

May 2024

Heard on High

FPC Columbia's *Heard on High* is published monthly for all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church

This month we will wrap up our sermon series on Jonah, and I don't know about you, but I have learned a lot about this powerful little book. It is only 4 chapters long, but it contains many significant lessons as well as some quite humorous puns.

The chapter that I have found the most compelling though has been chapter 2 – Jonah's prayer in the belly of the big fish. It made me think about my own prayer life and the way that I often come to God with an agenda. It's easy to be like Jonah and hide behind the "right words" of a prayer without your heart really invested in the process.

But prayer can be so intimidating right? And I'm just talking about individual, private prayer. To ask someone to pray *out loud* is a whole other can of worms! But regardless of your comfort level with praying in front of folks, praying FOR folks is essential to the life of faith. I like how pastor Barbara Brown Taylor puts it,

"To say I love God but I do not pray much is like saying I love life but I do not breathe much."

Praying should be like breathing. Every Sunday after the children's message before I dismiss the kiddos to go with Ms. Susie, we pray together. And every Sunday I ask them to fold their hands and close their eyes when we talk to God. I think that posture of prayer, especially for wiggly preschoolers, can be really helpful. However, sometimes I fear that those instructions limit our imaginations of what prayer can be. It's not just sitting down criss-cross-applesauce and formulating a prayer that sounds good.

When we pray we are invited into a two-way conversation. We get to speak to God, but we also get to LISTEN to God, and that can happen at any time. So much of listening requires us to simply pay attention. What is God doing in us and around us? How is God moving here at FPC? What is working and what might be ready for transformation in our lives and in our church?

These are a few of the questions we'll tackle during our First Things First Sunday gatherings. The two words I've been using to describe this time together is **informal** and **intentional**. Prayer doesn't have to be "fancy", but it does have to be purposeful. So we'll be setting aside time each month to pray together. I hope you and your family will join us! Mark your calendars:

May 5th; June 2nd; July 7th; August 4th; September 1st; October 6th; November 3rd; December 1st

In Christ,

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Deacons



Thank You!

For all of the food and cash donations, together we donated a total of \$3,335.00 for those hungry in our community!



Pregnancy Centers of Middle Tennessee is a Christian-based ministry that advocates the sanctity of human life. PCoMT provides support and practical assistance for women and men during and after pregnancy. All services provided are free (I.e pregnancy testing, life affirming ultrasounds, material assistance, parenting classes, etc.) They strive to empower mothers and fathers experiencing planned and unplanned pregnancies with healthy options through medical services, education, mentoring, and spiritual guidance.



Stats from January-March 2024:

- 497 total facilitated visits
- 344 parenting classes
- 188 individual clients/families served
- 67 pregnancy tests & consultations
- 111 life-affirming ultrasound



Wondering how to get involved? First Presbyterian Church is excited to kick off the Baby Bottle Drive for the month of May! Please pick up a baby bottle to fill with coins/cash/*check, and return at the end of the month! All funds go towards mentorship, classes, ultrasounds, resources used at PCoMT.

Pregnancy Centers of Middle TN hosts a self-guided prayer walk at their Columbia location (704 Dunnington St) the last Monday of every month (*May's adjusted due to holiday to May 20, 2024) from 10:00am-11:30am. They also provide a Mom Shop at the center. Current needs are: mom toiletries, travel size baby toiletries, baby toiletries, size 4 5 and 6 diapers, and baby wipes. Please feel free to reach out to Marianne Harrell (marianneharrell24@gmail.com) for additional ways to volunteer or give.

Mission



Mission Trip-July 8-13

The Mission Committee is planning an intergenerational service trip to Bluefield, West Virginia the week of July 8-13.

If you would like to register or would like more information please contact Michael Kneff at michaelkneff@gmail.com.

