

First Presbyterian Church

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

www.fpcjacksontn.org

APRIL 2021



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from the associate pastor

LAST SUMMER I WROTE

a newsletter article comparing the Covid pandemic to the "wilderness time" the ancient Israelites experienced as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. Ours was a time of wandering, confusion and frustration, much like the wilderness days of Moses and his people. Now, as more vaccines are being distributed and precautions are slowly being loosened, we are poised to soon come out of that wilderness. So, it seems a good time to remember and reflect on the Israelites' experience of coming out of the wilderness into a new life. What can their experience teach us? Can it help us be more intentional in our own transition from a wilderness time?

Toward the end of Deuteronomy, while the Israelites are still on the wilderness side of the Jordan River, Moses calls together the congregation. He reminds the people of all that God has done for them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and all his land, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and the great wonders" (29:2-3). They have had a tough journey, but God has seen

them through it all. In fact, God is the one who made their journey possible – forcing Pharaoh to release them and pulling back the waters of the Red Sea so the people could cross to safety.

Now Moses proclaims to the Israelites that God will continue to guide and watch over them. He tells them that as they enter Canaan, "it is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (31:8). The people can trust that God will always be with them.

And, finally, it's important to remember that even though the Israelites are exiting the wilderness into "a land flowing with milk and honey," their lives will not be perfect. They will continue to face challenges and battles, such as Jericho, in this new place. However, just as before, God will help the people.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH:

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

DEUTERONOMY 31:8



So, what does this mean for us, as we begin to transition from the wilderness? First, let us give thanks for all we have seen "that the Lord did before your eyes" - all the ways God has already guided and shepherded us through our wilderness time. We give thanks for the technology – livestream, Zoom, and even good old fashioned phone calls – that have enabled us to connect when we couldn't

SEE PAGE 2



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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.

from the associate pastor



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

meet in person. We give thanks for the friends and neighbors who have checked on us, cried with us, prayed with us. We give thanks for the ways the ministries and missions of FPC have continued to serve “the least of these” during this troubled time. And we give thanks that we have never ceased to be the Body of Christ.

Let us also remember that God will continue to watch over and guide us – that it is the Lord who goes before *us* and will not fail or forsake *us*. We do not make our

journey alone. The Lord is always our shepherd.

And, let us know that although we are emerging from a difficult time and we look forward to a new era, we will still face obstacles and disappointments. We will still have battles to fight. But, let us carry the lessons we learned from our wilderness time with us – that we never journey alone, that God goes before us, leading the way and bringing us to the Promised Land, to the empty tomb, and to resurrection and abundant life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH 2021

APRIL 4	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
APRIL 11	Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
APRIL 18	Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
APRIL 25	Acts 4:5-12 and Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

announcements

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

We are happy to announce the arrival of **Edward Warren Lumley!** Edward is the son of Todd Edward and Kelley Lumley.

He was born on April 6th at 6:37 pm.

Congratulations!



NaCoMe 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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL

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

APRIL 1: Ty Cowles, Rhett Smith, Sharyn Thompson; **APRIL 2:** Teresa Ide, Sam Patterson, Anabelle Thomson;
APRIL 3: Jessica Donnell; **APRIL 4:** Rich Rosser; **APRIL 5:** Mona Campbell; **APRIL 6:** Arnold Bruns, Matt Thomson;
APRIL 8: Mac Thomson; **APRIL 9:** Rick McCune; **APRIL 10:** Chris Alexander, Katie Dunnivant; **APRIL 12:** Maggie Reynolds;
APRIL 15: Mark Harris; **APRIL 16:** Chloe Hudson; **APRIL 17:** Elizabeth Jerge, Samantha Morgan, Sarah-Tucker Pickens;
APRIL 18: Russell Cook, Tricia Mathis; **APRIL 19:** Lily Byrd, Eden Smith; **APRIL 20:** Susie Alexander, Ila Beth Reynolds;
APRIL 21: Blake Anderson, Matt McCaslin, Lisa Spurlin; **APRIL 22:** Jody Pickens; **APRIL 23:** Adriana Thomson;
APRIL 25: Gail Marple, David Smith; **APRIL 27:** Ken Yount; **APRIL 28:** Brad Hayes, Luke Thompson;
APRIL 29: Martha Hanserd, Lark Taylor

