

First Presbyterian Church

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

www.fpcjacksontn.org

NOVEMBER 2020



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from the associate pastor

DO YOU EVER COME TO

the end of the Christmas season with a sense that you missed the whole thing entirely? Advent should leave us with a feeling of awe and joy, as we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, who brings light into darkness. We should be amazed that God has chosen to enter our broken world and our messy lives, promising peace and hope. Our hearts should fill with love for one another as we witness the all-powerful and all-encompassing love of God for our earth.

And, yet, there are so many years that we're just glad when the holidays are over. We come to the end of Advent feeling exhausted. Our endless to-do lists have depleted us physically. Our endless lists of gifts to buy have drained us financially. The endless parties and crowds have sapped us emotionally. And, all too often, we've put so much of our time and energy into just getting through, that we have

neglected our spiritual nourishment completely.

That was the experience of three pastors (Chris Seay, Greg Holder, and Rick McKinley) for many years. So, in 2006, they created a new movement called "Advent Conspiracy" that seeks to "celebrate Christmas humbly, beautifully, and generously," by refocusing and re-centering our lives on what this season is really about – the "joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirits." Advent Conspiracy reminds us that Jesus gives us the freedom to "worship with abandon, give without comparison, receive with gratitude, and to love without limits."

First Presbyterian invites you to "conspire" with us as we seek to reclaim and once again affirm the hope, peace, joy, and



love of Advent. We're offering a Wednesday night group study beginning November 11, focusing each week on one of the four tenets of Advent Conspiracy: spend less, worship fully, give more, and love all. Throughout it all, we will ask ourselves how we can shift our focus from the frenzy and consumerism that often overtake Christmas to the true joy God offers us this season. We pray you will find this

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

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SESSION

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2021

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

Class of 2022

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

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.

fpcjacksontn.org

from the associate pastor



FROM PAGE 1

study meaningful – perhaps especially during this pandemic year that, in many ways, has caused us to rethink what is truly important and to reevaluate the things (routines, meetings, etc.) we once thought indispensable and now realize aren't necessary at all.

What will we focus on this Advent? Gifts? To-do lists? Shopping? Or are we willing to instead experience this season as God intended – one that celebrates the joy of Immanuel, God-with-Us, once again bringing us light and peace. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

November 1	Rev. 7:9-17; Ps. 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
November 8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13
November 15	Judges 4:1-7; Ps. 123; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
November 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
November 29	Isaiah 64; 1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

the season of advent

LET US JOYOUSLY CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH

TOO OFTEN, THE SEASON OF
Advent becomes a time of stress and frenzy, with endless 'to-do' lists and 'to-buy' lists. It's easy to lose our focus on God's intention for us this time of year.

So, this year, FPC is joining Christians around the world in a movement called 'Advent Conspiracy,' which seeks to make Christmas what it should be – a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us.

The 4 principles of this movement are:

SPEND LESS:
The Story Our
Money Tells

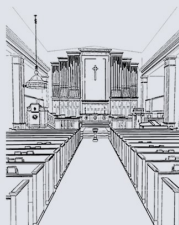
WORSHIP FULLY:
The Missing
Ingredient

GIVE MORE:
The Gift
of Meaningful
Connection

LOVE ALL:
Making a Difference
Here and Now

We will begin our new study, "Advent Conspiracy" on Wednesday, November 11. Be watching your mailbox for a packet with lots of wonderful information about this new study.

Classes will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 and end at 6:15. We will also offer it virtually. Check our weekly churchwide emails for links.



ADVENT @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Advent Conspiracy Wednesday Night Study
Nov 11, Nov 18, Dec 9, Dec 16, 5:30-6:15

Arboretum Tree Lighting
November 29 @ 5:00

Noonday Service of Music & Meditation
Tuesdays, Dec 1, Dec 8, Dec 15 @ 12:00

Advent Worship Service
December 2 @ 5:30

Happy Birthday Jesus Party
December 5 @ 9:30-10:30

Longest Night Worship Service
December 6 @ 5:00

Blessed Hope: Music in the Midst of a Pandemic
December 13, 9:30 Worship

Christmas Eve Services
5:00, 7:00 and 11:00



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Please follow the link below for a 3 minute primer on the study.

