



## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RALLY DAY**

**John 15:5** - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

It's easy to get lost in a crowd—to feel lonely even though you may be surrounded by fellow worshippers. It may not always seem easy to make a connection but at FPC we want everyone to have the opportunity to be known and cared for, and, also to find their niche in ministry. We all grow faster spiritually when we feel free to ask real questions, get honest answers, and sense the support of a group. Christian Education at FPC seeks to offer opportunities for all to find the support and connection members need through a wide range of ministries. Through nursery care, children's and youth ministries, and adult education opportunities, CE is committed to making sure our entire congregation is learning the Gospel in new, fun, insightful, and exciting ways. You can find information on all these programs here, online, or by contacting the leader directly through email. Whether through Bible study, fellowship, or teaching opportunities, Christian Education seeks to provide paths for the faith journeys of all of our members. Reach out now and connect to the right path for you this season of learning.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

### Seekers Class

The Seekers Class will study the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, by exploring related scriptures in the Old and New Testament. The Holy Spirit is the least understood person of the Trinity, and yet, there is not a believer anywhere who can be a mature Christian disciple without the Holy Spirit. Also, we will focus on our triune nature and how the Holy Spirit dwells within us, influences our own spirit and soul, and makes us a new creation. Lastly, we will discuss how believers living in a material world experience the spiritual realm (Angels, Demons and Satan). Regardless of the topic, the Seekers class will focus on the Bible as our primary source of divine inspiration and revealed truth.

**Contact: Ty Cowles, [tcowles@jaxenergy.com](mailto:tcowles@jaxenergy.com)**

### Fellowship Class

The Fellowship Class is an adult class made up of singles, and couples, of many varied ages. We meet in the Library immediately after Worship on Sunday Morning. We have class members and some outside guests, as leaders of this class. Our year of study is planned at the beginning of each Sunday School year right before Rally Day. We use books, DVDs, and Bible Studies for our studies for the year. Some of the topics we will be studying this year are: *God Is In Control* by Jerry Bridges, *Book of Signs* by Dr. David Jeremiah, *Miracles, Crucial Questions* by R. C. Sproul, *The Angels of Christmas* by Susan Robb, book and DVD, *The Bible Jesus Read* by Philip Yancey, *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund, book and DVD, and *The Case For Faith* by Lee Strobel, book and DVD.

**Contact: Nelda Evans, [neldaevans@charter.net](mailto:neldaevans@charter.net)**

### Directions Class

Webb Telescope: Immense Universe and we are not its center!  
Church: Identified by politics-divides a nation! How did we get here? Where do we go from here?  
Direction?

**Contact: Steve Bowers, [sbowers@jaxenergy.com](mailto:sbowers@jaxenergy.com)**

### Connections Class

The Connections Class will begin each session by briefly discussing a question taken from Don McKim's book, Presbyterian Questions – Presbyterian Answers. Don is a member of our Presbytery and does a great job of explaining some of the things we see and hear around the church in terms we can understand. For example, "What is the Incarnation?" "Can I lose my salvation?" and "What is the Priesthood of all Believers?" Don enables us to come to a basic understanding of some difficult concepts in just a few short paragraphs.

In the first class of the year, the Class will decide between two studies: Either 1) Continue our study of the life of King David "Facing Your Giants: God Still does the Impossible." Or 2) Begin a different study called: "God Calls Abraham's Family." This second study is drawn from Genesis and reviews the origin of the chosen people, Israel, from Abraham to Judah. As always, our Connections Class will also provide the opportunity to discuss the sermon and how it may have, or have not, related to us. Come join us!

**Contact: John White, [fpcjohn@eplus.net](mailto:fpcjohn@eplus.net)**



## **YOUTH + CHILDREN**

### Youth Ministry

There are several ways to connect to the Youth Group (6th-12th grade) this year! Meet us for Sunday school, as we study “The Thread”- learning the big-picture story of the Bible, and how the Gospel is woven through it. Join us for Wednesday night devotionals as we discuss how the Gospel connects to our everyday lives. And don’t forget Sunday night Youth Connection - a time for fellowship and fun, with games, activities, and service opportunities. We’re looking forward to a fun and meaningful year, where we get to study God’s Word together, build friendships and connections, put our faith in action through service projects, and most of all, grow in our relationship to Jesus Christ.

