

# First Presbyterian Church

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

[www.fpcjacksontn.org](http://www.fpcjacksontn.org)

FEBRUARY 2021



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2

Lectionary Readings

### PAGE 3

New COVID Guidelines

### PAGE 4-5

Announcements

### PAGE 6

Stewardship

### PAGE 7

Christian Education

### PAGE 8

Playschool News

### PAGE 9

Children's Corner

### PAGE 10

Youth Connection

### PAGE 11

2021 Session

### PAGE 13

Prayer Concerns

## from the associate pastor

### MANY OF US THINK OF

Lent as a time to give up something we enjoy in order to offer more of our attention and focus to God. This spiritual practice reflects the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and enduring temptation by Satan. So, we endeavor to emulate Jesus by giving up something that tempts us – perhaps chocolate or excess spending or even social media.

I find the observance of Lent to be a meaningful experience. In 'on demand' society - where we can purchase anything we want with the click of a button, stream endless shows and movies instantly, and the foods we enjoy regardless of season - giving up a luxury can remind us to count our blessings and help us to reexamine our priorities. Lent helps us to remember our complete dependence on God.

Of course, the problem with this year is that we've already

had to give up so much during a pandemic that has disrupted all parts of our lives. The idea of giving another something up is probably not very appealing to many of us. We may even be thinking, "what's left to give up?" And would that practice even be meaningful right now? Or would it be just one more thing among many that we've lost?

But, remember, the purpose of Lent is to help us grow closer to God. And there are plenty of things that come between us and God that we could yield. Consider the habits we have that damage rather than uplift – such as gossip and divisive speech. Such actions keep us from building up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and outdoing one another in showing honor (Romans 12:10). Consider also all the negative thoughts and emotions we harbor that separate us from God. Things like anger, distrust, jealousy,



rage, and resentment interfere with our prayer lives, hinder us from reflecting the love and grace of Jesus Christ, and even prevent us from loving God with our whole hearts, souls, and minds. As 1 John 4:20 tells us, "Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen."

**SEE PAGE 2**

**SCRIPTURE  
OF THE  
MONTH:**

**"Love one another with mutual affection;  
outdo one another in showing honor."**

ROMANS 12:10



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PRESBYTERIAN**  
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#### SESSION

##### Class of 2021

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

##### Class of 2023

Marian Harbin  
Benny Houston  
Twyla Morgan  
Robert Reeves  
Lisa Spurlin  
Mike Taylor

##### 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 associate pastor



#### FROM PAGE 1

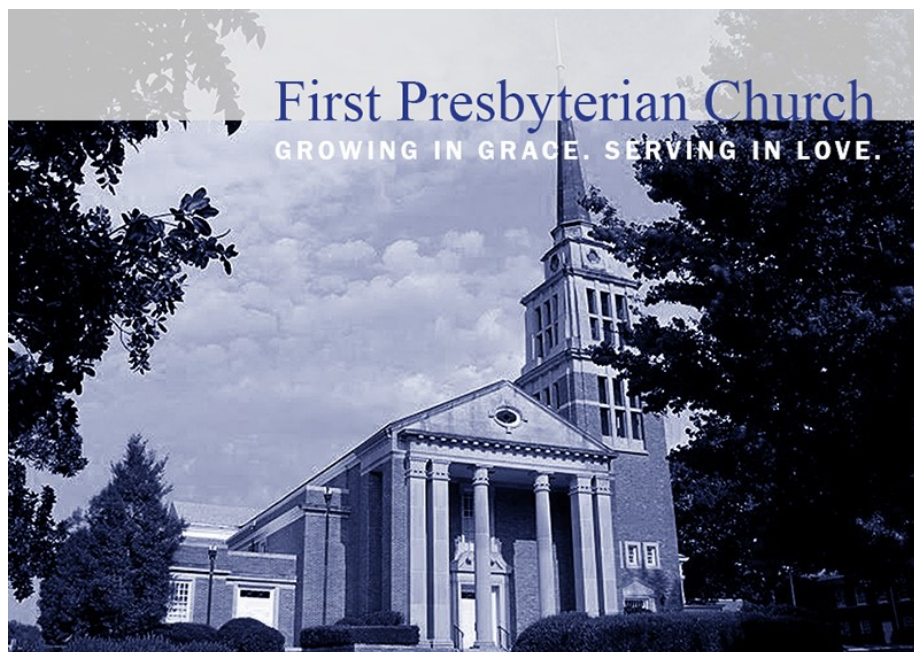
So, what if for this Lenten season, we aspired not to give up simple pleasures (such as desserts or coffee), but instead let go of the negative attitudes and habits – the complaining, the gossip, the bickering, the resentment, etc. – that preclude us from living fully into the abundant life God calls us to? How would our perspectives and lives be changed? What would such changes make room for?

