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## from the pastor

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

In 2023, First Presbyterian Church of Jackson will be 200 years old! In 1823, James Monroe was President, the first steamboat successfully navigated the Mississippi River, and R.J. Tyers patented roller skates. First Presbyterian Church was here, and over the next two centuries, the people of this great church witnessed many significant events. Numerous Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Civil War, the World Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War took their toll on the nation and the church. Fortythree US Presidents have taken office during our church's existence, and the modes of transportation have evolved from horseback to space shuttle. Can you imagine sitting in our sanctuary

filled with people of differing political opinions and hearing read the words of Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*, just days after it was delivered? Yet still, this church is here.

We persevere, because we are the Church, called to stand against the darkness, brokenness, and hatred so prevalent in the world. We are the Church. called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to carry the light of Christ into the darkest corners of creation. We are the Church, called to love God with all that we are, love our neighbors as ourselves, bring hope into hopelessness and peace into brokenness. We are the Church, called to look into the eyes of our neighbors and see them as brothers and sisters.

The mission is urgent. It is about people, eternal life, hope, and life in community. If we do not give our all to God in the fight against darkness, it will be



to our eternal regret. This is OUR time. Many have gone before us, our roots are deep, but now the mantle has fallen upon our shoulders. And God is making a new way. As God said to the People of Israel:

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." (Is. 43:19)

SEE PAGE 2

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

1573 N. Highland Ave. Jackson, TN 38301-3454 Phone: (731) 422-1591 Fax: (731) 427-2321

### **STAFF**

John H. White, Pastor fpcjohn@eplus.net

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Ernie Wilson, Facility Maintenance ewilson1@eplus.net

Tamara Haynes, Housekeeper

**Jennifer Geraghty, Playschool Director** fpplayschool@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

### fpcjacksontn.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

After nearly 200 years of faithful existence, the privilege of serving God through the ministry of this congregation now falls to us, and God is making a new way.

Throughout this pandemic, we have had to learn new ways of "doing ministry." The lessons we have learned and the encouragement we have received have proven repeatedly that these old bones can live! Not because of who we are, but because of who God is, in us. Earlier in Is. 43 God says:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; ... For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,"

We are redeemed, we are called, we are precious, honored,



and loved...and we are entrusted with the ministry of our Savior at this time and in this place. That's stewardship, every day, taking up our mantle, remembering our roots, and stepping faithfully into a new future, guided by God. That's stewardship, using the resources with which we have been entrusted for the proclamation of the Kingdom of Heaven in the world. Let us walk faithfully, sharing and using our resources wisely, and always trusting in the powerful, grace-filled, sovereignty of God.

### **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2020**

October 4 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

**October 18** Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

**October 25** Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

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### announcements



# WELCOME TO THE WORLD

We want to congratulate Reagan and Eden Barnhart on the birth of their daughter, Annie Marie Barnhart!

Annie Marie was born on August 15th. She weighed 3.4 lbs and was 15 inches long. Annie Marie arrived a little earlier than expected and we ask that you keep the Barnharts and their families in your prayers.

Grandparents: Greg and Patti Abbott Great Grandmother: Mary Abbott



### To my Church Family:

You don't know how much I appreciate your prayers, cards, notes and kind expressions of love and sympathy during my brother's illness and death and my surgery and recuperation. Thank you for thinking of me and my family and being such a comfort. I look forward to being back at church soon.

Eleanor Cahill

### Dear Church Family:

I want to thank my choir and Church Family for the cards and prayers for us after my sister's death on September 17. We greatly appreciate your kindness.

Pam Chambers

### Dear FPC Family and Friends:

Thank you to the staff and congregation for your love, support and kindness, but especially your prayers for me, my family and Kristen.

Machelle Daniel Hall

# A BIG THANK YOU FROM ARM!

A BIG thank you to FPC for all your support of Room in the Inn this past season to make this program possible. We will be communicating soon about the upcoming season which begins in November.

Here is the link to the annual end of the season video which includes some pictures of our members from FPC serving meals: <a href="https://www.areareliefministries.org/">https://www.areareliefministries.org/</a> events/hdisty

Here's a summary from Area Relief Ministries for this past season:

ARM was able to provide life-saving housing at *Room in the Inn* with hot food, warm beds and loving fellowship to 196 guests. Local churches provided 3,293 beds, 7,691 meals and 12,845 volunteer hours in 2019-20.

