

First Presbyterian Church

www.fpcjacksontn.org

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

DECEMBER 2020



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## from the pastor

# MABLE'S STABLE

Twas' the night before  
Christmas

And all through the stable

All the creatures were stirring,

Even poor little Mable.

Although she was merely a tiny  
grey mouse

She did have a bed and a cozy  
straw house.

But this night poor Mable was  
shaken awake!

Dumped on the floor!  
It made her bones ache!

Two giants had walked in the  
door from the street!

They made such a racket!  
They had such big feet!

One was called Joseph, the other  
was Mary,

And to a small mouse they were  
both kind of scary!

The cow took a deep breath and  
let forth a "MOO!"

A dove in the rafters was  
startled and flew!

The donkey brayed loudly,  
the chickens all scattered,

The milk pail fell down to the  
floor with a clatter!

The one they called Joseph  
grabbed armloads of hay,

Poor Mable watched sadly  
as he took her home away.

She loved her straw house,  
it was cozy and warm,

A great place to hide in the  
midst of a storm.

"*Woe is me!*" cried Poor  
Mable, her heart all a flutter.

"*My dear home is gone, now  
I'll live in the gutter!*"

*It just isn't fair!  
It just isn't right!*

*My home has been taken  
by one with more might!"*

*"This can't be the will of the  
One who made me!"*

*He wants what I want -  
my desire is His decree!*

*Doesn't He know I don't  
need this right now?*

*Why couldn't He pick on the  
cat or the cow?"*

And so my dear friends,  
I'm ashamed to admit,

That Mable, Poor Mable,  
threw an absolute fit!

She whined and she cried and  
she claimed with a frown,

That God didn't know how to  
govern HER town!

*"He must not love me,"*  
she complained with a moan,

**SEE PAGE 2**



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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## STAFF

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fp playschool@yahoo.com

## SESSION

### Class of 2020

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

### Class of 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](http://fpcjacksontn.org)

# from the pastor

## FROM PAGE 1

*"Cause He let that big Joseph run  
off with my home!"*

Our little mouse Mable just couldn't  
quite see,

Why God would do things  
with which she did not agree!  
Things were looking quite bleak  
in the stable that night,

But then through a hole in the roof came  
a light!

A light from a star in the sky  
high above!

A light that was filled with God's peace  
and God's love!

And then from the straw that had  
once been her house,

Came the cry of a baby,  
and it wasn't a mouse!

Mable peeked round a corner,  
the better to see,

And sure nuff those two humans  
had turned into three!

Before she could gasp,  
in the blink of an eye,

Mable saw a great heavenly  
host in the sky!

The angels were shouting  
and singing with joy!

Announcing God's gift of this  
new baby boy!

But then Mable froze,  
paralyzed by her fear,

For one of the angels was drawing  
quite near.

He reached out to her with one great  
shining wing,

And lifted her gently, with the grace  
of a King.

Then came a surprise for our poor  
little mouse,

For the angel put her down in a brand  
new straw house!

It had every gadget to meet Mable's  
needs,

The kitchen was stocked  
with sunflower seeds!

As the angel prepared to go back  
to the sky,

He bent down and looked Mable  
right in the eye.

*"I bring you a message from Heaven  
above,*

*It's all about God and God's merciful  
love."*

*"You thought God was foolish,  
His plans weren't well laid,*

*All because they weren't quite like  
the plans YOU had made.*

*Your thoughts were of you and your  
house made of hay,*

*God's thoughts were of giving His Son  
on this day."*

*"So fear not, Mable, I bring tidings  
of joy!"*

*The King has arrived in the form  
of this boy!*

*God's plans may not always be*

**SEE PAGE 3**

# from the pastor

## FROM PAGE 2

*pleasing to you,*

*But God governs with wisdom, and God's word is true."*

*His love is beyond anything you have known,*

*In this child his mercy and grace will be shown.*

*One day he will lay down his life out of love,*

*So you may live on in heaven above.*

*Enjoy your new house and the comfort it brings,*

*Enjoy your new bed, with its bouncy new springs.*

*But never forget that the greatest of loves,*

*Is the gift of the child, from heaven above.*



And with a great bow and a twirl of his wings,  
That angel whisked back to his Heavenly King.

And Mable gave thanks for her brand new straw house,  
And rejoiced that the King would love even a mouse.

**The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:  
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,  
upon them hath the light shined.**

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,  
The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

# announcements



Dear Friends:

Please accept my grateful thank you for the Berryman family for your loving and prayerful support when in 2015 we lost our son, Scott, then his father, Harry Berryman. The holes they left are still there but so is the gratitude for their lives and contributions. First Presbyterian Church has been generous with prayers and loving kindness.

We as a family especially thank those who contributed to a fund for the education of Scott's two daughters. The older daughter is attending U Mass. at Amherst. The younger daughter graduated from high school and plans to attend a college in Boston. The contributions have been used for computers and other college necessities. They are much appreciated.