Maybe it would create space for the Holy Spirit to move in our hearts and lives. Maybe it would give us perspective to see the many ways God is at work in our world. Maybe it would give us the chance to see how richly God has blessed us. Maybe we will find that in the process of giving up the destructive habits and thoughts that mark so much of our lives, we gain so much more – a new life full of joy, love, and abundance. Amen.

#### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

<b>February 7</b>	Isaiah 40:21-31 and Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
<b>February 14</b>	2 Kings 2:12 and Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
<b>February 21</b>	Genesis 9:8-17 and Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 19:9-15
<b>February 28</b>	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 and Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

# new covid guidelines



## A CHANGE IN GATHERING TIMES

*We want to make the congregation aware of some new guidelines that will be in place, beginning Sunday, February 14. These guidelines have been unanimously approved by the Session and are based on declines in COVID-related deaths and hospitalizations and on the large number of us who are getting vaccinated.*

1. The length of our worship services will be returned to 1 hour instead of 45 minutes.  
(In effect 2-14)
2. Our Sunday School time will be returned to 1 hour instead of 45 minutes.  
(In effect 2-14)
3. Our Wednesday Night programming will be returned to 1 hour instead of 45 minutes.  
(In effect 2-17)
4. Following our local school model, our elementary age children will be allowed to take off their masks during class time. The masks will be put back on when going to or from class. Adults, including teachers, will still be asked to wear masks. (\*It is our understanding that new mask guidelines apply to “children in the BLAST age group and younger,” whenever they are on campus.) (In effect 2-17)

**Masking, and all other Covid-19 protocol, will remain the same for Worship services inside the sanctuary.**

# announcements



*Dear Staff, Members and Friends at FPC,*

*My family and I would like to express our sincere thanks for all the ways you have reached out to us in memory and love for my Mom, Dolly Mathis. We have received so many kind and thoughtful remembrances. She certainly loved her friends at FPC. We were amazed at the number of friends who showed up at the graveside on such a cold and blustery day! Thank you for the cards, the calls, the texts, gifts, food and your love and prayers!*

*Love, Nelda and the Mathis family*



*To our family at First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Pastor John and staff and all of the Congregation,*

*We are most grateful to God for each of your love, prayers and support. Please forgive the delay in mailing our card as this past month has been nothing short of a whirlwind of activity. Eventually we will have more time to send out more cards of gratitude but until then, please allow this to be sufficient.*

*God is using each of your gifts to help us as we seek to rebuild our lives and home. Your gifts have reminded us of God's manifold blessings to each of us at a much needed moment. We will never forget your sacrificial offerings towards us.*

*Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to rebuild physically and spiritually.*

*Your's in truth,*

*Jim and Becky McKissack*

*Joy, Maddy, Blare, Alaina and Lindsay*

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## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY

