

First Presbyterian Church

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

www.fpcjacksontn.org

MARCH 2021



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from the pastor

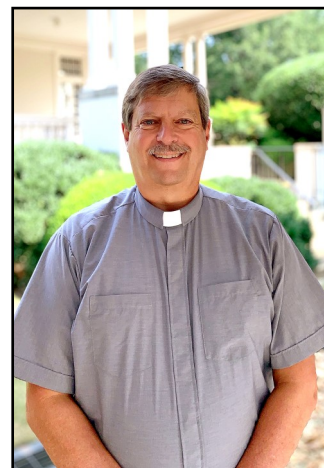
THERE IS A VERY interesting account in the 14th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. In that chapter, right after Jesus feeds the 5,000, we read that he **MAKES** his disciples get into a boat to go to the other side of the Sea. As we read further in the chapter, we see that after the disciples get into the boat, they almost immediately find themselves in the midst of a terribly dangerous storm, buffeted by winds and waves. The disciples are terrified, and they cry out in fear, and my immediate questions are these: "*Why would Jesus MAKE his disciples get into that*

boat when he knew that they would encounter such struggle and fear? Why would he lead them INTO conflict?"

Perhaps it is because we often have our greatest periods of growth during our most difficult times of struggle.

Christianity is not about being comfortable – it is about being faithful. In Matthew 4, we read about how the Spirit of God led Jesus INTO the wilderness for a dreadful time of confrontation with Satan. It was the will of God for Jesus to encounter many struggles during his ministry, including death on a cross. Likewise, in our journey of faith, we are not isolated from the struggles of life. Instead we are led into and through those times of struggle by a God who has been there before us, and will be there with us.

During this Season of Lent,



we remember the turmoil that Jesus encountered as he travelled to Jerusalem, and to the cross. We remember that, as we read in Isaiah 53:10, "*It was the will of God to bruise him (Jesus) – he has led him into grief.*" And we remember that, in our times of turmoil and grief, we are led and embraced by One who has been there before us, and is always there with us.

Peace.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – 'not the result of works, so that no one may boast.' For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

EPHESIANS 2:8-10



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SESSION

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

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Class of 2023

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

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.

save the date



NaCoMe CHURCH FAMILY CAMP 2021

Mark your calendars for NaCoMe Family Camp, July 23-25, 2021!

What is NaCoMe? It is a wonderful time for fun, spiritual growth, and fellowship in God's natural setting. This is an awesome annual tradition for the ENTIRE Church family – there is something for ALL ages! If you haven't

been to NaCoMe, you have been missing a treat!

NaCoMe has modern cabins with air conditioning, a COLD swimming hole, a creek for crawdad hunting, excellent food, and wonderful fellowship with your Church family! NaCoMe Camp & Conference Center is located in Pleasantville, TN on the Western Highland Rim.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 2021

March 7	Exodus 10:1-17 and Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:12-22
March 14	Numbers 21:4-9; and Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; 1 Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
March 21	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 and Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
March 28	(Holy Week Begins) <i>Palms:</i> Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:2-16 and Psalm 118:1-2, 13-29; <i>Passion:</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 4:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

lenten sermon series

WORSHIP DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

Please join each Sunday for our **Lenten Series: The Things We Leave Behind**.
What things do we need to leave behind if we are to be effective in our imitation of Christ?

Each week, our Lenten sermon series will focus on one thing we're called to leave behind in our Christian journey.

JUDGEMENT

Matthew 7:1-5

"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ²For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. ³Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's^[a] eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your neighbor,^[b] 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's^[c] eye.

SELFISHNESS

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross

HOPELESSNESS

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



SELF-RELIANCE

Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸It will be a healing for your

flesh and a refreshment for your body.

HARD HEARTEDNESS

Ephesians 4:31-32

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.^[a]

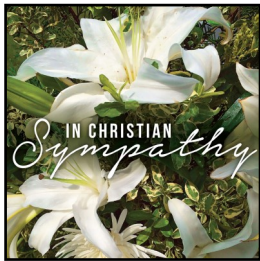
EGO

Any part of the Palm Sunday narrative

Luke 22:24-27

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

announcements



IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

*The sympathy of our church family is extended to the family of **Sidney Spragins, Sr.**, who passed away on February 19, 2021.*

The link for Mr. Spragins' obituary can be found in our March 10th churchwide email.