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

APRIL 5: Nick + Libby Reynolds; **APRIL 9:** Nathan + Emily Smith; **APRIL 12:** Jerry + Anita Callis;
APRIL 15: Jerry + Martha Kizer; **APRIL 16:** Tom + Susan Blackmon; **APRIL 20:** Chase + Audrey Channell;
APRIL 23: Bill + Patty Lawrence; **APRIL 24:** Jim + Gail Marple; **APRIL 28:** Rex + Allison Climer

easter lilies

EASTER LILIES 2021



GIVEN BY

Harbert and Nora Alexander

John and Susan Anderson

Charles and Tricia Blankenship

Benita Brown & John and Elizabeth Watts

Jerry and Anita Callis

Virginia Conger and family

David and Catherine Greene

Machelle Daniel-Hall

Marian Harbin

Kathleen C. House

The Mathis Family

Perry and Anna Poole

Robbie Rodgers

IN MEMORY OF

Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Alexander

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Noe III

Mr. and Mrs. Spence Dupree

Joy and William Cole

Bill Cole, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Kelley

G. W. Blankenship

Jack Brown, Jr.

Craig Whaley

Tanya Callis

Bob Conger

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Greene

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Morton

C. R. "Buddy" Greene

C. Ron Greene

Kaylee Marie Daniel

Sylvia Showalter

Sandra Luckey

Walter and Lilian Knowles

Dr. N. H. House III

Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. (Kathleen) Cogswell

Robert and Dolly Mathis

Kenneth Cletis Poole

Ron Garner

Dwight Smith

Madge Chambless

Butch Rodgers

easter lilies

EASTER LILIES 2021



GIVEN BY

Ann Y. Schmidt

Ted Showalter

Ken and Marge Stumpenhorst

Kakky Tanner and Camille Jones

Don and Kay Thomson

Brian, Stephannie and Rayanna Williams

~~~~~

### *GIVEN BY*

*Harbert and Nora Alexander*

*David and Catherine Greene*

*Machelle Daniel-Hall*

*Ken and Marge Stumpenhorst*

*Evelyn Taylor*

*Brian, Stephannie and Rayanna Williams*

### *IN MEMORY OF*

*J. Stanley Schmidt*

*Sylvia Showalter*

*Andrea and Roy Dunn  
Kay and George Stumpenhorst  
Ann Dellastatious*

*Jan Kilburn  
Ann Barker  
Ray U. Tanner*

*Ray and Anibel Gardner  
Wade and Joanna Thomson*

*Jane Williams*

### *IN HONOR OF*

*Mr. and Mrs. Ty Cowles, Morgan and Allie  
Mr. and Mrs. Harbert Alexander, Jr.,  
Ridley, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Mary Harbert  
Alexander  
Mr. Albert Alexander*

*Alexander Greene*

*Kristen Daniel  
Virginia Conger*

*Bill and Sandra Dellastatious  
Mo and Polly Pledger*

*In honor of my children, grandchildren  
and great-grandchildren*

*Larry Williams  
Byron and Tommie Wilson  
Judi Wilson*

## service opportunities

# A MONTH OF MISSIONS

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

**RIFA Soup Kitchen dates 3/29 - 4/02** (volunteers needed)

**Donating non-perishable items to the RIFA snack pack program.**

(collection buckets in the back of Fellowship Hall)

**Support our ECC commitment by recycling paper, tin cans and aluminum.**

**Collection cans are in the back of Fellowship Hall.**

(PLEASE rinse cans, separate tin and aluminum and do not include any trash. Large paper donations can be left in bin outside.)

**We received a great deal of support from the congregation for the Gratitude Basket Program - thank you! We plan to deliver baskets this month to Kirkland Cancer Center.**

(Contact Barbara Fowler for more information)

**Arise to Read will now be known as “The Read Team,” and they will be making an announcement as soon as they know their needs going forward from Covid. We have supported them in the past and want to encourage everyone to participate in this worthwhile program.**

**There are many ways to be of service to our community. If you want to help, please contact Marian Harbin or Mark Harris.**



## retirement

# ERNIE WILSON RETIRES

Monday, April 5, was Ernie Wilson's final day as maintenance and facilities manager of FPC. Ernie has spent the last 15 years skillfully solving all the daily problems that arise on our campus. We are sad to see him go, but we are happy that he can spend more time with his family and enjoy some much-needed downtime. In true Ernie-fashion, however, his downtime will include expanding his front porch to accommodate his newly ordered rocking chair, replacing the fence around his pool, and assisting his daughter and son-in-law with home renovations. We wish you the best, Ernie! Thank you for your service!



Over the next few weeks, we'll be collecting a love offering for Ernie. He has served the church faithfully for 15 years, so please give what you can. You may give several ways: **1)** Make your check out to FPC and mark it "for Ernie." **2)** Drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you choose to mail it, mark the envelope attn: Machele. **3)** Bring your gift by the church office.

## christian education



### Join us for small groups and Wednesday night dinners!

Reserved dinners are ready for pick-up at 5:15, with the option to dine together, inside or outside, practicing social distancing. Adult, youth and children's programs meet from 6:00-7:00

#### MENU

**APRIL 7:** Strawberry salad, pork loin with mushroom gravy, wild rice, roasted carrots, yeast rolls, chocolate trifle **KIDS:** Nuggets + fries, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

**APRIL 14:** Barbeque

**KIDS:** Corn dogs + tots, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

**APRIL 21:** Garden salad, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, sliced bread, strawberry shortcake

**KIDS:** Corn dogs + tots, juice box, carrot stix, fruit pouch, cookie

**APRIL 28:** Italian salad, chicken tetrazzini, vegetable medley, baked pears, garlic breadsticks, lemon icebox pie

**KIDS:** Pizza + fries, 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 MEMORIES



JENNIFER GERAGHTY,  
PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR  
fpplayschool@yahoo.com

**I HAVE PREVIOUSLY** noted that the longevity of the Playschool staff is one of the most special and remarkable things about Playschool.

In the past 50 years there have only been 3 Playschool Directors. First was “Miss” G.G. beginning in 1972, then “Miss” Penny became director in 2000. I had the honor of being selected director in 2012. I asked the current teachers to share the first

thing that came to mind about a director. Here are some of the things they shared.

