

First Presbyterian Church

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

www.fpcjacksontn.org

MAY / JUNE 2021



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from the pastor

THE UNITED STATES IS, BY far, the wealthiest nation ever to grace the face of our planet. Yet, reliable polls tell us that most Americans claim to be unhappy much of the time, and our nightly news programs seem to constantly focus on disagreement and discontent. Why? Where has all the joy gone?

Dr. William Lyon Phelps wrote an article long ago in which he said:

"Real joy is not dependent on external things. The pond is fed from within. The kind of joy that stays with us is the joy that springs from inward thoughts and emotions. How essential it is, then, to live inside a mind with attractive and interesting pictures on the walls."

Paul said much the same thing when he directed the Christians at Philippi in this way:

"Summing it all up, friends, I'd

say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious - the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse." (Philippians 4:8, Eugene Peterson translation).

According to Jesus, the Kingdom of God is within us, (Luke 17:21), and if we consciously focus our hearts and minds on the good things which spring from that Kingdom, our joy will certainly increase.

On the other hand, if we focus on our failures, or the faults and deficiencies of those around us, our joy will certainly decrease. Surely, we recognize the need to address the negative things of this world, but *our lives must be guided* by the positive nature of God's great love for us, and the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ. We make a difference in the lives of others when they



recognize God's love in us... We make a difference in the lives of others when they recognize God's love in us.

The content of our mind does impact our state of mind, so try taking Paul's advice. Look for the good in every person and every situation. Build one another up, and live with the grace and peace of Jesus Christ as the guiding force of your life!

**SCRIPTURE
OF THE
MONTH:**

"For you are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we might walk in them."

EPHESIANS 2:10



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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

announcements



READ TEAM BOOK DONATIONS

The Read Team (formerly Arise to Read) is in need of books for its Words on Wheels (WOW) book trailer. Help FPC collect our goal of 500 books for WOW by donating new or gently used children's books for ages PreK – High School (books for older kids are especially needed. *Captain Underpants*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and *Dork Diaries* are all favorites). Donation bins will be available in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall through the end of June. Also, please consider volunteering as a coach for the Read Team. Volunteers may register through their website:

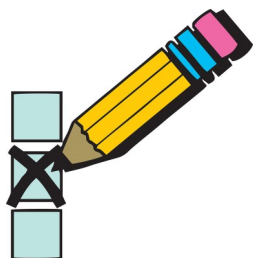


There's a service project on the way!
Please mark your calendars for a congregational work day at NaCoMe on August 14th.
More details to come...

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2021

MAY 2	Acts 8:26-40 and Psalm 22:23-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 14:1-8
MAY 9	Acts 10:44-48 and Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
MAY 16	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
MAY 23	Acts 2:1-21; Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27
MAY 30	Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

announcements



PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY

We're looking forward to a new slate of Wednesday night classes this Fall. We need your input to help us determine what topics to offer. Please let us know your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices from our survey, which can be found in our May 7 churchwide email. 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!



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 MAY

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

MAY 1: Jonathan Hill, Ali Mason; **MAY 2:** Byron Elam, Robbie Rodgers, Ezra Stevenson; **MAY 3:** Jake Campbell, Justin Smith; **MAY 4:** Annika Jerge; **MAY 5:** Matt Varino; **MAY 6:** Lynn East; **MAY 7:** Rick Kendall; **MAY 9:** Jeff Harbin, John Shires; **MAY 11:** Terry McRoberts; **MAY 12:** Wayne Monks; **MAY 14:** Kristin Bodiford, John Junn; **MAY 17:** Helen Johnson, Stone Pickens; **MAY 20:** Jan Crossett, Kathy House, Sherry Taylor; **MAY 21:** Doug Jones; **MAY 22:** Jeff Chambers, John Kendall; **MAY 23:** Bill Kipp; **MAY 24:** Grace Abbott, Lilly Kate Varino; **MAY 26:** Vivian Jones; **MAY 29:** Tim Crossett, Kevin Jerge, Elizabeth Thomson; **MAY 30:** Will Bodiford, Bryan Byrd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MAY 9: Sid + Pam Conger; **MAY 10:** Jimmy + Lauren Henson; **MAY 11:** Chuck + Sharyn Thompson; **MAY 16:** Trey + Elizabeth Climer, Jake + Carly Fry; **MAY 24:** Jace + Kristin Bodiford; **MAY 25:** Brent + Tiffany Strieter

gratitude



GRATITUDE BASKETS: OUR MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED!