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

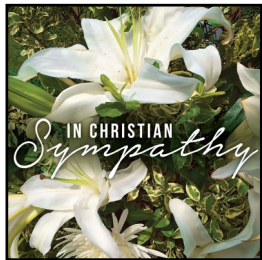
**FEBRUARY 1:** Ken Brasfield, David Greene, Wesley Moore, Shirley Nelson; **FEBRUARY 4:** Lana Harbin;  
**FEBRUARY 6:** Joey Howell; **FEBRUARY 7:** Crystal Climer; **FEBRUARY 8:** Pam Bowers; **FEBRUARY 9:** Jaxon Reynolds;  
**FEBRUARY 10:** Kristen White; **FEBRUARY 14:** Stephanie Gordon; **FEBRUARY 15:** Steve Carls, Darcy Puffer;  
**FEBRUARY 18:** Albert Alexander, Ana Taylor, Sophie Varino; **FEBRUARY 19:** Callie Dollar, Will Harbin;  
**FEBRUARY 20:** Tom Blackmon, Jim Campbell III, Catey Beth Donnell, Kendra Smith; **FEBRUARY 21:** Charlie Crenshaw;  
**FEBRUARY 23:** Jeannette Hendricks, David Ide; **FEBRUARY 24:** Nelda McCune, Gordon White; **FEBRUARY 25:** Tom Brimm;  
**FEBRUARY 26:** Eleanor Cahill

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**FEBRUARY 9:** Ken + Sandra Brasfield; **FEBRUARY 18:** David + Lynda Vince; **FEBRUARY 27:** Mo + Polly Pledger



# announcements



### IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The sympathy of our church family is extended to the family of Betty Mastick, who passed away on January 16, 2021 in Lavon, TX.

Mrs. Mastick's obituary can be found on Legacy.com or by following this link:

[BETTY MASTICK OBITUARY](#)

Please keep her family in your prayers.

## JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR ROTATION!

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE					
ROTATION STORY <b>Jesus Calms the Storm</b>					
	FEB. 7	FEB. 14	FEB. 21	FEB. 28	MAR. 7
K-2	art	lego	cooking	games	video
3-5	art	lego	cooking	games	video

## 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!

## 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:

Feb. 23 (Tues) – DIRECTIONS  
Mar. 9 (Tues) – MAYO  
Mar. 23 (Tues) – YOUTH  
Apr. 13 (Tues) – FELLOWSHIP  
Apr. 27 (Tues) – CONNECTIONS



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

As the Apostle Paul begins his letter to the Church at Philippi, he uses these words: ***"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*** (Philippians 1:3-6)

Certainly, I know how Paul feels! Despite a pandemic, a divisive political climate, a challenging economy, and all the other obstacles of 2020, our congregation has kept their eyes focused on the ministry of Jesus Christ, and completely funded our 2021 budget! What that means is that, because of ***"your partnership in the gospel,"*** the ministry of Jesus Christ is not only surviving here at First Presbyterian...the ministry is growing!

I just wanted to write you, share the wonderful news, and ***THANK YOU*** for your generosity, your commitment, and your faithfulness to the work of Jesus Christ at, and through, First Presbyterian Church. The news is not so good at many other churches and organizations these days. You all are truly a remarkable and outstanding bunch, and it is a joy to know that ***"he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."***

We continue our unwavering commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ, and to provide complete transparency in all the church finances. Please call the church office if you have any questions or suggestions. Again, thank you so much for allowing the ministry of Christ to continue unabated at First Presbyterian!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. John H. White

# christian education



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

## MENU

**February 3:** Fiesta salad, taco casserole, buttered corn, green beans, Texas toast, lemon chess squares  
**KIDS ~** Corn dogs + fries

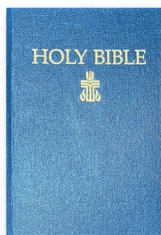
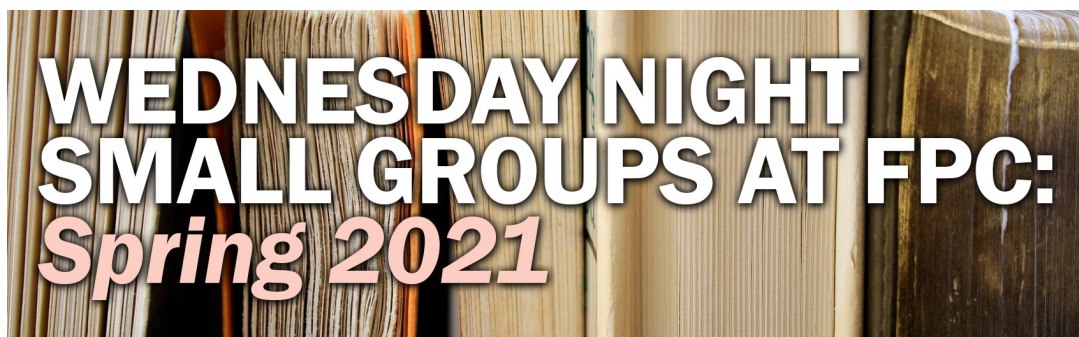
**February 10:** Garden salad, Vidalia chicken, buttered noodles, lemon pepper broccoli, baked peaches, strawberry cake  
**KIDS ~** Ham + cheese sliders + fries