~~~~~

From Miss Libby: Penny had the most beautiful voice and loved sharing her music with the children.

From Miss Debbie: When my girls were at Playschool I remember how sweet Miss G.G. was and always had such kind words every morning and so welcoming every single day.

From Miss Alison: When my “reluctant to go to school” child started in the 2 Year Old Classroom, Miss Jennifer patiently helped him find things he en-

joyed. He now loves school and was thriving by the time he graduated from Playschool.

From Miss Mary Beth: Miss Penny was always so sweet to my children. She had such patience with them and they still remember all the songs she taught them in music. She had so much love for all of the children at Playschool.

From Miss Jennifer: I arrived at registration exactly when Miss G.G. told me to, only to find myself the last one in line. Miss G.G. tried to be very reassuring but, I got back in my car and cried because I didn’t get Tim into Playschool that day. I called Miss G.G. every month “just to check” if anyone had dropped out. I don’t know, but I think, she got tired of me calling and found a space for Tim by the end of October.

OUR YOUTH ARE STAYING BUSY!

OUR YOUTH HAVE HAD A busy month, full of service, discipleship, and fellowship. Our 6th and 7th Graders have started their Confirmation class, using the new curriculum “Big God, Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith,” which connects what the Confirmands are learning to the questions they will be asked on Confirmation Sunday.

We also presented the Souper Bowl check for \$2090.64 to RIFA and got to hear about the work they do from Dan Ward, the Volunteer Coordinator during a Wednesday night class. And we prepared and served a meal at Room in the Inn. Thanks to everyone who participated and to all those who support our young people!



COMING EVENTS

HELP WITH EASTER EGG HUNT
EASTER (NO YOUTH)
YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING
MINI GOLF
OUTDOOR GAMES

April 3
April 4
April 11
April 18
April 25



WAYS TO CONNECT

CONFIRMATION CLASS
SUNDAY SCHOOL
YOUTH CONNECTION
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS

Sundays 10:45 – 11:45
Sundays 10:45 – 11:45
Sundays 5:00 – 6:30
Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30

“Big God, Big Questions”
“The Thread” of God’s Story
Fun + Fellowship
Devotional Time

the children's corner

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!