### **UPCOMING RITI DATES**

November 8, 24 December 8, 22 January 12,26 February 7,23 March 9,23 April 13, 27

### **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR OCTOBER**

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

OCTOBER 1: Jane Barron; OCTOBER 2: Bill Dellastatious; Carrie Jones; OCTOBER 4: Logan Keen; OCTOBER 7: Kaleb Keim, Paul Taylor; OCTOBER 11: Oliver Smith; OCTOBER 12: Julie Shoaf, Norma Smith; OCTOBER 14: Polly Pledger; OCTOBER 15: Bruce Herron, Libby Reynolds; OCTOBER 16: Jim Marple; OCTOBER 17: Carly Ann Fry; OCTOBER 18: Hart Hayes; OCTOBER 19: Addie Harbin, Finis Shoaf; OCTOBER 21: Cary Henson; OCTOBER 22: John Patrick Dollar, Jr., Marian Harbin; OCTOBER 24: Martha Kizer; OCTOBER 25: Mary McCaslin, Ernie Wilson; OCTOBER 26: Susan Anderson; OCTOBER 28: Harvey Smith; OCTOBER 29: Michael Dunnavant; OCTOBER 30: Christie Martin; OCTOBER 31: Bill Hymers, Todd Keim, Rayanna Williams

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

OCTOBER 2: Bill & Sandra Dellastatious; OCTOBER 6: Donald & Rita Carp; OCTOBER 11: Joshua & Katie Bowman, Mark & Susan Harris; OCTOBER 12: Reagan & Eden Barnhart; OCTOBER 17: John & Debbie Shires; OCTOBER 20: Drew & Allison Moore; OCTOBER 27: Ken & Madeline Yount

## earth care & service opportunities

## MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

There are many opportunities available at FPC to serve the church, the community and care for the earth. Please see the following flyers for ideas:

### **EARTH CARE CONGREGATION REMINDER:**

There are recycling cans in the back of the dining hall. There are 5 cans that are labeled on top with the items that should be deposited in each. We have a larger bin outside for paper and big cardboard items. Please break down or flatten the boxes so that the container can be used efficiently.

The cans are for the following:

**Plastic bottles** — numbers 1 & 2 only. Look for the number on the bottom of the bottle.

**Cardboard** — smaller items like food boxes.

They can go outside as well.

**Paper** — Please empty the used cups before depositing in the can.

**Aluminum Cans** — Empty the cans before depositing.

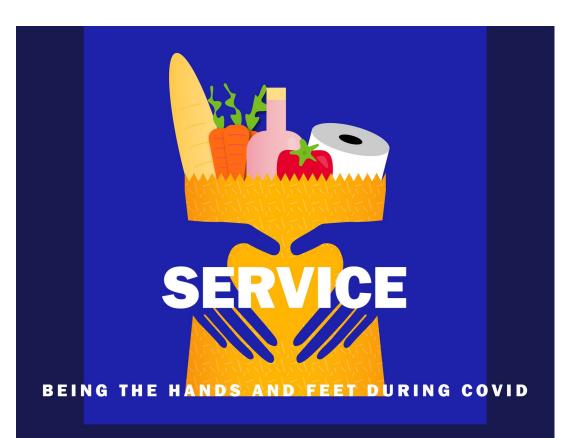
**Tin Cans** — Please remove the labels and rinse the cans.

Thanks so much for all your efforts to be good stewards of our environment!





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**DONATE TO TEACHERS & STUDENTS:** List from our teachers for classroom supplies such as cleaning supplies , hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, masks, gloves, lots of soap and paper towels. Notes of encouragement or little treats of appreciation.

**DONATE TO A BLESSING BOX:** Boxes where one can leave items and those in need can take items. MOST NEEDED ITEMS: canned meats, canned corn, macaroni & cheese, tomato sauce, canned fruits, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, mixed vegetables, canned chili, diced tomatoes, rice & brown rice (1 lb bags), peanut butter & jelly, granola bars oatmeal, applesauce, fruit cups, raisins, shelf stable milk, women's personal hygiene products. basic toiletries, baby supplies, bottled water.