[ADVENT CONSPIRACY EXPLAINED](#)

announcements



WELCOME TO THE WORLD

HAPPY NEWS FROM MARGARET HEWITT:

On Monday, October 19th, my great-grandson Jonathan Wren "Jonah" Veteto was born to Lisa and Jimmy Veteto and brother Gavin in Collierville, TN. Grandparents are Donna and Mike Hewitt.

On Sunday, October 25th, my great-grandson Luke Pierce Patton was born to Price and Renee Wimpee Patton and brother Anderson in Myrtle Beach, SC. Grandparents are Karen and Hollis Wimpee.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Dear Friends:

The outpouring of love, prayers, cards and calls during my two recent surgeries has been overwhelming. During this time of pain and recovery it was a comfort to know I was kept in your prayers. Thank you. I appreciate being a part of such a loving church family.

Blessings,
Susan Anderson

Dear FPC Family and Friends:

I would like to express immense gratitude to the congregation at First Presbyterian for their prayers for Lindsey, my family and I. Jesus and His Spirit, as always, is moving in all of our lives, though sometimes it can be difficult to feel or see that evidence. I'm most grateful to the LORD for those times we can see His powerful hand moving and would truly covet your continued prayers as the past few years have presented quite the storm in my life and that of my family.

In Him,
Jim McKissack

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



EDEN + AMY SMITH

*Joined by Reaffirmation of Faith
on November 1, 2020*

1104 North Parkway #44
Jackson, TN 38305

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR NOVEMBER

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

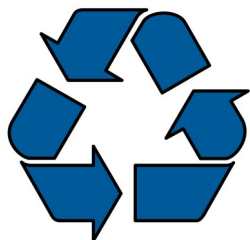
NOVEMBER 4: Reagan Thomson, Aaron Tiede; **NOVEMBER 5:** Ceil Cowles, Marge Stumpenhurst, Wade Thomson III; **NOVEMBER 7:** Will Dunnavant, Je'Delle Ross; **NOVEMBER 8:** Alex Crossett, Linsey Pickens; **NOVEMBER 10:** Elle Jerge, Robert Reeves; **NOVEMBER 12:** Trey Climer III, Bill Hatch; **NOVEMBER 14:** Charles Ames; **NOVEMBER 17:** Charlie Thompson; **NOVEMBER 18:** Becky McKissack, Jamie Richardson; **NOVEMBER 20:** Catherine Greene; **NOVEMBER 21:** John Hill, Diane Sklensky; **NOVEMBER 22:** Julie Jones; **NOVEMBER 24:** Lesa Barton, Leigh Anne Bentley, Laura Byrd; **NOVEMBER 25:** Will East, Jerry Kizer, Hannah Smith; **NOVEMBER 26:** Wilder Taylor; **NOVEMBER 27:** Pamela Chambers; **NOVEMBER 28:** Susan Harris, Patty Smith; **NOVEMBER 29:** Evelyn Petterson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

NOVEMBER 27: Tim & Jan Crossett

announcements, continued

RECYCLING UPDATE



We will no longer be collecting plastic bottles for recycling at church. We will continue to collect paper, cardboard, tin cans, and aluminum cans in the blue containers at the back of the dining hall. Additionally, there is a container for paper and cardboard outside. To support our ECC efforts, please refrain from using disposable plastic water bottles at events at church. We encourage all members to use the glassware or recyclable cups and your own personal refillable water bottles. Thanks so much for all your efforts to be good stewards of our environment!

Room in the Inn

BE A PART OF GOD'S HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY

Dates that FPC is responsible for and the assigned Sunday School Class:

Nov. 8 (Sun) – Youth (only one Church)
Nov. 24 (Tues) – Fellowship (only one Church)
Dec. 8 (Tues) – Connections
Dec. 22 (Tues) – Seekers (only one Church)
Jan. 12 (Tues) – Swaim
Jan. 26 (Tues) – Open
Feb. 7 (Sun.) – Youth (only one Church)
Feb. 23 (Tues) – Directions
Mar. 9 (Tues) – Mayo
Mar. 23 (Tues) – Open
Apr. 13 (Tues) – Fellowship
Apr. 27 (Tues) – Connections

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR ROTATION!