**Contacts: Molly Richardson, [fpmmolly@eplus.net](mailto:fpmmolly@eplus.net); Courtney Bowen, [fpccourtney@eplus.net](mailto:fpccourtney@eplus.net)**

### Children’s Ministry

Our FPC children are the future of our church! We love seeing our kids participate in Worship, acolyting, Children’s Church and Rotation Sunday School, all on Sunday mornings! We have an excellent nursery staff to care for our little ones and help with all of our children’s programs.

Children’s Church is for children ages 4 years old to second grade. We have devoted church members who will be leading Children’s Church during worship. Mrs. Susannah White, Mrs. Anna Poole, Mrs. Gabi Cox, and Ms. Libby Smith will be serving on a rotation basis. Fun and exciting curriculum will be shared!

After Time with the Children in Worship, the children travel to the education building for the lessons. Two, three, and 4-year olds attend Sunday School with Ms. Ellen McClune.

QUEST is offered on Wednesday evenings for children ages pre-K to 5th grade. Mrs. Laura Byrd will lead games and Bible activities for ages 1st-5th grade. Ms. Ellen McClune will lead age-appropriate games and Bible activities for pre-K and K. Ms. Lindsey Patterson will share exciting movement, instruments, and music with pre-K through 5th grade. Come find new ways to learn about scripture through activities and music!

Children in 2nd grade and older have the opportunity to serve as cross bearers and lighting of the candles through our Acolyte Program.

FPC is growing and we are definitely teaching them to F.R.O.G.- Fully Relying on God!!!

**Contact: Libby Smith, [fpclibby@eplus.net](mailto:fpclibby@eplus.net)**

### Rotation Sunday School

In the Workshop Rotation Sunday School, we teach the same Bible story for 4 to 5 weeks in a row to all our elementary students. Each week classes rotate into a new and unique workshop (art, video, game, drama, cooking, Lego, etc.). The 2022/2023 year will be filled with exciting opportunities to learn about Mary & Martha, The Beatitudes, Lazarus, The Jesse Tree, Jarius’ Daughter, Blind Bartimeaus, Peter’s denial of Jesus and Peter’s Restoration. Come and join us either as a teacher or student! You’re never too old to be inspired by these stories!

**Contact: Lisa Spurlin, Rotation Sunday School Coordinator [itspurlin@gmail.com](mailto:itspurlin@gmail.com)**

### First Presbyterian Playschool

The First Presbyterian Playschool is celebrating its 51st year! It has been a Jackson tradition since 1971 and operates on the grounds of First Presbyterian as a licensed partial-day program for two through five-year-olds. Playschool is a faith-based program which provides an opportunity for preschool children to participate in a structured educational program with the companionship of their peers scaled to their needs under trained supervision. The curriculum includes PEP (Primary Educational Program), Process Phonics, Handwriting without Tears, Mr. P Mooney and Spanish Vocabulary. More information may be found at [www.fpcjacksontn.org/playschool/](http://www.fpcjacksontn.org/playschool/) or by contacting the Director, Stephanie Swims at: [fpplayschool@yahoo.com](mailto:fpplayschool@yahoo.com)

## OTHER FIRST PRESBYTERIAN GROUPS

### Wednesday Night Small Adult Groups

Wednesday Night Small Groups are an excellent opportunity to grow as a Christian while studying God's word and making deep connections in your church family. Groups will start on August 31 and you can sign up today. The following groups will be offered this fall:

**Ephesians Bible Study.** This is a detailed Bible study of Ephesians 3:14-21 and Ephesians 5:10-20. Every moment, we need God to work in our lives and strengthen us by His Spirit! In Ephesians, Paul prays that we would see the Spirit fully manifest in us, so we become "rooted and grounded in love" and strengthened with his power.

**Teacher: Debbie Hurt, dmh902@aol.com**

**Presbyterians 101.** Have you ever had questions about Presbyterian beliefs or customs but were too afraid to ask? *How is the Presbyterian Church different from other denominations? Do I have to believe in predestination to be a Presbyterian? What's up with changing colors of the paraments throughout the year?* This group will explore the history and traditions of the Presbyterian Church. We will gain new insights and understanding of Presbyterian theology, worship, organization and sacraments. Bring all your questions and let's explore the answers together.