### **BLESSING BOX ADDRESSES:**

BLESSING BOX ADDRESSES:

LANE COLLEGE ~~ 369 Lane Ave.

SALVATION ARMY ~~ 125 Allen Ave.

HANDS UP! PRESCHOOL ~~ 185 Greenfield Dr. #2721

JACOA ~~ 900 E. Chester

ENGLEWOOD ~~ 2267 N. Highland Ave.

FIRST METHODIST ~~ 20 South Church St.

LAMBUTH MEMORIAL METHODIST ~~ 160 Campbell St.

WEST ALLEY ARM ~~ Near corner of Hopkins-take a friend along to this one

KIDZ FIRST CHILD DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER ~~ 197 Cheyenne Dr.

ROLLING ACRES ~~ 300 Rolling Acres Dr.

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH ~~ 419 Old Humboldt Rd.

THE HANGOUT FOR TEENS, INC ~~ 135 Bemis Lane

RIFA ONE CITY, ONE FOOD DRIVE: We will collect food donations from September 20 - 27. Donations may be dropped off at the church, in bins provided in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and under portico.

**COMMUNITY CAFE** (218 E. Main Street 11am-2pm): Donate homemade desserts

DONATE TO THE RIFA THRIFT STORE: Gently-used clothing, furniture and household items.

PREPARE MEALS FOR RIFA OR ROOM IN THE INN: RITI DATES ~ November 8, 24; December 8, 22; January 12, 26; February 7, 23; March 9, 23; April 13, 27 @ First Methodist Church downtown.

**GIVING BLOOD TO THE RED CROSS** 

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# GIVING THROUGH OUR TIME, TALENTS AND RESOURCES

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

God says these words to the Israelites as they face a time of crisis. They are exiled from their homeland. All that they have known is gone. Their way of life is no more. Stranded in a foreign place, they must now learn to do everything in new ways. In the midst of that chaos, God speaks to the Israelites and promises that something new is about to happen. God will make a "way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (43:19b). God will make a way forward. God will bring abundance where there has been only loss. God will give new life where there has been only grief.

In a way, we too are exiles. In this year of pandemic, of isolation and distancing, we have had to let go of much of the life we knew before. We have missed milestones and cherished social events. We've wondered and stressed over decisions that use to be taken for granted – sending children to school, attending sports games, gathering with family and friends. We've wished for a new beginning.

Could it be that God is saying these same words to us today? "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Could it be God is promising us that out of the chaos we have experienced these last several months, a new pathway is becoming visible?

God promises a new way forward for the Israelites, but that promise is rooted in the past. God reminds the people of all that has come before – the deliverance, the salvation, the love and grace that has come from their Lord. God reminds them specifically of leading their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt, through the Red Sea, to the promise land. It was and is God "who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters" (43:16). God has done so before, so the Israelites know God will do so again. They can trust in this promise!

We, too, can trust in God's promise because we know all that God has done before. Our church family has deep roots in the promises, love and grace of God. In our nearly 200-year history, we have experienced times of turmoil and upheaval, and through it all God has continued to call First Presbyterian to faithful discipleship and ministry. We have been blessed and our lives have



been enriched as we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the good news – witnessing to and serving our community, teaching our children and young people the faith, worshiping God through Sacrament and Word and the gift of beautiful music, and encouraging one another as the Body of Christ.

Like the Israelites in Isaiah, FPC has deep roots that help us to trust in the promises of God and have faith that God is indeed doing a new thing, offering us a way forward through new ways in Christ. We invite you to be part of that work through giving your time, talents, and resources. God is calling you to be part of our ongoing story. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Rev. Courtney Bowen

### WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE DURING STEWARDSHIP SEASON:

Sunday, October 25th is Pledge Dedication Sunday. Those who attend In-Person Worship may drop their pledge cards in the offering plate during the service.

Pledge cards can also be mailed to the church office.

And finally, donations can be made through the FPC website at <a href="https://www.fpcjacksontn.org/stewardship/">https://www.fpcjacksontn.org/stewardship/</a> or on the app (under the "Give" tab).