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE				
ROTATION STORY Psalm 8: "When I Look at Your Heavens"				
	NOV. 8	NOV. 15	NOV. 22	NOV. 29
K-2	cooking	art	games	drama
3-5	art	cooking	drama	games

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Room in the Inn
Soup Kitchen
Joy Offering
Meals on Wheels

Glove/hat/sock tree
Christmas Child donations
Salvation Army
Foster children gifts

stewardship season



DEEP ROOTS, NEW WAYS IN CHRIST

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The 2020 Stewardship Emphasis of First Presbyterian Church (FPC) is now in its final stages, and we write to ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge by November 22, if you have not yet done so.

Pledging is a vital part of our Christian discipleship, as well as a vital part of the budgetary process at FPC. In our personal faith journey, a pledge is a statement of thanksgiving and of faith, whereby we joyfully acknowledge God's graciousness in our life, and affirm our intent to faithfully respond to that grace. A pledge may be changed at any time. In the life of the church, knowing the anticipated amount of income enables FPC to plan faithfully its budget for the coming year.

The year 2020 has been exceptionally difficult for many of us. We have had to learn how to deal with a pandemic, record numbers of wildfires and hurricanes, job loss, racial tension, and an extremely divisive presidential election. And yet, God is still God, and our church is still serving God with a vital and powerful ministry. We have deep roots in this faith community, and Christ is leading us in new ways.

For FPC, 2021 will be an amazing year of growth in ministry and mission. We will be receiving new members and growing an amazing youth and children's program. Our foreign mission emphasis will continue to mature, as well as our commitment to local Jackson needs. We have a spiritual need to worship God, and through our offerings, we are able to express our love and devotion for God in a way that is simple and sincere. Stewardship is not a fund-raising ritual, but an act of worship in which we express our heartfelt devotion to the God who is so good to us. By making a financial commitment to the church, we are giving back to the Lord that which God has so generously provided.

During this Season of Thanksgiving, it is so important for us to express our thankfulness to God for the blessings God has given us. Thank you for prayerfully considering this request to pledge your financial resources to FPC in order that it continue its service to God. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Rev. John H. White

Rev. Courtney Bowen

The Stewardship Committee

PS: Our website contains several options for giving, INCLUDING an online pledge card which may be accessed directly at: <https://fpcjacksontn.org/stewardship/>.

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.

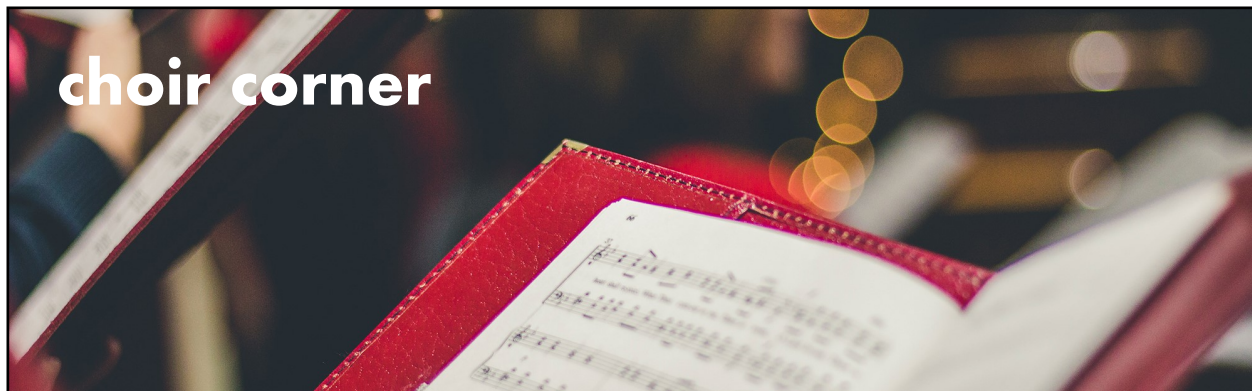
November 18 MENU: Garden salad, chicken and rice casserole, roasted carrots, steamed broccoli, yeast rolls, peach cobbler

KIDS ~ Pizza and fries, fruit pouch, carrot sticks and cucumber slices, cheese stick, cookie, juice box

November 25 MENU: We will not meet this evening because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.