**February 17:** Vegetable mix salad, honey mustard pork loin, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, yeast rolls, cheesecake  
**KIDS ~** Nuggets + mac + cheese

**February 24:** French country salad, pecan chicken casserole w/ berry sauce, sweet potatoes, veggie medley, chocolate frosted cake  
**KIDS ~** Pizza + tots

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

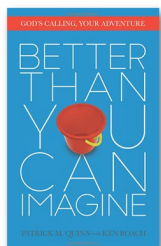
**Cost:** \$7 for adults, including children over age 12, \$5 for children ages 3-12, with a **\$20 maximum** per family.



## Galatians

This will be a line by line scripture study of the book of Galatians.  
The central theme of Galatians is "How is a person saved and justified? By works of the law or through faith?" Almost everything Paul writes in his book will be to answer those questions.

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



## *Better Than You Can Imagine*

*By Patrick Quinn + Ken Roach*

God always gives us enough to give away. Most of us want to make a difference, but we feel inadequate. In the midst of busy lives, do we really have anything left to give? The authors show us how we can discover surplus resources – whether money, time, or talents in our lives to show love to others. The book shares 4 truths: You have a gift only you can give, Someone has a need only you can meet, Joy is a journey where the gift and the need collide, and the journey will break you... but it will also make you. We each have something extra to give others – and God has even more joy to give back.

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

## PLAYSCHOOL IS 50!



JENNIFER GERAGHTY,  
PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR  
fpplayschool@yahoo.com

**PLAYSCHOOL HAS BEEN** part of First Presbyterian for 50 years. Playschool began in 1971 as an offshoot of the established kindergarten program that had been in existence at First Presbyterian since the 1950s. The first teacher was Shirley Adams, G.G. Bray was hired as Director/Teacher in 1972. Originally, Playschool operated with one teacher and one "Mother Helper" working with a maximum of 16 children.

In the coming months we will be letting you know how you can join the celebration of Playschool. We are looking forward to you sharing your Playschool memories and if conditions permit having an alumni gathering later in the year.

### REGISTRATION

Registration at Playschool is coming up. We will be holding registration March 8 –10, although we have had to adjust our usual registration procedures because of coronavirus. First

Presbyterian Church members continue to receive first priority enrollment. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Playschool in the fall, please email or call Playschool (fpplayschool@yahoo.com or 731-424-6515) to arrange to receive a registration packet in March. See the information below for details and look for registration info on the church website beginning in mid February.

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## PLAYSCHOOL 2021-22 REGISTRATION

### FPC CHURCH MEMBERS:

Please call Playschool (731)424-6515 to arrange to have a registration packet left in the Fellowship Hall with your name on it on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>. You will complete the required forms and remit the \$70 registration fee and May 2022 tuition deposit. You will leave your completed forms and payment in the drop box outside the Playschool doors. In order to guarantee your enrollment, all paperwork and payment needs to be dropped off by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

### RETURNING FAMILIES:

You will receive your packets at school dismissal on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and at school arrival on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. You will complete the required forms and remit the \$70 registration fee and May 2022 tuition deposit. In order to guarantee your enrollment, all paperwork and payment needs to be dropped off by Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.

### ALUMNI FAMILIES:

Please call Playschool (731)424-6515 to arrange to have a registration packet reserved for you to pick up at 1:00p.m. on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. You will complete the required forms and remit the \$70 registration fee and May 2022 tuition deposit.