Congregational Life



MAY BIRTHDAY'S

- MAY 1-ARGIE SATTERWHITE
- MAY 6-ANDY CRICHTON
- MAY 12-DEVEN PATEL
- MAY 17-MELISSA PEARSON
- MAY 22- DAVID DANIELS
- MAY 24-JIM MAYFIELD
- MAY 29-BRENDA MARTIN



- May 13- Dwight & Cindy Fox
- May 19- Dalton & Roben Mounger
- May 28-Andy & Julie Crichton

Happy Anniversary



J. O. G

Just Older Youth

Road trip to Leiper's Fork
Tuesday, May 14

WE WILL HAVE BRUNCH AT THE FAMOUS COUNTRY COWBOY AT 11:00 AND EXPLORE THE UNIQUE SHOPS AND ART GALLERIES AFTERWARDS. PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY IF YOU WANT A SEAT ON THE BUS BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT [931] 388-1985.

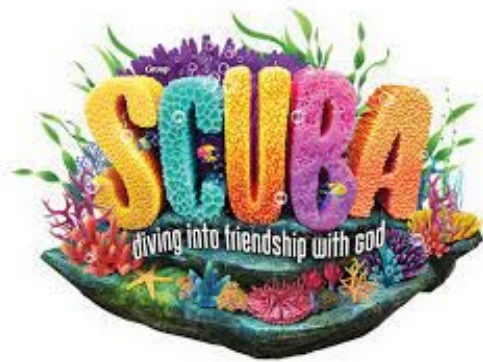
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, June 2-NaCoMe Sunday

Every year on the first Sunday in June, we travel to beautiful Camp Na-Co-Me for outdoor worship, lunch and creek walking. There will be **no** service at the church that day.

Registration forms will be available soon.

Discipleship



Vacation Bible School
June 17-20
9 AM-Noon



Preschool-Age 4 (and potty trained) 10 spots available
Kindergarten-5th grade 60 spots available

At Scuba, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with God! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out sciency-fun experiments that get imagination bubbling. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Fin-tastic Finale that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

We are still looking for volunteers. If you are available from 9-12 on June 17-20, we could use your help! We need Imagination Station Leaders, Red Rocks Game leader, Sticky Scripture leaders and adult Crew leaders. Please contact Susie Baxter at 931-388-1985 or sbaxterfpc@gmail.com if you can help!

VBS Work Days

Can't help during the week of VBS? We will have several work days prior to VBS preparing the set and setting up for the week. Show up for any of the days below and we will have something for you to do! All work days will be from 9-12.

Wednesday-May 29

Wednesday-June 5

Saturday-June 8th

Wednesday-June 12th

Friday-June 14th

Discipleship

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In the bustling rhythm of our church life, there exists a quiet force, often overlooked but profoundly impactful: our Sunday school teachers. Today, we pause to shine a spotlight on these remarkable individuals and extend our deepest gratitude for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment.

With each lesson planned, each story shared, and each moment of guidance offered, you are shaping the hearts and minds of our youngest and oldest disciples. We extend our deepest gratitude to your commitment to nurturing our spiritual growth. Your dedication, passion, and love for teaching enrich our lives in ways that words cannot fully express. May you be blessed abundantly for the countless ways you bless others.

Many thanks to: Megan Hill; Mary Marshall Jewell; Miranda Campbell; Jean Mac Ball; Leigh Jones; Clement & Katie Ledbetter; Lee Brown; Brent & Alissa Perry; Argie Satterwhite; James & Jenny Sloan; Andy & Marianne Harrell; Michael Kneff; Terry Hendrickson; Rev. Steve Thomas; Gloria Dale; Mary Beth Cotham; Greg Martin and our shepherds Sue Brinkley and Frank Dale.

With deepest gratitude,
The Discipleship Committee



Church Bus Ministry

We want to express our deepest appreciation to Brent Perry, Matt Campbell, John Hill, Smith Jewell and Brooks Jones for providing Sunday school transportation each Sunday morning. Our church bus ministry will be taking a break this summer, the last pickup for the season will be May 19. We will resume transportation in the fall. Thank you guys!



May 26-September 8

The summer schedule will begin on Sunday, May 26 with Sunday school at 9:30 and worship at 10:30.