From Barbara Fowler:

S., one of my former Madison students and 6 year chemo nurse at Kirkland Cancer Center, was one of the people who was present to receive our Gratitude Baskets last Thursday. As we spoke, she said, "We receive gifts for our patients all the time, but we rarely get gifts for the staff."

I expressed to her how proud and thankful we, at First Presbyterian, were to show our gratitude. With a tear in her eye she hugged me, thanked us, and

said that she would not choose to do anything else because she was helping, giving, consoling daily, but it sure was nice to be acknowledged.

Our mission was accomplished.

Many thanks to those of you who helped put the baskets together after Wednesday night dinner and to those who helped deliver the Gratitude Baskets.

Consider joining our efforts for the next time we prepare baskets for another deserving group.



gratitude



Thank you so much for providing baskets of fruit and snacks to all the staff of Kirkland Cancer Center. It brought smiles to many faces! The past year has been so challenging for health care workers and we appreciate you for your recognition and for your prayers. We pray that God bless you all and that you continue to shine your light out in the community.

Blessings,
Staff of the Kirkland Cancer Center

fpc is growing!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS



Todd Edward + Kelley Lumley



Andre + Andressa Castro



Eden + Amy Smith



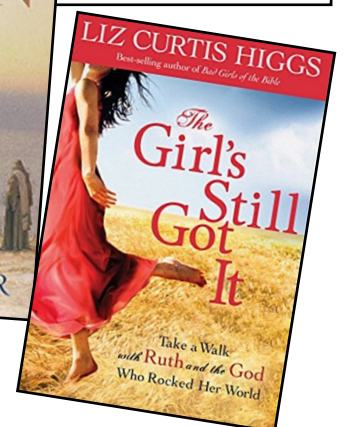
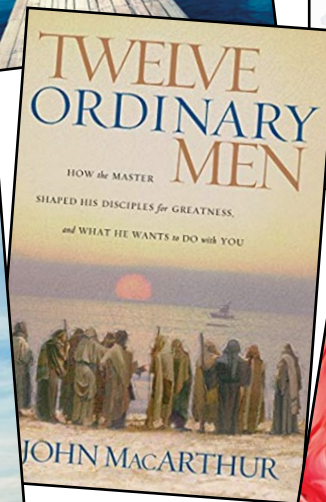
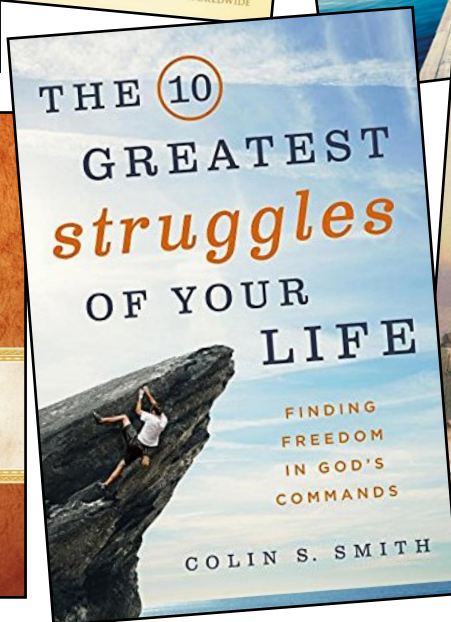
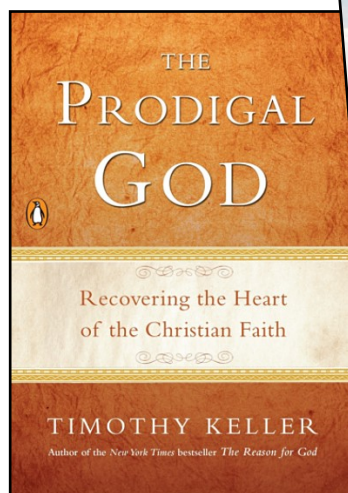
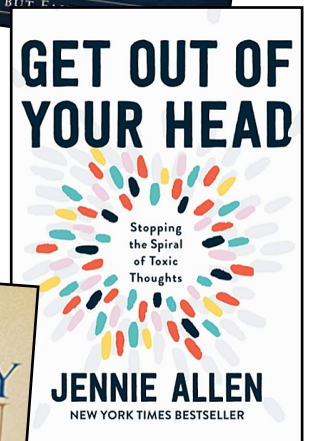
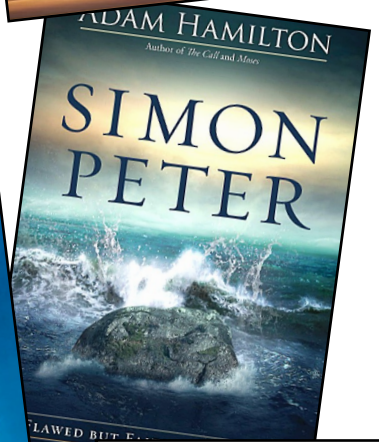
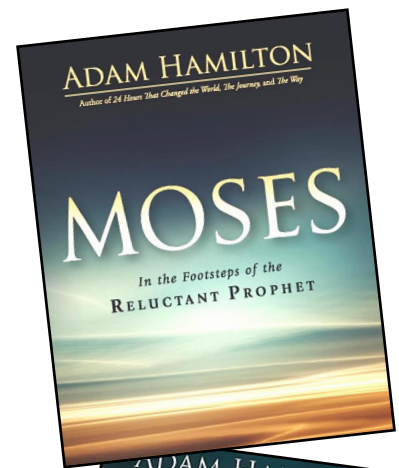
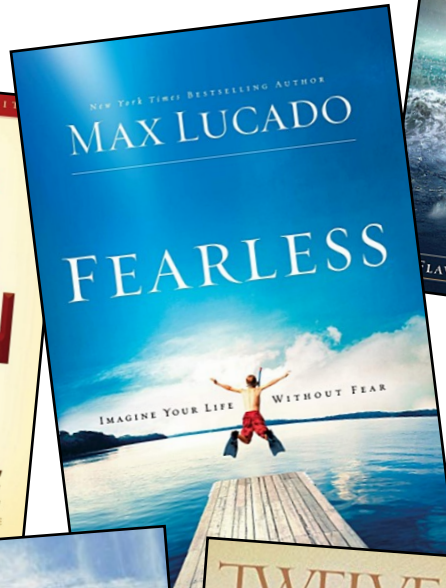
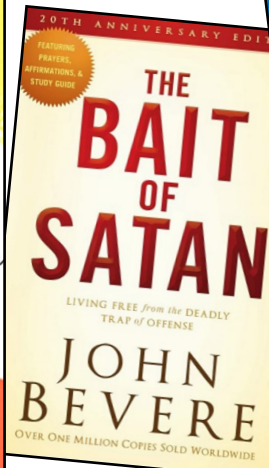
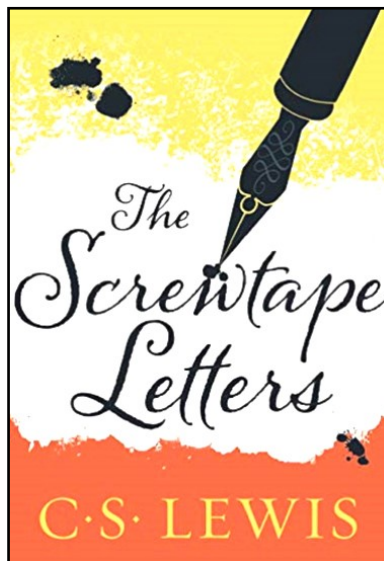
John + Debbie Shires

**We will also welcome our
Confirmants on May 23rd.
They are: Cleve Bowen, Gioia Carp,
Ayden Johnson, Darcy Puffer,
Sidney Richardson, Je'Delle Ross,
Abby Varino**

christian education

NEED SOME GOOD READING MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER?

Our church has multiple copies of some excellent books. If you are looking for some summer reading material, please let us know and you can either pick them up at the church or we will get them to you. Email Twyla Morgan at twyla91355@aol.com if you are interested in any of the titles shown.



PLAYSCHOOL MEMORIES



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

This month Miss Penny shares her Playschool is 50 reflections.

I will never forget the first time I pulled through the gate and over the bridge to enter “Wonderland,” aka First Presbyterian Church grounds. In 1974, there were woods surrounding the church and it felt so safe and secure. It was beautiful! (and still is).