Much love and prayers to you all,  
Dixie L. Berryman

~~~~~  
Dear FPC Family and Friends:

I would like to express my gratitude for the many prayers, notes and cards from our church friends.

Kakky Tanner

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



NEW MEMBERS
TODD EDWARD + KELLEY LUMLEY

*Joined by Reaffirmation of Faith
on November 22, 2020*

17 Scenic Lake Cove
Jackson, TN 38305

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR DECEMBER

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

DECEMBER 3: Graylynn Richardson; **DECEMBER 4:** Scherry Priddy; **DECEMBER 5:** Ken Keim, Janice Webster;
DECEMBER 6: John Anderson, Gioia Carp; **DECEMBER 7:** Jennifer Flanagan; **DECEMBER 8:** Julia Austin;
DECEMBER 12: Gary Nelson; **DECEMBER 13:** Tammy Buchanan-Anderson; **DECEMBER 14:** Miranda Harbin, Patti Thomas;
DECEMBER 15: Tom Strawn; **DECEMBER 16:** James McKissack; **DECEMBER 17:** Ava Marie Cox, Mo Pledger, Vance Shoaf;
DECEMBER 18: Don Thomson; **DECEMBER 21:** Steve Bowers, Alexandra Harris, Tamara Haynes; **DECEMBER 22:** Wade Thomson, IV; **DECEMBER 25:** Anita Callis, Jezel Ross; **DECEMBER 29:** Emily Smith, Georgia Wellborn; **DECEMBER 30:** Anna Leigh Byrd, Ayden Johnson; **DECEMBER 31:** Maddy McKissack

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER 8: Jimmy + Lynn East; **DECEMBER 18:** John + Jezel Ross, John + Susannah White; **DECEMBER 21:** Don + Kay Thomson; **DECEMBER 22:** Gordon + Kristen White; **DECEMBER 29:** Jerry + Patti Thomas, Wade + Adriana Thomson;

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:

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

christian education

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST PRES.



We're looking forward to a new slate of Wednesday night classes beginning in January. We need your input to help us determine what topics to offer. Please let us know your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices by completing this survey:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SURVEY

You may also access the survey through our weekly E-news email blasts.

The last question will give you the chance to indicate whether you prefer to meet in person or via zoom. Thank you for your input!



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FPC!

The Staff + Session of First Presbyterian Church wish you a Happy New Year, full of blessings, peace and joy!

service committee

OUR SERVICE IN 2020

Despite all the challenges that COVID brought to our country, state and community, we were still able to serve the needs of the church and the extended community.

From mask distribution, to donations for NaCoMe, to the Trinity Garden project, to Room in the Inn, to volunteering for the RIFA Soup Kitchen — we found ways to serve!

Other projects included our collection for teachers' classrooms, filling blessing boxes across the city, giving blood, donations to the RITI giving tree, Christmas gifts for foster children and Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Thanks to all those who participated in these projects, giving of your time and resources, to help those in need in our community!





Room in the Inn

BE A PART OF GOD'S HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY



THANKFUL OUR PLAYSCHOOL STUDENTS ARE THRIVING



JENNIFER GERAGHTY,
PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR
fpplayschool@yahoo.com

OUR STUDENTS ARE thriving! This year more than any other the partnership between Playschool and our families is rooted in trust. There is always a bit of a leap of faith when you leave your child in someone else's care. This year we have had to trust each other with our health and well being every day we gathered together.

A big thank you to our families for believing we were ready to keep their

children not only safe and loved but also healthy. Thank you for being so careful and vigilant about keeping children home for even the most minimal symptom of illness.

A giant thank you to the teachers who spent countless time and energy planning, learning to do things in completely new ways and adding a list of new tasks to each day. They had to face their fears of getting sick or exposing a family member

and they did that so they could be here for our Playschool Cutie Pies. They learned to trust our families with their own well being.

Wonderful things are getting to happen at Playschool because everyone has been open to taking care of each other and trusting in each other.

A truly happy story in a year that has been so challenging.

the children's corner

SANTA + SERVICE WAS A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all those who joined us on December 12th for Santa and Service.

We appreciated you bringing gifts and blessings for others and hope that you were equally blessed in return!

The weather was beautiful and we all enjoyed our time together!



PROCESSIONAL CROSS

We are excited about the new addition to our acolyte program. The beautiful cross will be presented each Sunday. Pictured below: The Cox family and the Shires family.

A HEART FOR SERVICE