### NEW FAMILIES:

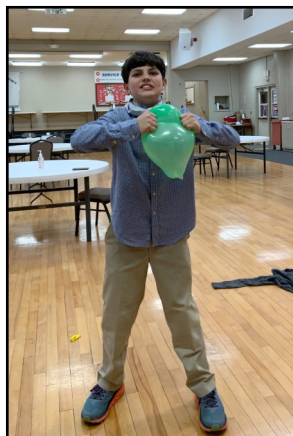
Beginning, Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> you will be able to sign up for a registration time slot at [www.fpcjacksontn.org](http://www.fpcjacksontn.org). You will come to Playschool on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at your assigned time to complete the forms and pay your non-refundable registration fee and May 2022 tuition deposit. Please wear a face mask while at Playschool. Enrollment slots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.





## the children's corner

# SO HAPPY TO BE BACK TOGETHER

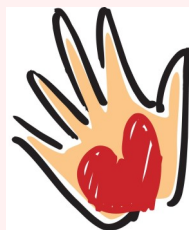


It was game-on during our last Pizza with the Pastor gathering!



Blast and Launchpad kiddos are gearing back up!!!  
Come join us on Wednesday nights. Some exciting  
new things are in store.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to you for allowing us to come back. The girls are the happiest on church days! They tell their school teachers on Wednesday that it's church night. My fondest memories of our church are growing up with all the kids and that's what I want for my kids... To have life-long relationships with the kids in their church

*Libby Pauley Reynolds + family*



### CALLING ALL SECOND GRADERS!

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

# FUNDRAISING FOR RIFA!

**IT'S SUPER BOWL TIME** — and that means soup! On Sunday, February 7th, our Youth Group led the “Souper Bowl of Caring” fundraiser – but with a twist this year. Soup was served “to-go”

style following Sunday School.

All donations will go to RIFA to help “tackle” hunger in our community. We are accepting donations until February 14

through Pushpay, check or cash. Contact the church office if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting RIFA and the FPC Youth!



## COMING EVENTS

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**  
**WINTER BREAK – NO YOUTH**  
**BIBLE ESCAPE ROOM**  
**GYM NIGHT**  
**NaCoMe SPRING RETREAT**

February 7  
February 14  
February 21  
February 28  
March 5-7



## WAYS TO CONNECT

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**YOUTH**  
**CONNECTION**  
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS**

Sundays 10:45 – 11:45 “The Thread of God’s Story”  
Sundays 5:00 – 6:30 Fun + Fellowship  
Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30 Devotional Time

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



# the 2021 session

Here's a complete list of our Session comprised of the following 18 Elders.

We welcome the class of 2023 who were installed on January 31st: **Marian Harbin, Benny Houston, Twyla Morgan, Robert Reeves, Lisa Spurlin, Mike Taylor.**

We also wish to recognize and thank the following 6 Elders who rotated off: **Benita Brown, David Greene, Russell Jones, Stacey McAdams, Kevin Pauley, Stephannie Williams.** Thank you for your service!



**Clerk of Session**  
**Lisa Spurlin**



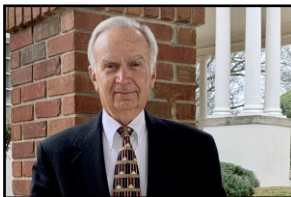
**Service Committee**  
**Marian Harbin**



**Property Committee**  
**Benny Houston**



**Christian Education**  
**Twyla Morgan**



**Stewardship Committee**  
**Robert Reeves**



**Personnel Committee**  
**Mike Taylor**



**Membership Committee**  
**Judy Herron**



**Membership Committee**  
**Chris Alexander**



**Budget + Finance**  
**Russell Cook**



**Long Range Planning**  
**Shirley Nelson**



**Congregational Care**  
**Robbie Rodgers**



**Discipleship Committee**  
**Patty Smith**



**Fellowship Committee**  
**Greg Abbott**



**Benevolence Committee**  
**Mary Jane McWherter**



**Membership Committee**  
**Jamie Richardson**



**Discipleship Committee**  
**Mark Harris**



**Security Committee**  
**Barry Broughton**



**Worship Committee**  
**Debbie Hurt**

# session highlights

## THE SESSION VOTED TO:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, met in a virtual meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2021, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

