

First Presbyterian Church

www.fpcjacksontn.org

GROWING IN GRACE. SERVING IN LOVE.

FEBRUARY 2022



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New Members

DID YOU KNOW?

The history of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church dates back to 1823.

It is Jackson's oldest church, followed by the Methodist in 1826.



from the associate pastor

Our 2022 Confirmation Class for our 6th graders has begun. This is a time of deep growth and discernment for our young people - an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the scripture and church tradition that inform and shape our faith.

The curriculum we're using is called "Big God, Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith" and is structured around the membership questions our students will be asked on Confirmation Sunday - the same questions we are all asked when we join a Presbyterian church, including our own congregation of FPC.

One of those questions has been weighing on my heart recently. That is, "Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?" Each of us has answered that question affirmatively. We've entered into a covenant with God and with the church,

promising to be an active participant in our congregation - learning together, laughing and crying together, sharing Communion together, praying together. We have each made a public profession that

we will devote ourselves to our shared life of faith here at FPC.

So, how are we doing? If we each, individually, ask ourselves and answer honestly, can we affirm we have devoted ourselves as we said we would? It's a question worth asking our-

selves. A question worth sitting with for a while.

Maybe the answer is yes. There is so much work and



ministry that happens in and around FPC that most of us are not aware of. There are many people reaching out to one another, calling one another, sending cards, praying for each other. There are ministries of service that keep our buildings maintained, that teach thought-provoking classes that invite us to deeper discipleship, that fill our Blessing Box or provide meals to people in our community, that make prayer blankets and other 'Threads of Love,' and so much more.

But maybe the answer is "no." Or maybe the answer is "sometimes" or "every now

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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STAFF

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Courtney Bowen, Associate Pastor for Youth
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Helen Redding, Director of Music
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Dr. Terry McRoberts, Organist
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Libby Smith, Dir. of Children's Ministries
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Lindsey Patterson, Dir. of Children's Choir (K-5th)
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Molly Richardson, Interim Youth Director
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Emily Morrow, Admin. Assistant to the Pastor
fpc emily@eplus.net

Shane Powers, Facility Maintenance
fpc maintenance1@eplus.net

Tamara Haynes, Housekeeper

Stephanie Swims, Playschool Director
fpc playschool@yahoo.com

SESSION

Class of 2022

Chris Alexander
Mark Harris
Judy Herron
Shirley Nelson
Jamie Richardson
Jennifer Flanagan

Class of 2024

Lesa Barton
Jim Campbell
Donald Carp
Jan Jones
Vivian Pauley
Eden Smith

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.

fpcjacksontn.org

from the associate pastor

FROM PAGE 1

and then.” Or maybe the answer is “I use to, but now I’ve fallen away.” Whatever the answer is for you, personally, I invite you to ask yourself honestly.

There are so many reasons we may not be devoted right now. Covid, schedule conflicts, being too busy, getting out of the habit of connecting to church while we were socially distancing, our kids wanting to be where their friends are, feeling worn out and stretched too thin, not knowing how to reconnect, etc., etc. Please

believe me when I tell you, I won’t pass judgement on any of those. I get it, because I’ve experienced them too from time to time. So how can we stay connected? Or how can we reconnect? How do we devote ourselves?

I think it starts with remembering God’s devotion to us. God loves us so much that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. God loves us so much that the Word carried a cross and died for us at Calvary. God loves us so much

that even when we feel rejected or ignored God, God never gives up on us. God loves us so much that nothing in life or death can separate us from that love in Christ Jesus. I don’t know about

you, but that makes me feel like I can sit through another committee meeting or two. I can prioritize fellowship opportunities with my community of faith, including phone calls, Zoom, or livestream when in-person isn’t possible or advisable. I can worship and praise our God!

And when I do those things, when I make those choices

and devote myself to God, I find I am filled beyond measure, that my cup overflows, that I am joyful.

God wants us as a community of faith to be together, to share our faith and witness, to journey with one another, to break bread around a common table, to love and support one another, to pray with each other.

God knows we yearn for connection and is offering it to us. Let us devote ourselves. Amen

God loves us so much that nothing in life or death can separate us from that love in Christ Jesus.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2022

FEBRUARY 6 Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) and Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

FEBRUARY 13 Jeremiah 17:5-10 and Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

FEBRUARY 20 Genesis 45:3-11, 15 and Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

FEBRUARY 27 Exodus 34:29-35 and Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

announcements

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



We love supporting RIFA Jackson each year with the Souper Bowl of Caring!

The youth raised a total of **\$3210.00**, and we couldn't have done it without your help and participation. Thanks to all those who attended this special event.



SPECIAL OFFERING FOR STORM VICTIMS

In December, our Session authorized the collection of a Special Offering for storm victims in Western Kentucky. Tornadoes touched down in several towns, leaving some of those areas in total devastation.