Sundays are a time of fellowship for our FPC kiddos. Our classes offer fun and engaging curriculum for babies and toddlers, as well as for our older children and teens. At right, it's snack and play time for the toddlers. Below, Rotation Sunday School students are writing in their journals after watching a movie about Easter.

Classes are right after Worship from 10:45-11:45 each week.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
TO ATTEND OR
VOLUNTEER
FOR VBS!**

JOIN US FOR



**JUNE
7-10TH!**

**JOIN US
SUNDAY
MORNINGS
FOR OUR
ROTATION
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
CLASS**

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ROTATION STORY | THE GOOD SAMARITAN - GREATEST COMMANDMENT

	APRIL 11	APRIL 18	APRIL 25	MAY 2
K-2	COOKING	ART	GAMES	VIDEO
3-5	COOKING	ART	GAMES	VIDEO

the children's corner



What a glorious day God provided for our Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt 2021.

It was a fabulous event. Thanks to everyone who donated eggs, hid eggs and helped serving the brunch.

The Fellowship team was awesome!

Thanks to all parents who brought your kiddos. Young and "seasoned" families had fun! Thank you for making it a tremendous success.

*Now onto VBS ...
June 7th-10th.
Volunteer if you can!!!*

Libby Smith



session highlights

FINANCIAL UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2021

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr-to-date</u>
2021 Pledges	\$ 178,439	\$ 120,073	\$ 125,656
Total Contributions	\$ 187,550	\$ 136,733	\$ 141,510
Total Income	\$ 192,787	\$ 160,946	\$ 154,574
Total Expenses	\$ 131,162	\$ 160,946	\$ 154,915
Net Income	\$ 61,625	\$ 0	(\$ 341)

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.



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.

THE SESSION VOTED TO:

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

The Session voted to:

- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session February 14, 2021.
- Approve the use of Strickland Roofing Co. to replace the roofs over the chapel/restroom and south side aisle of the sanctuary (over the choir room) with an estimate of \$24,000.
- To begin in person Wednesday night dinners at a time to be determined by staff with the following considerations to be in place: food to be served in “to-go” boxes only; tables set apart; and participants to sit only with people with whom they have already had some contact i.e., friends or family.
- To increase seating capacity during worship services in the sanctuary with seating at every other pew, masks being worn, and no singing. An overflow area for live streaming the service will be established in the fellowship hall.

The Session voted previously by electronic means:

- To elect Marian Harbin and Lisa Spurlin as Commissioners to the March 6, 2021 Presbytery Meeting via Zoom.

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

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING | April 11 @ 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:

APRIL 4: Harbert + Nora Alexander; Joshua + Katie Bowman; Jeff + Pam Chambers

APRIL 11: Khris, Stephanie + Jacob Gordon; Will, Miranda, Lana + Addie Harbin; William, Teresa + David Ide

APRIL 18: Russell, Carrie, Logan + Caleb Jones; Tricia Mathis; Ellen McClune



APRIL 25: Jim Richardson; John, Jezel, Je'Delle + Jo'Hannah Ross

ASSISTED LIVING AND EXTENDED CARE:

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #234

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Helen Johnson, #D65
Martha Hanserd, #E85

Elmcroft

Bob Elam, #215

Humboldt Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

Judi Wilson

Northbrooke

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Morningside of Jackson

Dorothy Prince
(Carol Whitnall's mother)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Kari Temple
(Chuck Thompson's sister)
Chris Amos
Stan Spurlin
(Steve Spurlin's brother)
Xavier Newsome
The family of Marlie Richardson upon the death of her mother,
Val Ford
Catherine Lovell
(Friend of Libby Smith | cancer)
Stan and Kim Street
(Friends of Emily Morrow | cancer)
Tom Blackmon
David Hooper
(Susan Reeves' father)
The FPC Confirmation Class
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

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
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
Unspoken concerns
Prayers for the health of our church and community as reopening takes place



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

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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.***

TREASURED
Discovering You're Priceless to God

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 7TH - 10TH**

*God's greatest treasure isn't
diamonds, gems, or gold—it's YOU!*