miranda Harbin; **SEPTEMBER 22:** Matt & Meredith Varino

reopening update

WE WELCOME YOU BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with joy that we announce the restart of in-person Worship at First Presbyterian Church with precautionary measures in place, beginning September 13. Nursery and childcare for 1st grade and younger will be available. For a while, we will operate at a reduced capacity to ensure worshippers are able to maintain social distancing. We therefore will ask worshippers to make a reservation each week to attend worship in person. You will receive an email on September 2 with instructions for making your reservation online. You can also call the church office at 422-1591 to make your reservation beginning on September 2. Going forward, you will receive an email each Wednesday with a reminder to make your reservation for the following Sunday.

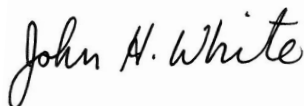
Our Wednesday night activities will begin on September 16. Classes will meet from 5:30 – 6:15 PM. Dinner will be served “to-go” style at 6:15, beginning on September 23. Please make reservations for dinner as you have in the past.

Children’s Church and Sunday School classes, including Rotational Sunday School, will begin on September 27. Rally Day is set for September 20. Youth Connection begins September 27 at 5:00 PM.

Although we are excited to restart in-person Worship and activities at FPC, we recognize that the Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing. Therefore, we will continue to monitor the situation and case numbers in Madison County and will adjust our plans as necessary. We also recognize that each person and family’s comfort level is different and we honor the decisions of those who are not yet ready to return in-person. Moreover, we encourage everyone in vulnerable categories to discern prayerfully your best course of action. We will continue to offer Livestream Worship and a Wednesday night Bible study group via Zoom to help all of our families connect in meaningful ways to our faith community. And as always, Pastor John and Pastor Courtney are available in person or via email, phone, or Zoom.

Detailed plans and procedures regarding our safety precautions are available on our [website](http://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



save the date

FAMILY FUN & WORSHIP NIGHT IS ON SEPTEMBER 26



GRAB A BLANKET OR A CHAIR

and join us for a fun night of fellowship and worship for the whole family!

Come enjoy games and activities in our arboretum as Pastor Courtney reflects on how Jesus can give our lives direction.

You won't want to miss this fun



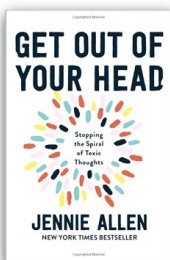
evening full of lighthearted fellowship and reflection.

Families may begin to arrive & set up in reserved locations at 4:30. Our program will begin at 5:00 and conclude at 6:00.

Click [HERE](#) to make a reservation.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS AT FPC: *Fall 2020*

Please email the class teacher to sign up for the class.
Drop-ins are always welcome. Class time: 5:30-6:15



Get out of Your Head: Stopping the Spiral of Toxic Thoughts *by Jennie Allen*

This will be an in-person class book study. Discover how to submit our minds to Christ because how we think shapes how we live. As we surrender every thought to Jesus, the promises of God flood our lives in profound ways. Identify the negative thought patterns that are keeping you stuck. Understand the science behind why your thoughts can change your life, and recognize your God-given power to confront and overcome your toxic thoughts.

Teacher: Marlie Richardson. marlie3315@gmail.com | Location: Connections Classroom

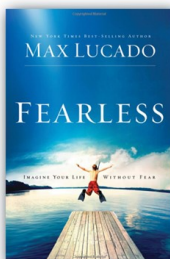


JUDE

A line by line study of the Book of Jude.

This class will be a combination of Zoom and in-person. The letter of Jude urges Christians to be defenders of the faith in a world of unbelief.

Teacher: Debbie Hurt. dmh902@aol.com | Location: Library & Zoom



Fearless *by Max Lucado*

This class will be a Zoom class that will discuss the book. Each sunrise seems to bring fresh reasons for fear. Imagine your life without fear. Imagine your life, wholly untouched by angst. What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? If you could hover a fear magnet over your heart and extract every last shaving of dread, insecurity, or doubt, what would remain? Envision a day, just one day, where you could trust more and fear less.

Teacher: Twyla Morgan. twyla91355@aol.com | Location: Zoom

PLAYSCHOOL REOPENS!



**JENNIFER GERAGHTY,
PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR**
fpplayschool@yahoo.com

AS I WRITE THIS, WE have just started back to school. This has been an arduous journey to plan for the beginning of the school year. We are creating new ways of doing things we have done for all of our time at Playschool, in some cases over 20 years.