“BLESSED HOPE: Music in the Midst of a Pandemic”

MUSIC AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TOOK A SHARP turn back in March. It has been a difficult journey trying to provide music for church services without a choir. We all miss them terribly, but I feel a special loss missing working with these loyal, diligent and talented folks. My hope and prayer is that, at some point in 2021, we can resume rehearsals and anthems in our services.

In the meanwhile, we have had wonderfully talented musicians filling in magnificently. I know you are as thankful for them as is our staff. Our plans for Advent will include similar music. We will have our “Uncantata” on December 13 at 9:30. “Blessed Hope: Music in the Midst of a Pandemic” will include songs of the season performed by instrumentalists, soloists and small en-

sembles. Singing music of this Advent and Christmas seasons is always a high point for the choir.

NEW INTERNS

We have a fine team of choir interns working and rehearsing to bring music to First Presbyterian. There are two new interns. Kala Johnson is a junior at Madison Academic. She sings in Madison's First Class. Nick Zerfoss is a junior music major at Union. Returning interns for service for another year are Izzy Authurs, Anna Grace Ward, both seniors at Madison. Zane Milan and Gabby Rogers attend Jackson State, and Evans Holt is a junior at Union. These fine young adults add a great deal to the life of music at First Presbyterian. Please introduce yourselves to them.

FINDING GOOD IN SOME CHALLENGING SITUATIONS



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

IT IS BEAUTIFUL TO watch the good that continues to come from what can be many challenges. Wearing masks has given our students a new way to help each other. Our younger children sometimes have trouble putting their masks back on after eating or playground time. Without a teacher making a suggestion, our older students have seen an opportunity to help

by making sure their friends' masks get looped around their ears and are not covering their eyes. We love their kind and generous spirits.

Our children continue to find joy in the privilege of being back at Playschool. They are thrilled to be back with their friends. They are excited and taking pride in their learning accomplish-

ments. We have been on two walks around the "front yard" of FPC. We have looked at all the different nuts falling from the trees, talked about the different kinds of trees and begun to admire the leaves' fall colors. We even discovered the 2 lions on our lion hunt—an annual Playschool tradition.

the children's corner

FUNNY BONES WAS A BLAST!

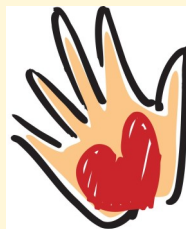


ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALLING ALL SECOND GRADERS!

Those who are interested in serving as acolytes — please contact Ms. Libby at fpclibby@eplus.net so she can schedule you a time for training.



PRAYER PALS

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons approach, please take a moment to send your Prayer Partner child or youth a card or note. Since we are not able to see each other as much, I know they would love to receive mail from you.

FPC YOUTH HAVE BEEN BUSY!

WE ATTENDED THE FALL RETREAT at NaCoMe, where we got to canoe, coracle (a round boat you stand on), crate-stack, climb the rock wall, share fellowship, and of course, study God's Word together. The worship theme focused on Luke 15:3-7 (the Parable of the Lost Sheep) and reminded us that each and every person is cherished by God.

We also watched the documentary film *The Social Dilemma*, which looks at how social media is affecting our mental health and social behavior, particularly in young people, and what we can do to

resist the temptation to "live inside" our phones.

And, finally, we decorated pumpkins and helped to give out candy to the younger children at our "Funny Bones" trunk or treat.

We also have a lot to look forward to in November. First is "Box City," in which we'll sleep outside in cardboard boxes to help us gain a better understanding of what people with no shelter experience. The following Sunday, the youth will host Room in the Inn at First Methodist

Church.

And, we have our Christmas Tree Lighting fundraiser this month. You are invited to "buy" a light for \$5 (or more!) during the month of November. There will be a brief worship service on November 29, in which we'll light one of the Arboretum trees. Funds raised will be used to help our high-schoolers attend the Youth Conference at Montreat in the summer.