OUR YOUTH KICKED OFF THE month with “Box City.” We slept outside in cardboard boxes (and a few tents) to help us better understand what people with no shelter experience on a daily basis. Ty Cowles spoke to us about working

with Room in the Inn. Molly Richardson became an expert in keeping a fire going overnight. And we heard only a few coyotes.

Two days after Box City, the Youth prepared and served a meal at Room in

the Inn. They did a great job not only serving, but taking time to sit and talk with the men who were there that night. FPC can be very proud of these young people and the Christian spirit they display.

WAYS TO CONNECT

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH CONNECTION SMALL GROUPS

Sundays 10:45 – 11:30

Outside or Youth Room

Sundays 5:00 – 6:30
Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:15

Fellowship Hall
Outside or Youth Room

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





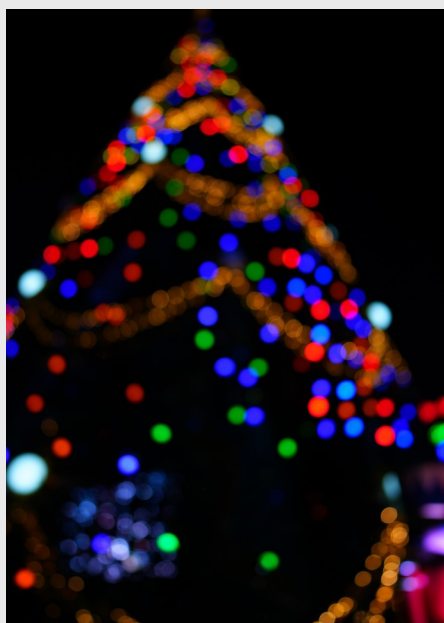
ANNOUNCEMENTS

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you FPC for generously contributing to the Youth Arboretum Tree Lighting fundraiser. You gave a total of \$855, which will support our Youth trips to places like NaCoMe and Montreat, where our young people can grow in their faith and enjoy God's good creation.

Also, thank you to everyone who attended the Tree Lighting on December 2 (after our original date was rained out). A very big thank you to Jeff Chambers for providing music!!

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



financial update

FINANCIAL UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2020

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr to date</u>
2020 Pledges	\$ 581,668	\$ 608,810	\$ 542,663
Total Contributions	\$ 671,276	\$ 698,970	\$ 631,621
Total Income	\$ 842,982	\$ 867,064	\$ 763,906
Total Expenses	\$ 771,452	\$ 867,064	\$ 736,610
Net Income	\$ 71,530	\$ 0	\$ 27,296

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.



EARN FREE MONEY FOR FPC

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

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

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

session highlight

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, met in a virtual meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- Approve new Elders following their examination by the Session.
- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session November 8, 2020 and the Called Session meeting of December 4, 2020.
- Elect Russell Cook as Church Treasurer for 2021.

The Session voted previously by electronic means to:

- Purchase a bronze processional cross using monies from the Brian Cox memorial fund, and monies contributed by John and Debbie Shires in memory of their son, Michael Shires.
- To begin efforts to collect goods and money that are donated to the McKissacks following the loss of their home by fire.

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

NEXT SESSION MEETING | January 10 @ 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:

DECEMBER 6: Chuck, Ginka, Lexie, Georgia, Spencer Poole; Vicki Pope; Robert and Susan Reeves

DECEMBER 13: Jim Richardson; Wesley, Molly, Sidney and Liam Richardson; Jeremie, Hannah, Harrison, Hudson, Anna-Katherine Smith

DECEMBER 20: Nathan, Emily, Harvey, Oliver Smith; Steve, Lisa, Amelia and Turner Spurlin; Carole Stewart

DECEMBER 27: Richard and Elizabeth Swaim; Paul, Emily, Wilder, Holden, Marigold Taylor



ASSISTED LIVING AND EXTENDED CARE:

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #234

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Helen Johnson, #D65

Martha Hanserd, #E85

Elmcroft

Bob Elam, #215

Judi Wilson, #B102

Northbrooke

Rosemary Kipp Monegue,
#204

Morningside of Jackson

Dorothy Prince

(Carol Whitnall's mother)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Dolly Mathis

(hospice care)

The family of Clara Smith

Karen and Hollis Wimpee, Renee Wimpee

Patton + Anderson Patton

(COVID | Family of Margaret Hewitt)

Charles Mayo

Kent Landry and family

The family of Norwood Jones

Ann Barker

(leg surgery)

The family of Betty Stewart

Sandy Alexander

(cancer | friend of Emily Morrow)

Elizabeth Swaim

(hip surgery)

The family of Charles Ames

Byron Wilson, Sr.

Stephannie Williams' Dad

Jim and Becky McKissack and family

Angie Jordan and the Jordan family

The family of Dr. Russell Ries

Blanche Kirkland

Rev. Courtney Bowen's Aunt

Robert and Trish Jones

Friends of Richard and Liz Swaim

Alicia Boswell Franco

(cancer)

Charlotte Sanders

Friend of Kakky Tanner

Greg Harper family

Friend of Steve Spurlin

Rosemary Monegue

Helen Johnson

Bob Beare (cancer)

Judi Wilson

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

(friend of Benita Brown | cancer)

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)

Ashley Lovell and family

Tisha Blankenship

Rick McCune

Anne Garrard

Students and teachers

**Those in nursing homes and assisted living
Healthcare and service providers**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

1573 N. Highland Ave.
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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.***