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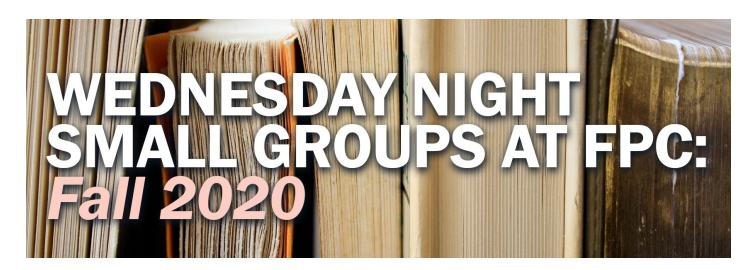
### christian education

**Join us for small groups and Wednesday night dinners!** Small groups and children's programming meet from 5:30-6:15, with to-go dinners available immediately following.



October 21 MENU: Italian salad; meatloaf; mashed potatoes; green beans; sliced bread; pear crisp; KIDS ~ nuggets & fries; fruit pouch; carrot stix & cucumber slices; cheese stix; cookie; juice box October 28 MENU: Garden salad; beef chili; hot dogs; buttered corn; baked peaches; brownies KIDS ~ mummy dogs & fries; fruit pouch; carrot stix & cucumber slices; cheese stick; cookie; juice box 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.



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 | Loc;ation: Library & Zoom

## playschool news

# **BACK IN SESSION!**





JENNIFER GERAGHTY, PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR

fpplayschool@yahoo.com

### PLAYSCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION!

After all our planning, questioning and worrying, the students walked through our doors and all seemed right. Playschool is meant to have children within its four walls, the voices, hustle and bustle brought a sense of peace to the teachers.

We are learning together to communicate and learn with our masks on. Our first lesson was to understand that to be at Playschool means we have to take care of each other and help everyone stay healthy. Our students and families have proven themselves to be willing to do what is necessary to keep each other

healthy. We are grateful to their loving and generous participation and spirits.

We are back to learning letters, numbers, Spanish, songs and reconnecting with old friends and making new friends. It is amazing to have this opportunity for joy again.

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### the children's corner

SUNDAY + WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN AT FPC!

(At right) Blast kids experience Jonah and the Whale.

(Below) Back to Blast and Launchpad with new backpacks filled with masks, lanyards, hand sanitizer and water bottles!

(Bottom) Happy to be back in Children's Church.

Come join us! Blast and LaunchPad on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:15 and Children's Church on Sundays at 10:30 after Worship.







# THE YOUTH ARE BACK!

REV, COURTNEY BOWEN, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH

fpccourtney@eplus.net

MOLLY RICHARDSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR

fpcmolly@eplus.net

Youth Group is back! We kicked off the new term with a trip to the River (thanks very much to Molly and Wesley Richardson for hosting us!!) We played games, studied God's Word together, had a quick boat trip, and shared Communion. Our devotional focused on Hebrews 10:24-25, which urges disciples to "provoke one another to love and good deeds" and to "not neglect to meet together." It was a great start to a great fall!

Thanks to everyone who helped collect food donations for RIFA September 20-27. We loaded up all **209 POUNDS** of donations during Sunday Night Youth Connection. Then, Randy Jones joined us for "Socially-Distanced Randy Games!" What a fun night of both service to our community and fellowship with one another!

### COMING UP THIS MONTH

| NACOME FALL RETREAT                     | October 2-4 |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| MOVIE NIGHT                             | October 11  |
| BOX CITY                                | October 17  |
| <b>BONFIRE &amp; PUMPKIN DECORATING</b> | October 25  |
| FUNNY BONES                             | October 28  |

### WAYS TO CONNECT

SUNDAY SCHOOLSundays 10:45 – 11:30Outside or Youth RoomYOUTH CONNECTIONSundays 5:00 – 6:30Fellowship HallWEDNESDAYWednesdays 5:30 – 6:15Outside or Youth Room

Instagram | fpcjacksontn Facebook | First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, TN



Fun was had by all during Socially distanced RANDY GAMES!





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Youth river trip was a blast! A big THANK YOU to the Richardsons for hosting.