### The Session voted to:

1. Approve the minutes of the Stated Session December 13, 2020 and the Called Session meeting of December 21, 2020.
2. Adopt the 2021 Challenge Budget.
3. Approve a Souper Bowl fundraiser with possible soup “to go” on February 7<sup>th</sup> with proceeds going to RIFA.
4. Set a January 24, 2021 date for a Congregational Meeting to vote on both Pastor’s Change of Call.
5. Begin in person Sunday School on January 24, 2021 with teachers understanding the necessary precautions to be taken and to offer Zoom options if requested.
6. Resume “To-Go” meals on Wednesday nights.
7. Purchase and install another camera in the sanctuary and its location to best be determined by the staff with funds donated by an anonymous donor.

### The Session voted previously by electronic means to:

1. Approve the Committee Chair assignments for 2021.
2. Approve the hiring of Daniel Redding for Worship Audio/Video Technician (part-time) and that the funding for the position be covered in its entirety by an anonymous donor.
3. Approve examination of Mike Taylor and that he be presented on January 10, 2021 to be ordained and installed as an elder at First Presbyterian Church.

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

**NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING | March 14 @ 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:

**FEBRUARY 7:** Mary Abbott; Jo Ann Birmingham; Jim + Mona Campbell

**FEBRUARY 14:** Virginia Conger; Russell, Rachael and Henry Cook; Patrick, Callie and John Patrick Dollar

**FEBRUARY 21:** David + Catherine Greene; Benny + Linda Houston; Ken Keim



**FEBRUARY 28:** Todd Edward + Kelley Lumley; Stacey McAdams, Hayes + Darcy Puffer; Dr. Terry McRoberts

## 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:

### Betsy Babb

(recovery from fall)

### The family of Jace Bodiford

upon the loss of his father,  
Mike Bodiford)

### The family of Libby Smith

(upon the loss of her brother,  
Harvey Marcom)

### Ken Stumpenhorst

(knee surgery)

### Glenn Adams and family

(friend of Steve Spurlin)

### Jeremie Smith

(shoulder surgery)

### The family of Carol Green

(upon the loss of her father,  
Carl Vesper)

### The family of Betty Mastick

### David Hooper

(COVID and pneumonia | Susan  
Reeves' father)

### Charlie Lee

Danny, Teresa and Reid Anderson  
(friends of Libby Smith)

### Charles Mayo

### Kent Landry and family

### Sandy Alexander

(cancer | friend of Emily Morrow)

### Byron Wilson, Sr.

(Stephannie Williams' Dad)

### Angie Jordan and the

### Jordan family

### Alicia Boswell Franco

(cancer)

### Charlotte Sanders

(friend of Kakky Tanner)

### Rosemary Monegue

### Judi Wilson

### Bill Meiers

(fall, surgery, rehab  
Evelyn Taylor's cousin)

### Bert Bankston

(Norma Smith's grandson-in-law)

### James Hargrove

(Lori Howell's uncle)

### Diane Greer

(friend of Benita Brown | cancer)

### 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)

### Ashley Lovell and family

### Tisha Blankenship

### Rick McCune

### Anne Garrard

### Students and teachers

Those in nursing homes  
and 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**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

31.422.1591  
[www.fpcjacksontn.org](http://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](mailto:fpcemily@eplus.net). Articles will be used as space permits and may be edited for length. **The submission deadline is the 18th of each month.***



**Join us for Ash Wednesday  
in-person or livestream  
Worship on February 17  
at 5:30 pm.**

**Ash Wednesday kits will  
be available for pick-up  
on Tuesday, February 16,  
from 12-2 under the Portico.**

**These include everything  
needed to participate in  
the service if your are  
viewing from home.**

**We will still have our  
regular Wednesday night  
programming for children  
and to-go meals will be  
available.**

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