All adult Sunday school classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall. All children and youth will meet upstairs in the Drama room.

Finance

2024 Operating Budget Activity

	As of 3/31/2024	2024 Budget	% of Budget	As of 3/31/2023
Tithes and Offerings	\$203,836			\$257,253
Plus: 2024 Pledges pd in 2023	\$4,000			\$10,000
Less: 2023 Pledges pd in 2024	\$5,050			\$7,500
Total Adjusted Tithes and Offerings	\$202,786			\$259,753
Other Operating Income	\$1,668			\$151
TOTAL ADJUSTED OPERATING INCOME	\$204,454	\$706,368	29%	\$259,904
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$159,122	\$701,438	23%	\$143,813
Net Adjusted Operating Income (Loss)	\$45,332			\$116,091

Memorial Funds Activity

	March
Restricted	\$0
Unrestricted	\$50
John Satterwhite Memorial Endowment	\$200
Total Memorials	\$250
 Total Memorial Expenses	 \$0

Account Balances

	3/31/2024	3/31/2023	12 Month Change
Operating	\$151,123	\$121,163	\$29,960
Restricted Memorial	\$45,068	\$45,510	-\$442
Unrestricted Memorial	\$22,838	\$42,486	-\$19,648
Total Cash in bank	\$219,029	\$209,159	\$9,870

Investment Account Balances

	3/31/2024	3/31/2023	Change
FPC Investment Account	\$564,290	\$534,620	\$29,670
John Satterwhite Memeorial Endowment	\$296,232	\$257,113	\$39,119

**MAURY
COUNTY
STUDENTS IN
TRANSITION**

Our 5th Sunday hunger offering combined with the Super Bowl of Caring offering of \$1,156 was donated to Maury County Students in Transition, a local benevolence, to help those in our community struggling to make ends meet.

Property

Thank You!

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



That was the sentiment behind my t-shirt on our spring cleaning day that said "Be the Light." Boy, did you all glorify your Father with your labors! I wish the sanctuary would retain the smell of Murphy's Oil at least until next Spring Clean-up! Every task that was performed made a drastic impact on the "physical" beauty of the church (we all know that the "church" is the people, not the building, but "Property Committee's" domain IS the building). A heart-felt "THANK YOU" from all of us on the Property Committee for a job well-done.

Truly,
Craig Lorch



Worship

Liturgists-May

May 5 8:15-Dan Garman 10:30-Terri Flynn
May 12 Jack Baxter Jim Ross
May 19 Ellen Ludwig Janice English
May 26 Matt Campbell

Acolytes-May

May 5 Hayes Ledbetter Finley Maddux
May 12 Harrison King Oaklee Odom
May 19 Knox Allred Gray Holloway
May 26 Parkes Hickman

Ushers-May

May 5	8:15 Captain-Jack Baxter Ed Harlan	10:30 Captain-Matt Campbell Brooks Jones, John Davis Prince, Dan Garman, Bill Handy
May 12	Ken Brinkley	Craig Lorch, Janice English, Argie Satterwhite, Joe Graham
May 19	Ron Neal	Jim Mayfield, Cindy Fox, Steve Lewis, Terry Hendrickson
May 26	Teresa Smith	Andrew Hickman, Jean Mac Ball, Mike McAlister, Matt Campbell

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date please find your own replacement and email Renea Foster at rfosterfpc@gmail.com so that all information can be updated.



Summer Choir at FPC

Writer Anne Lamott says this about being in a Choir: "...you hear a solid spirit of song, rather than how individuals personally embellish it. Spirit flows, and the sounds keep stirring that spirit."

Be part of the Choir at FPC this Summer! If you've thought about being in the Choir, returning to the Choir, or are just curious, this is the time. Starting June 9, we will practice in the Sanctuary at 9:45 each Sunday, prior to the 10:30 service. As always, talk with Nancy Reiser if you have any questions.

Wonderful Wednesday

***Last Wonderful Wednesday for the Season
Wednesday, May 15***