Please keep the family in your prayers.



CAROLYN TOWNSEND MCAFEE CONCERT

Dr. Terry McRoberts will be the featured organist in the Carolyn Townsend McAfee Concert on Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in G. M. Savage Chapel on the Union University campus in Jackson, Tennessee. The program will include works by Buxtehude, Bach, Pachelbel, and Schroeder, as well as the Pedal Variations on "When the Roll Is Called" by Joyce Jones and a couple of lighter pieces. Masks will be worn, and social distancing is expected.

RECYCLING



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:

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

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

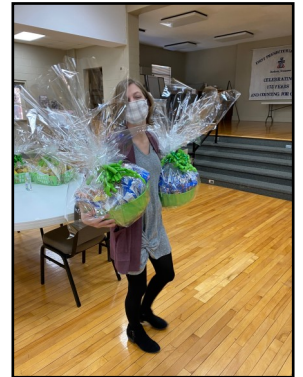
MARCH 2: Joe Richardson; **MARCH 3:** Michael Martin; **MARCH 4:** Bill Lawrence; **MARCH 5:** Jo Ann Birmingham, William Ide, Vivian Pauley, Carole Stewart; **MARCH 6:** Paula Moschovas; **MARCH 8:** Emma Barron, Jacob Barron; Patty Lawrence; **MARCH 9:** Mary Catherine Campbell; Liam Richardson; **MARCH 10:** Jace Bodiford; **MARCH 11:** Bob Redding; **MARCH 12:** Mary Jane McWherter; **MARCH 13:** Jan Burland; Rachael Cook; **MARCH 14:** Carrie Beth Henson; **MARCH 15:** Sarah Elizabeth Greene; **MARCH 16:** Harbert Alexander, Jr.; **MARCH 20:** Emily Morrow; **MARCH 21:** Hudson Smith; **MARCH 23:** Jenny Craig; Penny Kendall; Branch Thomson; **MARCH 25:** Caroline White; **MARCH 26:** Addie Patterson; **MARCH 27:** Dustin Hickerson; **MARCH 28:** Wynn Smith; Madeline Yount; **MARCH 29:** Benita Brown; Callum Donnell; Cynthia Stedman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MARCH 7: Tom + Ginny Brimm; **MARCH 12:** Jim + Evelyn Petterson; **MARCH 28:** Todd Edward + Kelley Lumley; **MARCH 29:** Bruce + Judy Herron

service project

SHOWING OUR GRATITUDE



WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE parable of loaves and fishes when Jesus performed the miracle of feeding a multitude. The past two days reminded me of the parable as I watched our congregation bring snacks and money for the Gratitude Baskets project. From one small idea of showing gratitude to the COVID Staff of Jackson Madison County General Hospital, we were able to put together 16 large baskets of fruit and snacks; 12 baskets went to the two COVID floors and four baskets were delivered to the Emergency Room staff.

A special thank you to Kroger for donating some fruit

and to Jan Jones, Libby Smith, Dr. Mark Harris, Courtney Bowen, Stephannie Williams, and Barbara Fowler for providing their hands and feet to make this project come to fruition.

The story of the parable tells us to be compassionate to those in need and to provide them with the sustenance of God. As we paraded the baskets through the Emergency Room, I saw many eyes light up, and we were actually able to tell some of the staff “thanks” for your perseverance and work. What a blessing today was!

*Barbara Fowler
for the Service
Committee*



easter lilies



EASTER LILY MEMORIAL FUND

POTTED MEMORIAL EASTER LILIES will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You may contribute to the fund between now and **Tuesday, March 30**. Please make your check payable to FPC with “Memorial Lilies” on the memo line. You may use the form below indicating the name(s) being remembered/honored as well as the contributor as you would like them to be listed.

Names will be listed in the Easter bulletin April 4, 2021. Please note that you are not actually purchasing a potted lily with your donation – you are helping to purchase the lilies that will decorate the sanctuary Easter morning. Money in excess of what is needed for the lilies will be used for the Flower Fund, which is used to purchase flowers for other worship services throughout the year.

<i>In Memory of:</i>
<i>In Honor of:</i>
<i>Given By:</i>

*** **Easter Memorial Lilies.** If you would like to donate to our sanctuary flower fund in memory of or in honor of someone this Easter, your contribution can be mailed to the church office to Machel Daniel-Hall or Emily Morrow with your payment and a note specifying the names(s) to be recognized.

THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO PAY

By mail - checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church and in the memo line indicate "Memorial Lilies"

Mobile App/Pushpay - Under the “Giving” option, select Easter Lily Memorials.
Contact the church office to designate names in memory of/honor of.

Deadline to receive payment: Tuesday, March 30th.

*Note: Please email Machel (fpcmachel@eplus.net) and Emily (fpcemily@eplus.net) with questions.
You can also notify them by phone how you wish to list names in memory of/honor of.*

* Contributions will go to our sanctuary flower fund unless another fund is specified.

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

MARCH 3: Vegetable mix salad, honey mustard pork loin, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, yeast rolls, cheesecake **KIDS:** Nuggets and mac+cheese, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

MARCH 10: Country salad, baked chicken and sauteed mushrooms, broccoli-tater tot casserole, buttered carrots, sliced bread, peach crisp
KIDS: Corn dogs and fries, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

MARCH 17: French salad, marmalade pork loin, corn casserole, roasted brussell sprouts, yeast rolls, chocolate éclair cake
KIDS: Nuggets and fries, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

MARCH 24: Italian salad, spaghetti bake, creamed spinach, baked pears, garlic breadsticks, lemon bundt cake **KIDS:** Pizza rolls and fries, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

MAUNDY THURSDAY (4/1): Garden salad, BBQ chicken, baked mac+cheese, green beans, hot rolls, chocolate cherry cake **KIDS:** Nuggets and tots, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

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

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



PLAYSCHOOL IS 50!



JENNIFER GERAGHTY,
PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR
fpplayschool@yahoo.com

WE ARE ENJOYING

going down Playschool Memory Lane.

In the years Mr. Bob Henry had his office in the education building, he loved stepping into our classrooms. The students enjoyed his loving, gentle nature and were always ready to share their stories and ideas with him.

Mr. Bob loved St. Patrick's Day and made a point of bringing festive touches to Playschool.

We still hang his St. Patrick's day picture up on our bulletin board every March.

We will continue to share our memories of 50 years of Playschool through out the year.

We have a Facebook page, **Playschool is 50**, where we invite you to post your favorite



Playschool memories.

Coming soon will be an opportunity to purchase a

Playschool is 50 t-shirt and learn about our plans for a Little Community Library.

PLAYSCHOOL 2021-22 TUITION RATES

Playschool tuition rate reminder for the upcoming school year.

****Non Church member families with 2 or more children may deduct \$5.00/month or \$45/year.**

Non-Church Member Rates are as follows:

	Half Day (9-12) Monthly Tuition	Full Day (9-2:30) Monthly Tuition	Sack Lunch Per Diem Rate
MWF	\$175	\$256	\$10
TTH	\$128	\$183	\$10
5 Days	\$295	\$431	\$10

Church Member Rates are as follows:

	Half Day (9-12) Monthly Tuition	Full Day (9-2:30) Monthly Tuition	Sack Lunch Per Diem Rate
MWF	\$149	\$230	\$10
TTH	\$109	\$164	\$10
5 Days	\$251	\$387	\$10

the children's corner



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VBS!
JOIN US JUNE 7-10TH!

LEARNING + GROWING TOGETHER WITH GLOVES OF A SERVANT



Our *Gloves of a Servant* project teaches the FPC children that you're never too young to serve in the church or in your community.

**IT'S
ALMOST
TIME!**

Hop on over for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th at 10:30 a.m.



Sweet treats for our sweet nursery peeps.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ROTATION STORY **EASTER: THE LORD'S SUPPER**

	MARCH 14	MARCH 21	MARCH 28	APRIL 4
K-2	art	games	drama	video
3-5	games	art	drama	video

SPRING RETREAT AT NaCoMe



OUR YOUTH HAD A GREAT time at the NaCoMe Spring Retreat March 5-7.

They got to try out archery, axe-throwing, lots of gaga-ball (of course!), and even did the “leap of faith” – jumping from the top of a

telephone pole to hit a bell while their friends held their belay rope. In case you’re wondering, Pastor Courtney did NOT jump, but actively participated by shutting her eyes and praying profusely!