**Teacher: Associate Pastor Courtney Bowen, fpcourtney@eplus.net**

**The Holy Spirit.** How well do you know the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit active in your life? This class will explore the Holy Spirit through the books: *Experiencing the Holy Spirit* by Andrew Murray, and *Understanding the Holy Spirit Made Easy*. The Holy Spirit allows us to access the power of God, allowing possibilities beyond our own abilities. In this interactive class, we will discover one of the most ignored and misunderstood Persons in the Church: The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the power of God promised to each of us and the Church as a whole. Join the class as we explore the biblical teachings on the Holy Spirit. **Teacher: Twyla Morgan, twyla91355@aol.com**

### Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women have 3 Circles or groups. We have 2 day circles and 1 night circle. Each circle has their own Bible Study, but we all work together for the church and community. Some of the organizations we support are ARM, Dream Center, Hands Up, RIFA, Threads of Love and Women of Hope. We also support some worldwide ministries. Our offerings and pledges go to support these groups as well as our time. Our goals are simple. We are faithful to our Lord and want to be his hands and feet. If you would like to get involved or have a ministry you would like us to serve, please let us know! **Contact: Vivian Pauley, vivian\_pauley@yahoo.com**

### Men's Coffee Group

The Men's Coffee Group meets at the church each Tuesday morning to drink coffee (or tea or water) and engage in friendly conversation. We invite anyone to join us and help us solve all the world's problems. The group presently consists of fifteen mostly retirees that includes doctors, contractors, government officials, bankers, farmers, corporate officers, insurance men, engineers, teachers, and others. We presently meet under the trees in front of Memorial Hall at 9:00 AM each Tuesday morning, but will move inside once the weather turns cold. Prior to COVID19, the men and their wives would eat out at a local restaurant each month. We will resume this tradition when COVID permits. In the past, our group has been involved with worthwhile programs such as Room in The Inn, Soup Kitchen, Arise To Read, and Jackson Home Repair. **Contact: Ted Showalter, showbeau@aol.com**

## Service Committee

God has led our congregation to help in areas such as:

- \* Working in the RIFA Soup Kitchen
- \* Aiding with NaCoMe service projects
- \* Celebrating Earth Day
- \* Sponsoring over 50 Foster Children at Christmas
- \* Delivering Meals on Wheels on Christmas Eve morning.

Ongoing service projects throughout the year include:

- \* Collecting for RIFA Snack-Backpack Program
- \* Assisting with Room In The Inn
- \* Donating to / Volunteering with Read Team program
- \* Maintaining the Blessing Box
- \* Assembling / Delivering Gratitude Baskets
- \* Participating in the Earth Care Program

When possible, we support various mission opportunities, both locally and abroad. We welcome anyone who wants to join us in our mission of Service for God!

**Contact: Jan Jones, [cadljones@yahoo.com](mailto:cadljones@yahoo.com) or Mark Harris, [markharris2026@hotmail.com](mailto:markharris2026@hotmail.com).**

## Threads of Love

Threads of Love is a national organization that provides clothing, blankets, and other handmade articles for tiny premature and sick infants. We desire to show God's love to the parents and loved ones of these babies in their time of uncertainty. There are many tasks, such as cutting, ironing, hand sewing, so you don't have to know how to use a sewing machine! We meet the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 to 12 in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to get involved, please let us know! **Contact: Marge Stumpfenhorst, [marges4809@bellsouth.net](mailto:marges4809@bellsouth.net)**

## Worship + Music

The Worship and Music Committee plans, coordinates, and executes meaningful services of worship for our church members and the community. The work of this committee makes possible the wonderful music we experience through our choirs, special worship services, and our celebration of the sacraments.

Would you like to participate in:

- Singing in the choir
- Ringing handbells
- Preparing communion
- Decorating the sanctuary
- Planning special services
- Greeting and ushering at services
- Being a liturgist

If you feel called to get involved in any of these opportunities, please let us know!

**Contact: Helen Redding, [fpchelen@eplus.net](mailto:fpchelen@eplus.net)**





First Presbyterian Church  
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JOIN US FOR A SEASON  
OF CONNECTION,  
SERVICE + GROWTH



*First Presbyterian Church*  
**2022**