We are happy to report that FPC will be contributing a total of **\$7,020.00** to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky for their recovery and support efforts. Thank you to all of those who made a donation. We are so grateful for your generosity.



SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S

2022

Annual Spring Gathering

April 2, 2022 | First Presbyterian Church | Jackson, TN

Thank You

Whether you kept us in your thoughts and prayers, sent a lovely arrangement, gave a memorial donation, or helped out in any way, your love and kindness brought us great comfort and will always be remembered.

The Family of Bruce & Herron



Dear Friends,

Words cannot express my thanks to each of you for your kindness during this most difficult time. Your cards, letters, flowers, food, and contributions have been such amazing acts of kindness.

Bruce loved this church, and I continue to be blessed by you. Your prayers for our family mean more than you can imagine. I give thanks for each and every one of you.

*With deepest gratitude,
Judy Herron*

PLAYSCHOOL HOLIDAY CHEER



STEPHANIE SWIMS,
PLAYSCHOOL DIRECTOR
fpplayschool@yahoo.com

Playschool held its Christmas Program “Sing a Song of Christmas” on Thursday, December 16th. The children did a wonderful job welcoming in the season and sharing about the birth of Jesus.

We were thrilled to be able to host our families for a time of singing, snacks, socializing and visiting with Santa.



IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR PLAYSCHOOL!



We will hold registration beginning March 7th for the 2022-23 school year.

We are a licensed program for children aged 2 (by 8/15/22) and PreK (age 3 or 4 by 8/15/22). We offer 2 day, 3 day, and 5 day options from 9-12 or 9-2:30.

Please contact our director, Stephanie Swims at 731-215-0750 for more information.



the children's corner

SENDING LOVE!



*Sending love from the group above.
Jesus is the greatest Valentine.*



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
FOR BREAKFAST
WITH THE BUNNY!
APRIL 9TH
9:30am
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**WE ARE ALREADY
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO SUMMER!
SAVE THE DATE
FOR VBS~JUNE 6-9
@ FPC**



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

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ROTATION STORY **The Prodigal Son - Lost + Found!**

	FEB. 20	FEB. 27	MARCH 6	MARCH 13
K-2	video	art	games	cooking
3-5	video	art	games	cooking

OUR YOUTH ARE STAYING BUSY!



OUR YOUTH HAD A LOT OF fun at our annual Christmas party - eating, playing games, swapping presents, and there was even some karaoke! They also served at Room in the Inn in December. I'm always so proud of them, as I watch our young people not only serve food to those who come through the doors at RITI, but they also sit, chat, and have fellowship with the people there, truly being the hands and feet of ministry.

We also hosted our annual "Souper Bowl of Caring." Thanks to everyone who brought soup, contributed funds, or just enjoyed fellowship with us. We had a great time and raised \$3210.00. All proceeds will go to RIFA to help tackle hunger in our Jackson community.

Confirmation Class has begun for our 6th Grade class. We're using a curriculum developed by the PC(USA) called "Big God, Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith," which draws on Scripture and traditional church teaching to help students understand and authentically

answer the membership questions they will be asked on Confirmation Sunday, and how our church and lives of discipleship strive to live these questions out faithfully. Those questions are:

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?
- Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

We are truly blessed to have a great group of kids and it is a joy to watch their faith grow and deepen. Thank you, FPC, for all you do to support the Christian formation of our young people!

WAYS TO CONNECT

SUNDAY SCHOOL

YOUTH CONNECTION

WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS

Sundays 10:45 – 11:45

Sundays 5:00 – 6:30

Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:15

Scripture Study + Discussion

Fellowship + Discipleship

Devotional Time

Instagram: fpcjacksontn

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, TN



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS



Stephen, Courtney, Holland + Hemming Hiscox



John + Laura Griffith



Pete Harris



Mitchell + Kate Watson





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF JACKSON, TN**

1573 N. Highland Ave.
Jackson, TN 38301-3454

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

731.422.1591
www.fpcjacksontn.org

OUR MISSION:

First Presbyterian Church seeks to provide opportunities for people to encounter the life-changing presence of Christ through: preaching, the study of scripture, engagement in worship, faithful stewardship and service to others in the church and community.

*If you have an article for the newsletter, please send it to Emily Morrow, Church Secretary at: fpcemily@eplus.net. Articles will be used as space permits and may be edited for length. **The submission deadline is the 18th of each month.***

**CELEBRATING THE GIFTS
OF WOMEN**

***Each year, on the first Sunday
of March, PC(USA) churches around
the world honor the leadership and
work of women in scripture and the
church, which often go unnoticed.***

***We hope you will join us on Sunday,
March 6, for worship as we
Celebrate the Gifts of Women.***

*"And a Sword
Will Pierce
Your Own
Soul Too"*