The worship message encouraged

us not to compare ourselves to others, but to know that God loves each of us for who we are.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fundraisers this past year, which help give our youth the chance to attend camp!

COMING EVENTS

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
ROOM IN THE INN
HELP WITH EASTER EGG HUNT
MOVIE NIGHT

Sundays 10:45-11:45
March 23
March 27
March 28



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

FINANCIAL UPDATE – DECEMBER 2020

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr-to-date</u>
2020 Pledges	\$ 669,264	\$ 661,750	\$ 605,300
Total Contributions	\$ 777,086	\$ 759,750	\$ 708,304
Total Income	\$ 949,627	\$ 942,461	\$ 827,122
Total Expenses	\$ 847,855	\$ 942,461	\$ 827,122
Net Income	\$ 101,772	\$ 0	\$ 0

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

For questions or more details on the financial report, contact Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991 or Machel 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 Machel 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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – JANUARY 2021

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr-to-date</u>
2021 Pledges	\$ 143,678	\$ 63,568	\$ 190,647
Total Contributions	\$ 144,794	\$ 72,388	\$ 200,192
Total Income	\$ 147,412	\$ 85,207	\$ 205,709
Total Expenses	\$ 57,006	\$ 85,207	\$ 78,440
Net Income	\$ 90,406	\$ 0	\$ 127,269

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

For questions or more details on the financial report, contact Russell Cook (Treasurer) at 694-1991 or Machel Daniel-Hall (Financial Secretary) at 422-1591.

session highlights

THE SESSION VOTED TO:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, met in a virtual meeting on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- **Approve the minutes of the January 10, 2021 Stated meeting as corrected and to approve the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of January 24, 2021 as printed.**
- **The Session voted to approve the collection of monetary donations and perishable/nonperishable food items at a time to be determined by the Service committee for the purpose of making “Gratitude” baskets to be distributed to various service groups in the Jackson community starting with hospital staff, police, fire department, EMS and others to be determined.**
- **The Session voted to approve the 2021 dates for Communion, with approval of additional dates to be selected by the pastors and Worship committee.**
- **The Session voted to receive the “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering on April 4, 2021.**

The Session voted previously by electronic means:

1. **That the length of our worship services will be returned to 1 hour instead of 45 minutes. (In effect 2-14)**
2. **That our Sunday School time will be returned to 1 hour instead of 45 minutes. (In effect 2-14)**
3. **That 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 BLAST 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, and adults, including teachers, will still be asked to wear masks. (In effect 2-17)**
5. **That masking and all other Covid protocol remain the same for worship services inside the sanctuary.**

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:

MARCH 7: Blake + Tammy Buchanan-Anderson;
Chris + Susie Alexander; Lane, Courtney, Cleve + Carter Bowen

MARCH 14: Benita Brown; Eleanor Cahill; Chesley, Jenny and Sophie Dennison

MARCH 21: Jeff + Marion Harbin; Bill Hatch; Kathy House



MARCH 28: Steve + Sandra Lawson;
Rick + Nelda McCune; Wayne Monks

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:

Charles and Ann Mayo
(Charles hospitalized)

The Bryan Byrd Family
(upon his grandfather's passing)

The FPC Confirmation Class
Marge Stumpenhorst

Paula Taylor
(Evelyn Taylor's daughter-in-law,
fractured arm)

Teresa Oswald
(Becky McKissack's sister)

Whitney and Caleb Meriwether
(surgery for Whitney on March 11)

The family of Sid Spragins
Susan Anderson

Ann Schmidt
Glenn Adams and family
(friend of Steve Spurlin)

Charlie Lee
Sandy Alexander
(cancer | friend of Emily Morrow)

Byron Wilson, Sr.
(Stephannie Williams' Dad)

Angie Jordan and
the Jordan family

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 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

The health of our nation

and world

Disaster victims-all area

involved

Cancer patients on our hearts

Mission Partners in Peru

Unspoken concerns



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

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Jackson, TN 38301-3454

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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. **The submission deadline is the 18th of each month.***

Bunny Brunch

Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt

March 27th | 10:30 AM

Rain date: April 3rd

Join us outside at FPC for our Bunny Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt! Please bring two dozen filled Easter eggs per child for hiding (no chocolate please!) the week before the hunt. Tubs will be provided under the portico.