There are so many new things to worry about and think through for teachers and parents. We have encouraged all our

teachers and parents to give voice to those fears and trepidations, the only way through this process is to talk, talk, talk to each other.

Undoubtedly the brightest shiniest stars during this time are our students. They are so ready to get back to school. They have missed their friends, teachers and the opportunity to learn. The students' big smiles, joyful greetings and heartfelt

declarations about Playschool are the solace our tired brains and spirits need to recharge.

Yes, Playschool will look different this year. The challenge is to keep our child-centered curriculum, directed by teachers in our environment steeped in love which allows children to feel safe to engage and challenge themselves to develop their knowledge. I think we are up to the challenge!

service opportunity

DONATE TO THE RIFA FOOD DRIVE

September is Hunger Action Month and First Presbyterian is participating in **1 City 1 Food Drive** for RIFA. This event is being held in lieu of RIFA's CANstruction, which was cancelled due to COVID-19.

As with most every aspect of our lives, COVID-19 has changed things. About this time of year, RIFA would be preparing for CANstruction. That event is not possible this year, due to health and safety concerns. However, the challenge of hunger has not abated. In fact, the need is greater than ever. To help gear

up for the ongoing food needs in our community and the quickly approaching holiday season, our RIFA friends have planned **1 City 1 Food Drive** for the month of September. The goal of this city-wide drive is 100,000 pounds.

First Presbyterian will collect food donations for RIFA from September 20 – 27. Donations may be dropped off at the church, in bins provided in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and outside under portico.

Thank you for supporting RIFA and our wider community.



One City. One Food Drive.

NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

 Canned Veggies	 Canned Beans	 Canned Fruits	 Canned Meats
 Peanut Butter	 Jelly	 Pasta	 Canned Soup

the children's corner

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK ON SEPTEMBER 27



It is hard to believe we have been using the Rotation Sunday School model for 12 years! Our high school seniors were in Kindergarten when we first implemented this curriculum. I think the children have enjoyed the creative ways we learn Bible stories. The 2020/2021 year will be filled with exciting opportunities to learn about Jacob & Esau, Psalm 8, Advent thru the eyes of Joseph, Jesus calling the disciples and calming the storm, The Lord's Supper, The Greatest Commandment and Pentecost. Come and join us either as a teacher or student! You're never too old to be inspired by these stories!

Lisa Spurlin-Rotation Sunday School Coordinator



PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

We had a great turnout for Pizza with the Pastor. As you can tell from Rev. John's and Susannah's clothing, there may have been water balloons involved. It was so good to see everyone!



Hi friends!

We sure do miss seeing you all but hopefully we will see you all soon! As you all start back to school — in whatever way that is this year I wanted to share this scripture passage with you.

The Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

I know school looks different this year and can sometimes be overwhelming with new rules and procedures but remember God is always with you and watching over you and it will be ok!

*Marlie Richardson
Deacon of Children*



HEY, FPC YOUTH! LET'S RECONNECT

**REV, COURTNEY BOWEN,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
FOR YOUTH**

fpc Courtney@eplus.net

**MOLLY RICHARDSON,
YOUTH DIRECTOR**

fpc Molly@eplus.net

Youth Group resumes in September! Molly and Courtney are so excited for this new year of Youth Group activities – even if it will look a little different from years past. We'll take social distancing precautions, such as wearing masks and being outside as much as possible; but we will continue to have fun, fellowship, and grow together in Christ.

Welcome especially to our rising 6th graders! We're excited to have you aboard!

WAYS TO CONNECT

SUNDAY SCHOOL	Sundays 10:45 – 11:30	Outside or Youth Room
YOUTH CONNECTION	Sundays 5:00 – 6:30	Fellowship Hall
WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS	Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:15	Outside or Youth Room

Instagram | fpcjacksontn

Facebook | First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, TN



fall YOUTH calendar

SEPTEMBER 12TH: **FAMILY NIGHT : 5-7 : ARBORETUM**



16TH: **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RESUME**

18-20TH: **YOUTH RIVER TRIP**

27TH: **SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS** (10:45-11:30)

YOUTH CONNECTION RESUMES

(SUNDAYS 5-6:30)

OCTOBER 2-4TH: **NACOME YOUTH RETREAT**



11TH: **PANDEMIC THE GAME**

18TH: **BOX CITY**

25TH: **BONFIRE + PUMPKIN CARVING**

28TH: **TRUNK OR TREAT | FALL FESTIVAL**

NOVEMBER 8TH: **ROOM IN THE INN** (TENTATIVE)