We had moved to Jackson a few months earlier and were visiting local Kindergartens in the hope of placing our daughter, Stephanie, in one for the fall session. We had visited one other school that morning and we visited no more! We had found our place. As an added blessing we learned that FPC had a Playschool for 3 and 4 year olds so our 3 year old daughter, Elizabeth (Kristi), could go to “school” also. Being a teacher by profession, I was as excited as

the girls were about our new adventure. Little did I know this would be my “home away from home” for the next 38 years! A year and a half later I was hired as the Music Teacher for Kindergarten, and then as the first Playschool Classroom Teacher with G.G as Director. (Oh, how I loved her!)

Meeting the loving, welcoming teachers that morning—Ms. Pat, Ms. Ann and Ms. G.G., seeing the joyous expressions on the children’s faces and feeling the air of anticipation around us touched my heart. I knew that God had led me there. The following years increased my love for Playschool as it grew, changed and yet, stayed the same. I became Director of Playschool when G.G. had to retire. My two Jackson grandchildren also attended Playschool and the love continues to grow with a great granddaughter hoping to

attend the fall of 2022.

Two funny things, out of oh, so many, that happened at Playschool—On the playground, I tied a little boy’s shoelaces, patted his sweet little foot and said, “There you go!” He ran about five steps, turned around and said, “Where am I going?” Another day we were playing “Follow the Leader” on the front lawn of the Church. The children were following me from tree to tree, running in the sunshine and resting and doing funny motions in the shade. On one of the “runs” I tripped, rolled over and lay sprawled on the grass. Looking up I saw 30+ kids and 2 teachers falling to the ground behind me!

Oh how I love First Presbyterian Playschool—Where Learning is Child’s Play.....

Penny McRee

the children's corner

IT'S VBS TIME!

We hope you'll join us
for a fun and adventurous
experience!

GOD'S GREATEST TREASURE
ISN'T DIAMONDS OR GOLD.
IT'S YOU!

Registration is online this year and the link can be found in our May 12 churchwide email blast. Also, check out the *Treasured* video to see what VBSers will experience and to see just how treasured we are in God's eyes!

REGISTRATION WILL END ON FRIDAY, JUNE 4,
SO MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!

For questions, please email Laura Byrd (fpclaura@eplus.net)
or Libby Smith (fpclibby@eplus.net)



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

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ROTATION STORY

PENTECOST:
Spirit, Wind and Flame

MAY 9

MAY 16

MAY 23

MAY 30

K-2

Cooking

Art

Games

Video

3-5

Cooking

Art

Games

Video

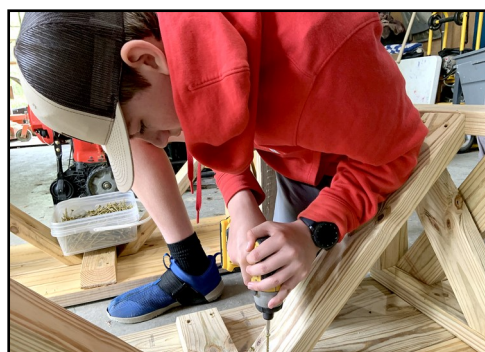
RECOGNIZING OUR FAITH JOURNEYS



May is a big month for our Youth Group. Our 6th and 7th Grade Confirmands *asked* (were not told) if they could do a service project as part of their class. They built benches for NaCoMe on May 8 in preparation for summer campers. *(At left and right)* The Confirmands were examined by the Session on May 16 and Confirmed on May 23 (Pentecost Sunday).



Also, Baccalaureate and Youth Sunday was May 9. Our youth worked hard to prepare for worship, focusing on how the congregation of First Presbyterian has nurtured and guided them, serving as a “cloud of witnesses,” on their journeys of faith.



COMING EVENTS

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	May 23
LAST SUNDAY FOR YOUTH	May 23

WAYS TO CONNECT

CONFIRMATION CLASS	Sundays 10:45 – 11:45
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Sundays 10:45 – 11:45
YOUTH CONNECTION	Sundays 5:00 – 6:30
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS	Wednesdays 6:00-7:00



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



Our bench building crew standing on their creations at NaCoMe.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!



We are so proud of our graduating seniors. **Clayton Bowers** will attend Union University and major in engineering and film. **Charlie Crenshaw** will be going to Tennessee Tech and plans to major in engineering.