### FINANCIAL UPDATE - AUGUST 2020

|                            | Actual<br><u>Year-to-date</u> | Budget<br><u>Year-to-date</u> | Actual<br><u>Last Yr to date</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2020 Pledges               | \$ 462,720                    | \$ 441,387                    | \$ 417,270                       |
| <b>Total Contributions</b> | \$ 501,309                    | \$ 509,033                    | \$ 470,077                       |
| Total Income               | \$ 625,347                    | \$ 628,333                    | \$ 515,990                       |
| Total Expenses             | \$ 574,624                    | \$ 628,333                    | \$ 546,783                       |
| Net Income                 | \$ 50,723                     | \$ 0                          | (\$ 30,793)                      |

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

For questions or more details on the financial report, contact Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991 or Machelle 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 Machelle 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, October 11, 2020, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

#### The Session voted to:

- \* approve the minutes of the Stated Session September 13, 2020 and the Congregational Meetings of July 21, 2020 and September 28, 2020 as corrected.
- \* approve a motion from the Discipleship Committee to mail to church members the Advent devotional *The Word was God*, and to use the book *Advent Conspiracy* for Wednesday night study.
- \* approve a motion from the Service Committee to move the budget line item for Helping Hands and Threads of Love from Service Committee to Presbyterian Women.

- \* approve the collection on Oct 21 and Oct 25 of designated school supplies for donation to church member who are teachers for use in their classrooms.
- \* ratify the number of votes received for the next class of Elders (2023). Ninety-six affirmative votes were cast electronically, 0 negative votes were cast.
- \* approve the RIFA Soup Kitchen dates: November 30-December 4 (10:00 am to 1:00 pm each day).

On September 25, 2020, the Session voted electronically to approve the challenge budget.

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

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING | November 8 @ 5 PM

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### 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:

OCTOBER 4: Brian, Laura, Lily & Anna Leigh Byrd; Stan

& Carol Carnell; John Hill

**OCTOBER 11:** Joev. Lori. Mae and James Howell: Bill

Hymers; Cynthia Jones

OCTOBER 18: Todd, Julie & Kaleb Keim; Steve &

Sandra Lawson; Jerry, Margaret Ann Lucas

OCTOBER 25: Patricia Mathis; Rick & Nelda McCune;

Twyla, George, Marina & Samantha Morgan



### ASSISTED LIVING AND EXTENDED CARE:

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #234

**Brookdale Jackson Oaks** 

Helen Johnson, #D65 Betty Stewart, #M8 Martha Hanserd, #E85

West Tenn. Healthcare Rehab

Dolly Mathis Room 127

Elmcroft

Bob Elam. #215 Judi Wilson

Northbrooke

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Morningside of Jackson

**Dorothy Prince** 

(Carol Whitnall's mother)

### **PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**Dolly Mathis Kenny Poole** 

Perry Poole's father (cancer)

The family of Ron Garner

Anna Poole's Godfather

Susan Anderson

**Greg Harper family** 

Friend of Steve Spurlin

Rosemary Monegue

Jerry Callis

Elizabeth Pickens

(recovery from surgical procedure)

The family of Machelle Daniel-Hall Blanche Kirkland

Rev. Courtney Bowen's Aunt

Helen Johnson

The family of Larry Gardner,

Don and Kay Thomson and family

Mr. Gardner was Kay Thomson's brother

Lindsay McKissack

and the McKissack family

Bob Beare (cancer)

Sid Conger

Ray Tanner

**Annie Marie Barnhart** 

Judi Wilson and family

(hip dislocation)

**Bill Meiers** 

(fall, surgery, rehab

Evelyn Taylor's cousin)

Lyn Parliment

**Bert Bankston** 

Norma Smith's grandson-in-law James Hargrove

Lori Howell's uncle

Diane Greer

(cancer)

friend of Benita Brown

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 (ongoing recovery)

Sherry Taylor's grandson

Gwen Golden (cancer)

Georgina Harlan

Ashley Lovell and family

Tisha Blankenship

Rick McCune

Phillip Pickens

(cancer)

Jody's brother

**Anne Garrard** 

Marilynn Ames

Those affected by fires in the Western US Students and teachers

Those in nursing homes | assisted living Healthcare and service providers

The health of our nation and world Disaster victims-all areas involved

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### 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.