Thank you, FPC, for all you do to support the Christian formation of our young people!

COMING EVENTS

PANDEMIC: THE BOARD GAME
GAME NIGHT
ARBORETUM TREE LIGHTING

November 15
November 22
November 29

WAYS TO CONNECT

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

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





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lily Kate Varino and Mae Howell will be going to State Semi Finals in soccer. Good job, girls!



YOUTH CALENDAR

A string of colorful Christmas lights (red, green, yellow, and orange) is draped across the top and sides of the calendar section, framing the text.

**DECEMBER
YOUTH EVENTS**

2ND: **ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE**
 5TH: **HELP WITH HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS** (@ 9:30 am)
 6TH: **CARDS + COOKIES**
 13TH: **CHRISTMAS GAMES**
 20TH: **CHRISTMAS PARTY**
 24TH: **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES : 5, 7, 11 PM**

FINANCIAL UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2020

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2020 Pledges	\$ 494,695	\$ 496,313	\$ 454,623
Total Contributions	\$ 549,358	\$ 569,813	\$ 511,417
Total Income	\$ 677,974	\$ 703,358	\$ 632,004
Total Expenses	\$ 626,286	\$ 703,358	\$ 614,464
Net Income	\$ 51,688	\$ 0	(\$ 17,540)

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, November 8, 2020, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

THE SESSION VOTED TO:

- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session October 11, 2020 and the Called Session meeting of October 25, 2020 as corrected.
- Allow the youth to proceed with the Youth Christmas Tree Lighting fundraiser on November 29, with proceeds to fund youth retreats.
- Approve the motion was brought from the Worship committee to use Bryan Cox memorial funds to purchase a plain gold cross on a pole to be carried into worship services by children ahead of the acolytes.
- Elect Greg Abbott and Barry Broughton as Commissioners to the November 12th Presbytery meeting.

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

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING | December 13 @ 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:

NOVEMBER 1: Arnold + Melissa Bruns; Dot Holt; Dr. Michael, Christine and Jared Martin

NOVEMBER 8: Jim, Becky, Maddy + Joy McKissack; Lindsey, Kaylen Williams, Addie + Sam Patterson; Kevin + Vivian Pauley

NOVEMBER 15: Mo + Polly Pledger; Scherry Priddy; Christen Reynolds

NOVEMBER 22: Rich + Debbie Rosser; Ted Showalter; Clarence + Norma Smith



NOVEMBER 29: David + Clara Smith; Ken + Marge Stumpenhorst; Evelyn Taylor

ASSISTED LIVING AND EXTENDED CARE:

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #234

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Helen Johnson, #D65

Dolly Mathis, #M32

Betty Stewart, #M8

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 Ray Tanner

Laura Camp

(Rev. Courtney's Mother)

Norwood Jones

(Randy Jones' Father)

Robert and Trish Jones

(Friends of Richard and Liz Swaim)

The family of Ernie Wilson

(Death of Ernie's Father, Ted)

The family of Richard Rosser

(death of his Mother)

Madeline Yount (broken ankle)

(Rev. Courtney's Mother)

Ann Norwood

(cancer | friend of Emily Morrow)

Wayne Monks

(surgery)

Violet and Steve Bromley, Stacey and

Graham Kohl

(COVID | Ernie Wilson's family members)

Bob, Carol and Chris Green

Matt and Mary McCaslin

Greg Harper family

Friend of Steve Spurlin

Rosemary Monegue

Blanche Kirkland

(Rev. Courtney Bowen's Aunt)

Helen Johnson

Bob Beare

(cancer)

Judi Wilson and family

(hip dislocation)

Bill Meiers

(fall, surgery, rehab

Evelyn Taylor's cousin)

Lyn Parliament

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 Dunnivant'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

Charles and Marilyn Ames

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

Cancer patients on our hearts

Mission Partners in Peru



**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 ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 5:30
(IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR ON FACEBOOK LIVE)
FOR OUR ADVENT STUDY, ADVENT CONSPIRACY**



**ADVENT
CONSPIRACY**