We pray that Clayton's and Charlie's journeys be blessed and filled with deep joy, love, and hope. We look forward to seeing how God will help them both continue to grow in their faith and to share their many gifts with our world. May they be blessed to be a blessing. Good luck Charlie & Clayton! Your church family at FPC loves you both! And, may the peace of Christ be with you!

financial update

FINANCIAL UPDATE – MARCH 2021

	<u>Actual Year-to-date</u>	<u>Budget Year-to-date</u>	<u>Actual Last Yr-to-date</u>
2021 Pledges	\$ 266,901	\$ 176,578	\$ 179,585
Total Contributions	\$ 300,088	\$ 201,077	\$ 198,065
Total Income	\$ 308,080	\$ 236,685	\$ 217,456
Total Expenses	\$ 200,253	\$ 236,685	\$ 230,548
Net Income	\$ 107,827	\$ 0	(\$ 13,092)

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.



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 highlights

THE SESSION VOTED TO:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN, met in a virtual meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2021, at 5:00 PM and conducted its normal business.

The Session voted to:

- Approve the minutes of the Stated Session March 14, 2021.
- Approve the hiring of Shane Powers on a probationary period for 3 months as the Facilities Maintenance Director.
- Approve the revision of the Manual of Procedure (MOP) for Presbyterian Playschool that outlines the implementation of a new structure of management.
- Approve to the revision of the MOP for the Playschool Director to be in alignment with the revised Presbyterian Playschool MOP.
- Approve a Youth led Bake Sale fundraiser on May 2, 2021 to offset the costs of Montreat Youth Conference.
- Approve construction of a Blessing Box for use by the community, to be placed at the southwest corner of the church's back parking lot.
- Approve the creation of a Butterfly Garden in front of the Playschool playground.
- Approve donations now through the end of May, of gently used or new books for the Team Read program that will benefit children of all ages.
- Appoint Mary Jane McWherter-Chairman, Mona Campbell and Lynn East committee members of the re-established House Committee to handle furnishings for Memorial Hall.
- To receive a "Love Offering" in honor of Ernie Wilson's retirement to be collected the next 4 weeks.

The Session voted previously by electronic means:

- To elect Benny Houston to serve as Elder Commissioner to the March 23, 2021 called Presbytery Meeting via Zoom.

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

NEXT REGULAR SESSION MEETING | May 16 @ 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:

MAY 2: Greg, Patti, Tanner, Ivey and Grace Abbott;
Marilynn Ames; Ken + Sandra Brasfield

MAY 9: Jerry + Anita Callis; Bill + Sandra Dellastatious;
Greg + Jennifer Flanagan

MAY 16: Martha Hanserd; Stan + Debbie Harris;
Bruce + Judy Herron



MAY 23: Bill Hymers; Don Lewis; Mo + Polly Pledger

MAY 30: Michael, Christie and Jared Martin;
Drew, Allison, Ayden + Wesley Moore; Lyn Parliment

ASSISTED LIVING + EXTENDED CARE:

Jackson Meadows

Bill Dellastatious, #234

Brookdale Jackson Oaks

Helen Johnson, #D65

Martha Hanserd, #E85

Maplewood

Bob Elam, #109

Maplewood Health Center

Judi Wilson

Northbrooke

Rosemary Kipp Monegue, #204

Morningside of Jackson

Dorothy Prince

(Carol Whitnall's mother)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

The FPC Confirmation Class

Linda Taylor

(Kathy House's cousin)

Bobby Gregson family

(Carol Carnell's cousin
who passed away)

Suzy Benedetti

(Benita Brown's cousin | cancer)

Walter and Lois Lockhart

Marilynn Ames

Monica Bowers

(Tamara Haynes' daughter-in-law)

The Geraghty family

as they prepare to move

Felecia Kirby

(John Ross' sister | cancer)

Jerry Lucas

(recovery from heart surgery)

Gail Marple

Kari Temple

(Chuck Thompson's sister)

Catherine Lovell

(Friend of Libby Smith | cancer)

Tom Blackmon

Glenn Adams and family

(Friend of Steve Spurlin)

Byron Wilson, Sr.

(Stephannie Williams' Dad)

Charlotte Sanders

(Friend of Kakky Tanner)

Judi Wilson

Bert Bankston

(Norma Smith's grandson-in-law)

James Hargrove

(Lori Howell's uncle)

Diane Greer

(friend of Benita Brown | cancer)

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

**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

Israel and Palestine and

the Middle East



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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!*