15TH: **MOVIE NIGHT**

22ND: **GAME NIGHT** (NINTENDO SWITCH + BOARD GAMES)

29TH: **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

FINANCIAL UPDATE – JULY 2020

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2020 Pledges	\$ 437,125	\$ 383,815	\$ 384,341
Total Contributions	\$ 471,414	\$ 440,655	\$ 427,851
Total Income	\$ 590,453	\$ 543,930	\$ 468,399
Total Expenses	\$ 519,231	\$ 543,930	\$ 478,081
Net Income	\$ 71,222	\$ 0	(\$ 9,682)

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, August 9, 2020, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session June 14, 2020 and the Called Meeting of June 26, 2020.
- Approve the Playschool opening plan and reopening date of September 8, 2020.
- Ratify the election of the 2020 nominating committee.
- Approve FPC to host the mask distribution in coordination with the local health department on Wednesday, August 12, from 5-7 pm.
- Approve the motion from the Property Committee to replace the Sanctuary roof with cost not to exceed \$25,000 with funds from the Property Trust Money Market Fund.
- Set a Congregational Meeting date for the election of officers on September 28th or 29th by electronic vote.

- Approve the Peacemaking Offering to be received on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020, with 75% of funds going to Presbytery and 25% go RIFA.

On July 16, 2020 the Session voted by electronic means to approve:

- An electronic congregational vote to be taken to elect the persons listed below as the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee for FPC, and that David Greene be designated as the Chair.

Ty Cowles Vivian Pauley, Susan Reeves, Lynn East, Marlie Richardson, Benita Brown, Judy Herron, David Greene, John White (ex officio)

On July 19, 2020 the Session voted by electronic means to approve:

- Children's Ministries be allowed to sponsor the Caring Kids Collecting for RIFA (cans and items for the backpack program) activity on August 6th from 5-7 pm.

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

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING | October 11 @ 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:

SEPTEMBER 6: Reagan, Eden and Annie Marie Barnhart; Benita Brown; Jeb, Caroline, Mary Catherine, Jake & Patrick Campbell

SEPTEMBER 13: Trey, Elizabeth & Alexandra Climer; Robert Elam; Khris, Stephanie & Jacob Gordon

SEPTEMBER 20: Mona Higginbotham; Benny & Linda Houston; Kevin, Elizabeth, Elle & Annika Jerge



SEPTEMBER 27: Ken Keim; Jim & Gail Marple; Charles & Ann Mayo

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

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 Larry Gardner,
Don and Kay Thomson and family

The family of Sally Dancy Coop

Nora Alexander's cousin

Clarence Milstead (COVID)

Friend of Susan Boutwell

Eleanor Cahill

(surgery and recovery)

Lindsay McKissack and
the McKissack family

The family of Michael Shires

Dolly Mathis

Bob Beare (cancer)

Sid Conger

The family of Jim Cahill

Eleanor Cahill's brother

The family of Debbie Lee

Lori Howell's sister-in-law

Susan Anderson

Ray Tanner

Eleanor and David Hooper

Susan Reeves' parents

Judi Wilson and family

(recovery from surgery)

Eden Barnhart and daughter, Annie Marie

Ken and Sandra Brasfield

Greg and Patti Abbott and family

Brenda Depriest (recovery from surgery)

Bill Meiers (fall, surgery, rehab)

Evelyn Taylor's cousin

The family of Machele Daniel-Hall

Lyn Parliment

Bert Bankston

Norma Smith's grandson-in-law

James Hargrove

Lori Howell's uncle

Diane Greer

friend of Benita Brown | cancer

Rebecca Priddy Muncie

Nancy Trent

Libby Smith's cousin

Kyle Young

Kim Dunnavant's nephew

Tyler Stevenson

(Sherry Taylor's son) and all law
enforcement across the nation

Blake Stevenson

Sherry Taylor's grandson

(ongoing recovery)

Byron Wilson, Sr.

Stephannie Williams' Dad
(broken back)

Pastor Leopoldo Aguilar Quispe

Pastor Jesusa Chavez Lima

Gwen Golden (cancer)

Georgina Harlan

Ashley Lovell and family

Tisha Blankenship

Mike, Christie, and Jared Martin

Rick McCune

Phillip Pickens

Jody's brother (cancer)

Anne Garrard

Marilynn Ames

Healthcare and service providers

Those in nursing homes & assisted living

The health of our nation and world

Disaster victims-all areas involved



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

1573 N. Highland Ave.
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.***



**JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY
STARTING SEPTEMBER 13
FOR WORSHIP**